

# **The British Carbon Group AGM 2019**

held during the meeting

## **“Atomistic Computational Studies of Carbon : A meeting to celebrate the scientific achievements of Malcolm Heggie”**

organized by the BCG at Sussex University, 12/6/2019.

Present: ~40 participants.

The meeting was opened at 16:00, Arts A1 Building, Sussex University, Falmer, Brighton by Geoff Fowler, chairman of the BCG.

He started by talking about the previous chairman, Prof. Malcolm Heggie, his role in setting up and running the British Carbon Group, and acknowledged his key role in making the BCG the active and important group that it is today.

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Suelen Barg, Peter Minshall and Nassia Tzelepi.

### **2. Minutes of Previous AGM**

Held at the Castle Green Hotel, Kendal on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Minutes from last year's AGM are available on the website, which was demonstrated to all participants. The minutes were accepted without amendment.

### **3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **4. Chairman's Report**

This report covers the period Jan 2018-December 2018

The Committee Composition

The Committee in 2018 continued to evolve, following the resignation of Professor Malcolm Heggie as Chairman, for health reasons, in 2017 and Prof Tony Wickham who retired from the Committee in 2018. The stepping down of two committee stalwarts was a salient reminder to the committee of the importance of succession planning to ensure that there is a robust committee.

The current committee has worked very hard with all members stepping up to the mark to help carry the load of the group, for which I am especially grateful. Nevertheless, the Current Committee is always looking to strengthen the membership and subject spread of the membership expertise. We would welcome any approaches from BCG members who would like it help support the Carbon community and join the Committee. Please see the BCG web site (<https://britishcarbon.wordpress.com/>) for more details of our ongoing activities and contact details.

## Carbon 2021

The committee posted a tender for the management of Carbon 2021. This significant event is returning to the UK for the first time since 2006 and will be held at Imperial College London from 11<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> July 2021. The planning is continuing apace and the Committee are at advanced stages of planning for the event. The highlight of the Social events will be the conference banquet being held in the Hintz hall at the Natural History Museum, where the Blue whale holds pride of place – it will be a very memorable evening. The process of assembling the Technical committee to support the conference programme is progressing and we are looking for volunteers to be part of this once in a generation activity.

## Other Activities

We held one committee meeting during 2018.

The Group administers the Roger Taylor award. In 2018 this was given to Huseyin Enis Karahan, from Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore. This was for attendance at the annual International Carbon Conference to present their talk: Factors influencing the antibacterial activity of graphene oxide beyond materials physicochemistry.

The Group has also awards travel bursaries from its own funds and on behalf of the IOP.

Two awards were made in 2018, these were to:

Jemma Rowlandson to present her talk: “Towards Tuneable Lignin-Derived Activated Carbons for Water Filtration Applications”, at the 11th Conference on New Diamond and Nano Carbons (NDNC 2017) held 28th May – 1st June 2017 in Cairns, Australia

Rakesh Kumar to present his talk: “Graphene Membrane based sensors for ultrasensitive detection of neurotransmitters and VOCs in ECS platform” at the Electrochemical Society (ECS) 233rd Meeting from 13th- 17th May, 2018 in Seattle, WA, USA.

The Group organised the 6th EDF-Energy Nuclear Graphite Conference 2018, which was held at the Castle Green Hotel in Kendal from the 13th to 18th October 2018. There were over 70 attendees across the 5 days conference

The NanoteC18 meeting, the 20-year anniversary of the founding of the series, was run at the University of Sussex from 29<sup>th</sup> August – 1<sup>st</sup> September. Being a special anniversary meeting the many of the Speakers were invited as they attended the very first NanoteC meeting.

The Group continues to issue a Newsletter. The Editor is always looking for information and interesting carbon-related articles to print.

## 5. Treasurers Report

Izabela Jurewicz presented the BCG finances, as a charitable organization the finances are fully audited each year. Full details of the BCG financial report are available on the website. In summary the budgetary situation is relatively healthy, with the society able to support multiple meetings per year and also fund several student bursaries including one this year to attend a meeting in Australia.

She announced the launch of a Malcolm Heggie memorial fund at this year's NanoteC. A small supplement will be added to the registration fee to establish the fund, which will be used in future years to help student attendance at the meeting, which was set up and chaired by Malcolm annually for twenty years.

#### **6. To Receive Notice of the Representatives of the Sponsoring Bodies**

The following will be notified to the sponsoring bodies as representative for 2019:

RSC	Norman Parkyns
IOP	Peter Minshall
SCI	Geoff Fowler

#### **7. Election of officers**

There was a proposition that Geoff Fowler should be re-elected in his role as chairman, Chris Ewels as vice-chairman, and Izabela Jurewicz as treasurer. Peter Minshall is going to continue as secretary but this requires the suspension of standing orders since he has formally exceeded the duration of his mandate. By default due to lack of alternative candidates he has been voted into a continuation of the role.

The motion above was proposed by Dr Mark Bradford, from EDF Energy, seconded by Prof. Roger Smith, Loughborough University. The motion was adopted unanimously. The other existing committee members are not up for election this year and so remain in post.

A call was made for new committee members for the British Carbon Group, to which Natalia Martsinovich (Sheffield University) and Calvin Davidson (EDF Energy) both proposed themselves. They were voted onto the BCG committee by all present unanimously.

#### **8. Any Other Business**

Chris Ewels formally thanked Geoff Fowler for stepping in as BCG chairman at short notice, following Malcolm's health problems, which forced him to resign from the role earlier than planned.

The meeting closed at 16:25.