

THE BRITISH CARBON GROUP

Minutes of the 2017 AGM held at the University of Warwick, Coventry, 11th April, 2017.

Present

Malcolm Heggie (Chairman), Norman Parkyns (Vice-Chairman), Peter Minshall (Hon Secretary), committee member Chris Ewels, and 9 BCG Members.

Apologies for Absence

Geoff Fowler, Julie MacPherson, Sergey Mikhailovsky, Izabela Jurewicz, Nassia Tzelepi and Tony Wickham.

Minutes of the Last AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM, held on May 9th, 2016 at the Grand Harbour Hotel, Southampton and previously published in the British Carbon Group's Newsletter and subsequently on its Website were accepted as a true record. [Proposed: Norman Parkyns, seconded: Peter Minshall, accepted *nem con.*]

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Chairman's Report

Good afternoon and welcome to the Annual General Meeting of the British Carbon Group. The British Carbon Group exists to encourage, support and publicise carbon science in its many forms: from nuclear graphite to coal, activated carbons to diamond, nanomaterials to carbon electrochemistry. The Group is affiliated to three societies, The Royal Society of Chemistry, the Institute of Physics and the Society for Chemical Industry. Most of our members are drawn from these bodies, but we also have a few subscribing members who are not affiliated to any of these societies.

The Group organised a number of meetings in 2016/7 since our last AGM on 9th May, which immediately preceded the EDF Nuclear Graphite meeting held in Southampton 10th-12th May. The conference manager, Tony Wickham, and Organising Committee, Dr. Jim Reed of EDF Energy Ltd, and Prof. Peter Flewitt put together an excellent science and engineering programme, which included an afternoon visit to Beaulieu.

This was followed in late August by NanoteC16, our annual, international conference on Nanotechnology in Carbon and Related Materials. A new younger, crew took over the organisation and arranged an excellent meeting at Trinity College Dublin, with Professor Werner Blau and his research group as the local hosts. The meeting of about 70 was a credit to the organisers – Frank Dillon, Izabela Jurewicz, Mathieu Verstraete, Zeila Zannoli, and Werner gave a lovely introduction to the historic Schrödinger Lecture Theatre where it took place.

The seventeenth International Nuclear Graphite Specialists Meeting (INGMS-17), was organised by the International Atomic Energy Agency with BCG sponsorship and help from our Hon. Treasurer, Prof. Tony Wickham, who was one of the founding organisers of this series. The meeting comprised stimulating meeting of science and engineering of nuclear graphite, directed to understand this important component of existing and future nuclear reactor designs. The conference outing to the Schonbrunn palace, with recitals of classical and operatic music, including waltzes of course, and a conference dinner within the palace itself, was truly spectacular.

It is always a pleasure to give awards in recognition of excellence in carbon research. The British Carbon Group administers two such awards, the *Brian Kelly Award* and the *Roger Taylor Memorial Award*. At Carbon 2016 at Penn State University I was pleased to present the *Brian Kelly Award* to Dr. Yasuhiro Yamada of Chiba University, Japan for his paper on *Review for analyses of defects in carbon materials using X-ray photo-electron spectroscopy and computation*. The award was made with a flourish of pom-poms at the conference dinner in the hospitality suite of the hundred thousand seater Beaver stadium.

There were two strong candidates for the *Roger Taylor Memorial Award* in 2016, so we made two awards. The first was at the 229th Electrochemical Society meeting in San Diego, where the organisers presented it to Dr. Ardemis Boghossian her paper, *Wrapped Up in Nanotubes: Probing Photoluminescence Dynamics of Wrapped Single-Walled Carbon Nanotubes (SWCNTs)*. The second award was made at the Graphene 2016 in Genoa, Italy and presented to Matthew Cole for *Field emission applications of graphene*. This year, the final *Roger Taylor Memorial Award* will be made at the biennial ACNS meeting in St Petersburg.

