



AGM 2025

Challenger Society for Marine Science

11th September 2025



Persons present

1. Chris Auckland
2. Chelsey Baker
3. Bee Berx
4. Tarkan Bilge
5. Emma Boland
6. Alex Brearley
7. Lucy Bricheno
8. Natasha Bryan
9. Angela Colling
10. Ben Fisher
11. Rob Hall
12. Kate Hendry
13. Karen Heywood
14. John Huthnance
15. Siddhi Joshi
16. Dougal Lichtman
17. Cecilia Liszka
18. Maeve Lohan
19. Anthony Lucio
20. Mike Meredith
21. Tom Rippeth
22. Terry Sloane
23. Yohei Tokai
24. Robyn Tuerena

Council Members from Sept 2024

Officers of Council

- Maeve Lohan President
- Mike Meredith Outgoing President
- Alex Brearley Hon Treasurer
- Kate Hendry Hon Secretary

Co-opted members

- Angela Colling Ocean Challenge editor
- Stephen Dye Chair OC editorial board
- Kerry Howell SCOR/Deep Sea SIG
- Nick Owens 2024 conference chair
- Gillian Damerell EDI

Council members

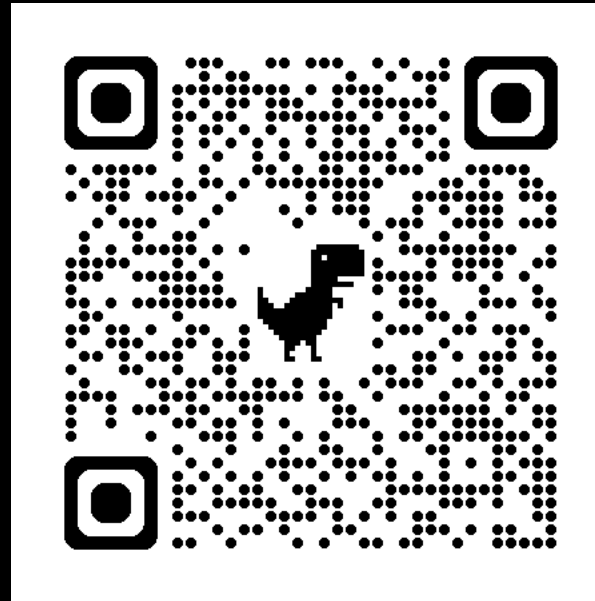
- John Allen Challenger Wave editor
- Cecilia Liszka SIGs
- John Bacon Webpage
- Siddhi Joshi ECR
- Chelsey Baker Membership
- Anthony Lucio Website
- Anna McGregor Media and communications
- Terry Sloane Industry liaison
- Al Tagliabue SCOR
- Mark Inall Chair of NOC-A
- Robyn Tuerena Outreach and Education
- Sophie Wilmes Travel awards and Stepping Stones bursaries

Agenda

1. Approval of minutes from the AGM in September 2024
2. Matters arising from minutes of the 2024 AGM
3. President's Report
4. Portfolio reports
5. Co-opted member reports
6. Treasurer's report and accounts
7. Appointment of auditors for Independent Financial Review
8. Election of new Council Members
9. AOB

Approval of minutes of previous the AGM, September 2024

<https://thechallengersociety.com/the-society/the-council/annual-general-meetings/>



Proposer: Alex Brearley

Seconder:

Cecilia Liszka

Motion passed unanimously

2. Matters Arising

3. President's Report - AGM 2054

Prof Maeve Lohan



President's Report

- Participation in Future Marine Research Initiative (FMRI)
 - President sits on FMRI Board; engaged in Options meetings, Board decisions etc.
 - Challenger Policy Rep sits on FMRI Delivery Board
 - FMRI now contribute to Ocean wave and Ocean Challenge to increase communication with the community
- Participation in Marine Science UK
 - President sits on Executive Committee
 - Marine Science UK is an umbrella organisation that acts as a collective voice for marine science across the UK Universities and Research institutions to champion the seas and the ocean, and to communicate robust and coherent marine science evidence to government, industry and the wider community
- Represent Society at NOC Association Board meetings
- Chairing Council meetings etc.



