

The Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry (SHAC)
(Charity No. 1190304)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Covering 2025

Held via Zoom on Wednesday 13 May 2026 at 14:00 (UK time)

Present

Frank James (Chair)
Robert Bud, Chris Campbell (officer), Carolyn Cobbold (officer), Stephen Clucas,
Hannah Elmer, Ronojoy Ghosh, Sarah Lang, Annette Lykknes (officer), Bruce Moran
Lawrence Principe, Jennifer Rampling, Peter Ramberg, Carmen Schmechel, Anna Simmons
(officer), Jenny Wilson

The meeting was confirmed as quorate.

1. Chairman's Introduction

The Chair, Frank James, welcomed attendees to the AGM and apologised for technical difficulties caused by IT issues at UCL affecting his Zoom connection. He noted the importance of the AGM in fulfilling SHAC's governance and Charity Commission obligations.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

Robert Fox, Louise Palmer, Yiran Tao, Sarah Hijmans, Didier Kahn, Amber Rozenrichter,
Rob Johnstone

It was noted that Michael Bycroft might join later in the meeting.

3. Minutes of the AGM held on 12 May 2025

The minutes of the previous AGM were approved without amendment.
Proposed acceptance was taken by general assent.

4. Presentation of Trustees' Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for 2025

Trustees' Annual Report

Chris Campbell presented the Trustees' Annual Report. No comments, corrections, or objections were raised and the report was accepted.

Statement of Accounts

In the absence of Rob Johnstone, Anna Simmons presented the accounts and a summary of the Treasurer's accompanying report.

Key points included:

- Revenue for the year was slightly increased, assisted by higher interest payments and revenue from the spring meeting.
- This increase was partly offset by a small reduction in the contribution from Taylor & Francis.
- Work is underway to modernise SHAC's web-based administration systems and membership management processes.

Members were informed that:

- A new online membership system is expected before the end of the current subscription year.
- Members will be able to manage their own details online and pay subscriptions by credit/debit card.
- New members will receive immediate online access to Ambix.
- The transition may involve temporary disruption and members' cooperation would be appreciated.

It was also reported that planning for a redesigned SHAC website is underway.

The accounts were approved unanimously.

5. Elections for Council and Trustees

The Chair explained that, in accordance with the Constitution, a proportion of Council members retire each year.

The following Trustees stood down at the AGM and the Chair thanked them for their service to the Society: Peter Forshaw, Viviane Quirke and Jenny Wilson.

It was noted that:

- Rob Johnstone and Hasok Chang would remain on Council.
- Rob Johnstone would continue as Treasurer until the end of the year, and volunteers for the Treasurer role were invited to come forward.

The following nominees for Council were presented:

- Robert Bud
- Michael Bycroft
- Ellen Hausner

A discussion was held about the criteria for nominations made by Council. The Chair clarified that there were no separate categories of membership that excluded anyone from standing. However, Council did each year carefully consider the matter of balance on Council in terms of gender, career status, disciplinary areas and geographical distribution amongst others.

Following discussion, the nominees were declared elected.

6. Update on Current Activities

Ambix

The Chair formally thanked Bruce Moran for eight years of service as editor of Ambix and welcomed Annette Lykknes as the new editor.

Annette Lykknes reported that:

- The editorial transition had gone smoothly.
- Submission levels and planned issues were healthy.
- Several future issues were already in preparation.

Meetings and Events

The Chair reported positively on:

- The successful SHAC meeting in Philadelphia at the Science History Institute.
- The postgraduate and early career researchers' meeting in Amsterdam.
- The recent SHAC meeting in Oxford held at the Maison Française d'Oxford celebrating the life and work of W.H. 'Bill' Brock.

He noted encouraging signs that in-person participation and the social aspects of SHAC activities were recovering strongly after the pandemic.

Future meetings announced included:

- The Autumn Meeting at the Deutsches Museum, Munich, in November 2026.
- A January 2027 meeting marking the 400th anniversary of the birth of Robert Boyle.

Chemical Intelligence

Anna Simmons reported that the next issue of *Chemical Intelligence* would appear in summer 2026 and encouraged members to contribute material.

Social Media Editor

Members were informed that Meg Piorko would be stepping down as Social Media Editor. A call for applications would be circulated shortly.

Partington Prize

It was announced that Flavio Bevilacqua had won the 2026 Partington Prize for the essay *Alchemy in Fifteenth-Century Byzantium: The Case for the Role of George of Trebizond's Circle*.

Membership and Awards

Carolyn Cobbold reported that membership renewals were ongoing and reminded attendees that applications for SHAC awards close at the end of May 2026.

Sources Project

Lawrence Principe updated members on the progress of the *Sources* publication project. The tenth proof stage had recently been completed, and publication was expected during summer 2026.

He also announced plans for another *Sources* meeting in Edinburgh in conjunction with the History of Science Society / European Society for the History of Science joint meeting.

7. Any Other Business

No additional business was raised.

The Chair thanked attendees for their participation and patience with technical difficulties and closed the meeting at approximately 14:31.

Summary of Actions

1. Members to watch for communications regarding the rollout of the new SHAC membership administration system and assist with testing if requested.
2. Members interested in serving as Treasurer to contact Frank James.
3. Members encouraged to submit contributions for the next issue of *Chemical Intelligence*.
4. Applications/nominations sought for the forthcoming Social Media Editor vacancy.
5. Members encouraged to publicise SHAC awards and remind eligible applicants of the end-of-May deadline.
6. Members wishing to present at the Munich Autumn Meeting to submit titles and abstracts to the Chair by the end of May 2026.

Chris Campbell
SHAC Hon. Sec.
9 June 2026