Whereas last year we heard of the death of Professor Sir Harry Kroto FRS, Nobel Laureate, the co-discoverer of fullerenes, this year we heard the sad loss of Professor Mildred Dresselhaus of MIT, often referred to as the Queen of Carbon. She was a remarkable woman and scientist, being active at the forefront of carbon science right until the time of her death at age 85. I feel sure the American Carbon Society will set about organising some memorial for her, while we are still growing the support for plans for a Kroto Medal. We were very happy to organise a special international meeting in Sussex on the 26th of August: *Harry: the fullerene legacy* in the morning preceding the very moving tribute to him *Remembering Harry* organised by his family with Sussex University. There were many world leading scientists speaking, including Professor Eleanor Campbell, F.R.S., who delivered the BCG's 8th Ubbelohde lecture. These lectures are in honour of the late Prof. A. Ubbelohde who was a key figure in UK Carbon Science.

The long process to win the organisation of an International Carbon Conference began with Tony Wickham identifying 2021 as the next free slot, and Geoff Fowler proposing Imperial College as the venue. Working together, the proposal was first pitch in Dresden in 2015 and met with approval and request for more detail. Tony Wickham and I attended the meeting of the European Carbon Association at C2016 in Penn State, with Tony pitching the detailed bid. It was approved, so we are steadily building a plan and a team.

Finally, it only remains for me to thank the officers and committee of the British Carbon Group for their support and help in the past year, especially those who have organised

meetings. We have taken the unusual step of seeking to appoint an Hon. Treasurer 'in waiting' this year, to give time for hand over of this important role, which has been held for so long and so competently, by Prof. Tony Wickham. It is a great pleasure to acknowledge the tremendous effort the Tony has put into the British Carbon Group. It has felt like he has been the back bone of the group for many decades. We trust we can rely on him for a couple more decades of advice and/or service on the committee.

If you want more information on any of my report or about BCG more generally, please refer to our new website, which Chris Ewels has organised with professional help. Thanks to Chris, and thanks to you for attending this AGM, and I hope you enjoy the rest of the meeting.

Treasurer's Report

The accounts for 2016, in the RSC format, were presented by Malcolm Heggie on behalf of Tony Wickham.

Total income was £61,283.34 and total expenditure was £65,902.34. The balance on 1st January, 2016 was £38,121.59 and on 31st December, 2016, £33,502.59. There was thus a deficit of £4,619.00 for the year. The turnover of the Group is such that we continue to be registered for VAT.

It was pointed out that the group currently has a large surplus which came from the last International Carbon Conference that the BCG organised. This allows the Group to run conferences and award bursaries, although it is to be expected that this surplus will run down until the next carbon conference to be held in London in 2021.

The meeting accepted the accounts as presented [Proposed: Norman Parkyns, seconded, Peter Minshall] and thanked Tony Wickham for his excellent work with these complex accounts.

To Receive Notice of the Representatives of the Sponsoring Bodies

The following will be notified to the sponsoring bodies as representative for 2017:

RSC	Norman Parkyns
IOP	Peter Minshall
SCI	Geoff Fowler

Election of Officers and Committee Members

Nominations for Geoff Fowler to be Vice-Chairman and Izabela Jurewicz to be Treasurer Elect had been received [Proposed Malcolm Heggie, Seconded, Norman Parkyns]. There being no further nominations they were appointed to these positions without dissent.

As no nominations for Chairman or Secretary had been received, the meeting agreed to suspend standing orders and appoint Malcolm Heggie and Peter Minshall for further terms of office as Chairman and Secretary, respectively.

Nassia Tzelepi was proposed by Norman Parkyns and seconded by Malcolm Heggie as a member of the committee.

Suelen Barg was proposed by Malcolm Heggie and seconded by Peter Minshall as a member of the committee.

As the number of nominations was less than the number of vacancies, they were elected unopposed to the committee.

Any Other Business

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 4.50pm.