2024
CHALLENGER
SOCIETY CONFERENCE

PROGRAMME

2nd - 6th September, 2024 | Oban

www.challenger2024.co.uk



4. Portfolio reports

4. Portfolio reports

Comms

4. Portfolio reports

UK SCOR

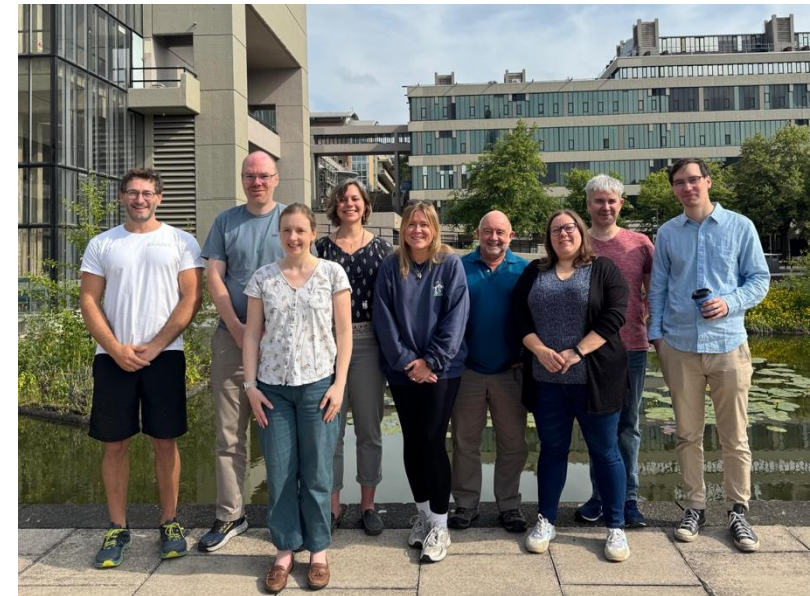
SCOR

International SCOR:

- UK continues to play a key role in SCOR
 - 600 scientists from 60 countries participate in SCOR activities
 - 8 current working groups are chaired by UK scientists
- Two new SCOR working groups approved in 2024:
 - WG171: Towards best practices for Measuring and Archiving Stable Isotopes in Seawater (MASIS) – chaired by Gilles Reverdin (France), Antje Voelker (Portugal)
 - WG172: Oceanic Salt Intrusion into Tidal Freshwater Rivers (SALTWATER) – chaired by Ming Li (USA), Hans Burchard (Germany)

UK SCOR:

- Challenger Society covers 51% of SCOR subscriptions and council is the UK SCOR committee
 - Drives the Challenger Society international engagement strategy
 - UK SCOR committee meets annually to review working group proposals and discuss strategy
 - Partnership with the Royal Society continues to work well
 - New regular and early career members appointed
- UK SCOR review of Working Group applications completed, new groups to be decided at 2025 SCOR AGM in Oct
- **Alex Poulton (Heriot Watt) will take over as UK SCOR chair from Alessandro Tagliabue at end of Oct 2025**



UK SCOR meeting, Leeds June 2025

4. Portfolio reports

Awards



Travel Awards

- Applications continuing upward trend since COVID-19 (2022:28, 2023:31, 2024:37). Roughly at 2019 levels although down on 17/18



- January – 9 applications, 5 funded (£1750)
- April – 6 applications, 4 funded (£1750)
- July – 12 applications, 4 funded (£1428)
- October – 11 applications, 4 funded (£1841)

- Funded activities examples:
 - International Seaweed Symposium (Canada)
 - Deepsea Biology Symposium (Hong Kong)
 - Fieldwork in Sri Lanka, Orkney, the Maldives
 - Challenger Conference!
 - EGU (Vienna)
 - International Sea Turtle Symposium (Thailand)



- **TOTAL SPEND: £6769**



Stepping Stones Bursary

- Applications slightly down on previous year
- 5 applications with 4 funded (£3604.60)

