

KCLEA notes on Pseudo Committee meeting LIHE 30 Jul25.

These are notes of a meeting held on 30 July 2025 at LIHE prior to the Annual Lecture

Present Peter Weitzel (president) David Blacoe (VP) , LIZ Beckmann (Past Pres)

Apologies John Thomson (Hon Treas/web) Chris Bowden (VP) Dr Ernest Okon (Liaison)

Despite the lack of members, it was felt that it would be useful to air some topics in a small group so that the whole committee could be focused on key points and to close out certain distractions. As such it did not follow the order in the agenda

Hon sec

Peter announced that he will be meeting Stylii Charalampous who after illness various work issues is now able to be Hon sec.

AGM minutes – these were said to be an accurate reflection of the meeting – except that Liz Beckmann was not mentioned as the Past President ex Officio at the elections.

ACTION – Committee to review and inform Peter who will make any corrections and then pass to Hon Sec for putting for Agreement by the AGM

From AGM - Level of Bursaries - From AGM The financial actions

These topics are interlinked - but both needs some investigation as to how large the funds are (both Bursaries and the Investment fund) which will need the expertise of Mike Clode as well as John Thompson – so if we assume that this is actioned.

ACTION From AGM The financial actions Set up the group and start look at funds etc so that (part) results can be put to AGM Peter / David will talk with John when he is back from Holiday – and also on who are signatories as Stylii arrives.

From AGM - Level of Bursaries

This account tracks our thinking – almost in the (logical) order that it was considered.

It was noted that the AGM (and the committee meeting prior to the AGM) had expressed a wish to increase the funds applied to Bursaries. They stand at £2k a year – so let's look at £3k a year .

This poses a question do we offer two at £1.5k or three at £1k - it was noted that the amount of the award was not a major driver -although the extra funds did means that the student did not have to do as much part time work so they had time for their study/running KCL Activities, but the kudos of the award was highly valued.

The quality of the entries was very important, and it would be good if we had flexibility to award an “extra” bursary if we had say three (or may be four???) of excellent quality. Likewise at the moment we tend to award one to “Engineering” and One to BMEIS – to have the ability to offer a third Bursary to student from either would also be useful (and see later how KCLEA may involve more in NMES).

On what we can see at the moment – the Bursary investment fund supplies more than £2k each year and we have a surplus so far (sort of “Cash”) of £4k so we have enough fund in “Bursary” for say at least 5 years at £3k And we have a suspicion that the Bursary fund could get a slightly better interest rate.

And if there is a good reason why more Bursaries are needed in one year – then a top up of a few hundred pounds could be sought/supplied from the General Fund (i.e. KCLEA “Cash”).

So, we need to define how many bursaries and how much for each –

The general feeling seems to be more in favour of three bursaries of say £1k than two of £1k5, but we needed the flexibility, and it would be good to go more than £1k.

The quality of the Entries was important and as normal if there were none of suitable quality, we must not make the award and likewise if there were a mix of very good or excellent entries we should try to make, exceptionally, more or greater value awards.

But we do need a clear statement

KCLEA the Alumni Association for all Kings Engineers offers Bursaries to students of between £1k and £1k5 each year – Two or three bursaries may be offered dependant on the quality of the entries received.

To enter < describe what we need and what we are looking for – e.g. engaging with life at Kings >

Entries have to be with <Someone > by <Date> where they will be judged by eminent KCLEA members assisted by academics.

Bursary Awardees will be invited to the KCLEA Annual Lunch on 20 June 2026.

ACTION Committee to firm up/agree the principles above while David and Ernest to sound out the Department and School on our thoughts and get their input and words to publicise the Bursaries - as we engage with the promotion and seeking entries with Societies and departmental/School encouragement.

The KCLEA Lecture 2025

This was to be held after the meeting - It had about 55 registered (plus those taking part) – about 20+ were KCLEA members – thus the majority were not which means that it meets its aims of telling the world about the achievements of Kings Engineers . They were typically skewed younger.

About three dozen attended – and there was a tour of the building and a demonstration by Hypervision Surgical before the lecture. The Lecture by Nitya Dintakurti and Prof Prashant Jha was more of a double act and was very well presented and provided a good Q&A. Afterwards the reception of terrace was well attended and there was a good range of conversations and very favourable reactions to what LIHE was doing, and the subject and drive of the speakers, and thus KCELA got praise for organising what was a full evening Event not just a lecture.

