



**Association of Industrial Laser Users
Minutes of the 31st Annual General Meeting**

Institute for Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering (AME),
Beresford Avenue, Coventry, CV6 5LZC
& online via Zoom

21 May 2025, 13:30

Present In Person

President: Ric Allott (STFC)
Vice Presidents: Richard Carter (Heriot-Watt University); Paola De Bono (TWI)
Executive Director: Dave MacLellan (Anode Marketing/AILU)
AILU Members: Neal Croxford (Dovecote Technologies); Clive Grafton-Reed (Rolls-Royce); Lewis Jones (Loughborough University); Tian Long See (MTC); Mike O'Key (Optek Systems); Danijela Rostohar (Coventry University); Pratik Shukla (MTC); Bethan Smith (MTC); Chris Waters (Micrometric)
Catherine Rose (AILU, Minutes Secretary)

Present Online

AILU Members: Ioannis Bitharas (Heriot-Watt University); Jamie Costello (Coherent); Cliff Jolliffe (PI); Nazanin Mirhosseini (University of Manchester)

Opening remarks

Ric Allott warmly welcomed members to the 31st AILU AGM.

Apologies received

Apologies were received from Sinan Bilgin (SS Laser Solutions).

Approval of the Minutes of the last AGM

The minutes of the 30th AGM (15.05.2024) were unanimously approved.

Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting

There was one matter arising, which was to add the term 'inclusivity' into the formal definition of AILU's Purpose, Vision and Mission statement. This action has been completed.

Presentation of the Annual Report 2023-2024

AILU President, Ric Allott, thanked all for attending the meeting and reported on the two years of his Presidency, using the framework of AILU's 3–5-year goals to illustrate achievements. The AILU committee's Internal and External Working Groups have been driven forward by the two Vice Presidents, Paola De Bono (Internal) and Richard Carter (External). This has resulted in the successful delivery of workshops and the introduction of webinars to AILU's events diary (4 delivered so far). Slides and videos of workshops are now available to purchase online post-event. A set of Policy and Position Statements has been developed, which will help AILU to influence key stakeholders. AILU has increased engagement with external organisations such as SPIE, Optica and Make UK.

Dave MacLellan reported on AILU events during the year 2023-2024. Events are now fully in-person (excepting some online presentations) after a period of post-Covid hybrid events. Future events were

introduced, and statistics from ILAS 2025 were reported. Ric thanked Dave and the AILU team for delivering an extremely successful ILAS event.

Adoption of the Annual Report

There were no objections to the President's Annual Report, which was duly adopted.

Presentation of accounts for the period 01.11.2023 - 31.10.2024

Dave MacLellan presented income and expenditure charts for the FY 23/24. Total income was £156K. The largest contributor towards total income was membership (52%) followed by events income (workshops plus pre-payment towards ILAS 2025, 37%). Most of the additional income came from advertising revenue.

Total expenditure for the year was £157K. The largest expenditure was the Secretarial Contract paid to Anode Marketing to administer AILU (79%). Other expenditure such as events, website/internet and printing/postage contributed small amounts to the total.

AILU reserves increased during the reporting period to a solid £36.8K (reserves from the previous reporting period were £30.2K). The goal is to continue building this amount.

Clive expressed his thanks to Dave for his stewardship and management of the accounts, resulting in the strong financial position that AILU holds today.

Adoption of accounts

Those present unanimously approved the accounts.

Election of Officers of the Standing Committee

Dave MacLellan extended grateful thanks, on behalf of the Committee, to Ric Allott for his excellent directorship of AILU during the last 2 years.

Two candidates stood for the 2-year post of AILU President: Paola De Bono (TWI) and Richard Carter (Heriot-Watt University). Each candidate gave a short presentation which was followed by an anonymous vote, whilst the candidates left the room. Following a very close count, Paola De Bono was elected as the new AILU President, the first female president in AILU's history.

The nominees for the two Vice President roles were Richard Carter and Stan Wilford (IPG). Dave MacLellan stood again as Executive Director. The 3 candidates were proposed by Clive Grafton Reed and seconded by Ric Allott. They were unanimously appointed.

Election of Ordinary Members of the Standing Committee

On behalf of AILU, Dave sincerely thanked the outgoing officers who had served their term of office: Rachel McBain (Laser Trader), Jamie Costello (Coherent) and Chris Waters (Micrometric) – all elected in 2022 for 3 years. Also, Tom Chaffer (TRUMPF), Clive Grafton-Reed (Rolls Royce), Tony Jones (Cyan Tec Systems), Cliff Jolliffe (PI), Danijela Rostohar (Coventry University) and Tian Long See (MTC), all of whom had been co-opted for 1 year.

Four nominees were put forward for election as Ordinary Members of the committee for 3 years: Lewis Jones (Loughborough University), Nazanin Mirhosseini (University of Manchester), Mike O'Key (OpTek) and Bethan Smith (MTC).

The following were nominated to be co-opted onto the committee for a 1-year period: Tom Chaffer (TRUMPF), Clive Grafton-Reed (Rolls Royce), Tony Jones (Cyan Tec Systems), Cliff Jolliffe (PI), Danijela Rostohar (Coventry University) and Chris Waters (Micrometric). Jamie Costello was nominated to fill a casual vacancy for 1 year.

Nominations for all Ordinary Members were adopted en bloc (Proposed: Clive Grafton Reed; Seconded: Tian Long See; unanimous approval).

Ric Allott thanked the outgoing members of the committee for their support during his period as President. Incoming President, Paola De Bono, presented Ric with an award to commemorate his role as AILU President 2023-2025.

Any other business

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 14:45

Catherine Rose, Minutes Secretary
19 June 2025

List of documents available prior to the 31st AGM:

Notice of 31st Annual General Meeting
Agenda of 31st Annual General Meeting
Minutes of 30th AGM 2024
Abbreviated accounts 2023/24