Email (with An AO questionnaire) was sent to the attendees with a covering email “Thanks you” and the non-attendees with a different one “ You missed a great evening” and the presentation will be on the website

All the key players were thanked by Email on Thursday morning

ACTION Peter will get the list of attendees (and not) from Alex and continue to find them on Linked in and produce some basic demographics And to do more follow up with the key players more personally and may be a few attendees!

To Note and agree in principle Events next session

- FOAK by Profs Rhode and Aslanidi in the Lab at Guys – they have agreed!
- AGM by Zoom early December.
- Lunch 20 June 2026

There was **agreement** to this – with some discussion about having students at the Lunch - We wanted them and to invite the leaders of the societies and the Medal and Bursaries winners as our guests seemed to work well – about 2 students per table rather than a General invite at reduced price... After all the Lunch is a Members Event

ACTION – Peter in absence of Events team to continue with FOAK and longer term Lunch! – and laisse with Stylii over the AGM – the date needs to be tied to emailing.

Annual lecture 2026

The agenda posed the question – do we merge with the College lectures (may be x2) if we have no Events team?

Peter outlined the situation with the wide range of public lectures by the academics of Kings – and thus it should be that the KCLEA lecture(s?) which have roughly similar aims of showing the achievements of King Engineers as the college does the same for Kings Engineering (in all varieties) should not clash date wise with these activities. It was note that Dept of Engineering had their first Annual Lecture - do we seek to get the college to brand this lecture as a KCLEA Event and organise it themselves so that KCLEA does nothing.... as we have no Events team!

Also that it would be good for KCLEA to publicise some/ selected lectures (as we have done) and perhaps have presence at them. There was a fleeting reference to some Younger person event/lecture – but with no Events team it looks unlikely at moment.

Peter pointed out that all the Events this year have been organised by him – with some Lecture ideas /introduction from Kawal Rhode. (and the Activities likewise have been run half and half by the Societies and KCLEA) There was a strong feeling that KCLEA should organise all its Events and not rely on Kings. This should also be the situation of all the KCLEA does – note at the moment the AO does the reception desk and also format the Newsletter as there are no KCELA members to do these minor activities. We have to use the AO for room and food booking for VAT benefit and avoiding liability.

ACTION Peter in absence of Event team to organise the Lecture 2026 – noting what worked this year but target for a Spring term date – liaising with The other KCL Eng /BMEIS events – and ideally be in the Nash Theatre at the Strand.

Matters of Membership list – a lot on this - needs to be looked at this is a vast job - Keith has a list with mini biographies of over 500 Members. Now Peter can see better – he wills attr going though and identifying those we may wish to contact -or be aware of – he will do a few and then perhaps the work can be shared to Committee .

KCL Tech and Department of Informatics

The starting point for this was that we have 152 Members who studied computer engineering – well before the Dept of informatics was created - and as the Dept of informatics took staff and subject areas from the Division of Engineering why links were not put in place then....???

There is the KCL Tech Society which could/should be a society alongside KCLES WiSTEM and Success for Black Engineers that KCLEA may wish to be associated with. Looking at the website <https://www.kcltech.co.uk/events> they seem very active – and they don't too obviously have links to people in the industry. They would be expected to having Engineering students as members if KCLEA has an Activity with say KCLES / WiSTEM – then we could involve KCL Tech.

ACTION Ernest (with Peter may be) to contact KCL Tech and set up a meeting – which may be with the others – also KCLEA needs to take a lead with KCLES and WiSTEM and Make links with Kawal Rhode to be involved in what he does ... (there is No Biomed Soc – this is significant)

There was a less committed discussion about Including Informatics graduates – it was obviously an area where there was engineering content – but who is or is not a Kings Engineer should be determined y Kings/ KCLEA rather than taking just a say someone graduating from a IET accredited course (or which Informatics has some who meet part requirements)

ACTION – Peter /David to lightly sound out Rachel Bearon and Claire Lucas (who sits on IET Accreditation) about how best to approach and see how to KCLEA may start including Informatics. the key point was to have studied a Kings degree with Engineering relevance.

Newsletter - not much was mentioned other than needing more contributions and that it was not to be too frequent – Peter said he was aiming at about 8 times a year i.e about every 6 weeks and it was linked/impeded by AO mailings . It was not too difficult to do – but it is formatted and edited by Alex – where a rapport has been established and on the whole We get our way!!!

ACTION basically Keep up News letter at about the frequency – after all it is contains a call t action and a reminder for each Event.

Membership – Recruitment there was a lot to do here but it would be very easy (and some have been encouraged) to join the Linked in Group if the student was in their Final Semester.

ACTION Peter Will be talking to AO and Engineering (NMES) and BMEIS etc about coordinating a recruitment activities (far better than the AO with “waves” Video at graduation) – and we need to take the Societies with us - so Ernest will need to be involved. Peter would have liked to have done it this year – but did not have the time!

AOB

We met informally with Prof Prashant Jha and heard about his background career and activities in Innovation / Entrepreneurship across 5 continents – and some of the things LIHE does. You might find this interesting <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/news/in-conversation-with-professor-prashant-jha> And <https://www.linkedin.com/in/drprjha/details/experience/> he has a 5D model Discover, Define, Design, Develop and Deploy which he expanded on in the lecture.

We also talked about Prof Claire Lucas who has just given her inaugural lecture – which summarises her career into engineering, research, JLR and back to academia and the Pedagogy of the Kings Engineering courses, this is a **Must View**
https://youtu.be/16_gQ6n8SUQ?si=TP7J4ne8Bxqq91Nh&t=2007

She has just relinquished the Deputy Headship of Dept of Engineering
https://www.linkedin.com/posts/profclairelucas_today-my-term-as-deputy-head-of-the-department-activity-7356646454855180288-8fPY

It may be worth considering either of them for the 13 Club Trophy – Prof Jha perhaps more

Comment – KCLEA needs better connection with the academic activities both in Engineering (NMES) and BMEIS (but perhaps not FoLSM) this may be more than the President and say Hon Sec can achieve – and if we have FOAK there is a Event person who may also “help”.

What was not discussed explicitly

- Activities –
- Publicity other than Newsletter We need to get Linked in sorted!
- Membership other than recruitment - and reviewing Keiths list with Bios
- Finance

Not fully reported – Peter activities with AO over the Summer.

Following conversation between Prof Rachel Bearon (Exec Dean NMES) and David & Peter on different occasions – Peter told her that he would help NMES form other Alumni Associations . His aim was to get NMES/ Some Exec deans to work out what they wanted – and then engage AO to find out what the depts / faculties needed and how the AO, the Faculty/Dept, KCL Admin, etc and the new Alumni Associations would operate (And also note KCLSU and KCLA roles) But She has got the AO involved !!! and thus the AO is organizing a meeting

This would be with Hannah Harrison [linkedin.com/in/hannahlp](https://www.linkedin.com/in/hannahlp) and Katie Raymond [linkedin.com/in/katie-raymond-b099b05b](https://www.linkedin.com/in/katie-raymond-b099b05b) - with probably Alex Groves who has titled it as being how “AO can help KCLEA” - - Peter has refused this as a title of the meeting –

So we will see! - Peter view is that the relationships communications and fit between an AA the Department then the AO and may be Student Societies and KCLA needs to be established to see how and on what they can best service the individual Alum (Or small groups of alumni) alongside KCL’s wider aims of giving something to the Alumni en masse/ at large (and then giving something back by say mentoring or donations!) Hence the need for an Ontology .

KCLEA has some unique features – its long history and bridging faculties are some of them! But we need to get AAs listed and categorized to see where KCLEA fits in – and how well.

Sadly there is a lot of history in this, “Things are not as they were” and certain land grabs, personalities and not being concerned to do the work, not keeping up to date and not taking ownership (or if it is taken not being responsible or accountable) and clear statement of aims . Note the AO latest advert <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/jobs/121006-alumni-assistant>

Peter will also be meeting with Ruthy Stevenson [linkedin.com/in/ruthy-stevenson-a51268158](https://www.linkedin.com/in/ruthy-stevenson-a51268158) to talk about the SW Wing of Bush House building for Students, END