Recipients:

- Natalie Sinclair – Outreach ‘Bringing Humpback Whale Song Science to Remote Scottish Communities’
- Bex Turner – European Coral Reef Symposium
- Mark Stevenson – Participate in BIO-CARBON on RRS James Cook investigating water column particulate sterols and fatty acid
- Ellen White – Participate in AMIGOS cruise collecting acoustic data to study marine mammals and underwater noise



4. Portfolio reports

SIGs

Challenger SIG update

Cecilia Liszka

- 6 SIG meetings held
 - 4 at Oban Conference, September 2024
 - Coastal & Shelf Seas
 - AMBIO
 - Modelling
 - Deep Sea Ecosystems
 - Waves SIG, Oxford, March 2024
 - Sea Ice, NOC, September 2024
 - History SIG revived with keynote at Conference & forthcoming talk series – special thanks to John Gould & Philip Woodworth
- ~£2000 in financial support provided in 2024
- New process adopted for proposing new SIGs
 - Plankton SIG (P-SIG) approved – led by Dan Mayor
- Advert in Ocean Challenge offered to SIG leads
- Update of SIG webpages - ongoing
- Review of active SIGs & key contacts - ongoing

Deep-Sea Ecosystems



Ocean Wind Waves



Coastal and Shelf Seas



Sea Ice SIG

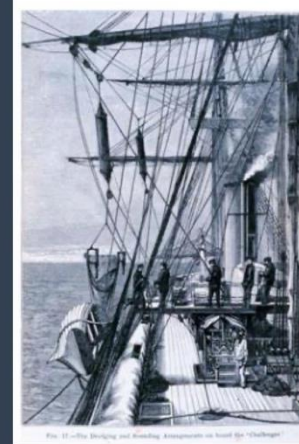


Ocean Modelling Group



Advances in Marine Biogeochemistry

History of Marine Science



ADVANCES in
MARINE
BIOGEOCHEMISTRY

4. Portfolio reports

Ocean Challenge

OCEAN Challenge



Luigi Marsigli's 17th century insight into flow through the Bosphorus • Investigating tides and circulation in the Atlantic during the Last Glacial Maximum • Updates on increasing CO₂ uptake by the ocean

Vol.27, No.2

2024 Ocean Challenge

Editor: Angela Colling

Chair Ed Board: Stephen Dye

- Schedule:, Vol.27(1) went out in January 2024, and Vol.27 (2) in October 24.
- Editorial Board: Members were Megan Baker, Kelvin Boot, Emma Cavan, Gillian Damerell and Laura Grange. Gillian moved to a new post in Norway, but we are happy to say that she continues as a member of the Board.
- We met via Teams in April followed with a 'by correspondence meeting'.
- Please contact Angela or Stephen if you might like to join the Board (or you know someone who would be a great fit). We always need new members and continue to diversify the Editorial Board and maintain the breadth of disciplines and a range of institutions that represents the Challenger Society membership. An open call for members will follow this AGM.

How Ocean Challenge contributes to the Challenger Society Strategy 2024-2029

Strategic Aim 1 - Support and grow the UK marine science community

- **1a. Education and Outreach** – OC is deliberately accessible to non-specialists and relentlessly maintains editorial policy to be readable and useful in educational and outreach settings.
- **1b. Awards, Fellowships, Travel Grants and Bursaries** – OC publishes Stepping Stones reports highlighting their value. Medallist and fellow reports are also published in OC.
- **1c. Equity, Diversity, Accessibility, and Inclusivity (EDIA)** – OC is committed to telling stories of ocean science that show its full diversity (people, opinion and approach).

Strategic Aim 2 - Enhance connections within the marine science community and stimulate new scientific thinking and activity

OC publishes articles from a wide range of marine science, emerging disciplines and multidisciplinary research.

- **2a. Special Interest Groups** – OC regularly advertises SIGS and publishes meeting summaries helping them connect to the broader community.
- **2b. Media and Communications** – OC will aim to increasingly complement and support the content in the Society's social media platforms.

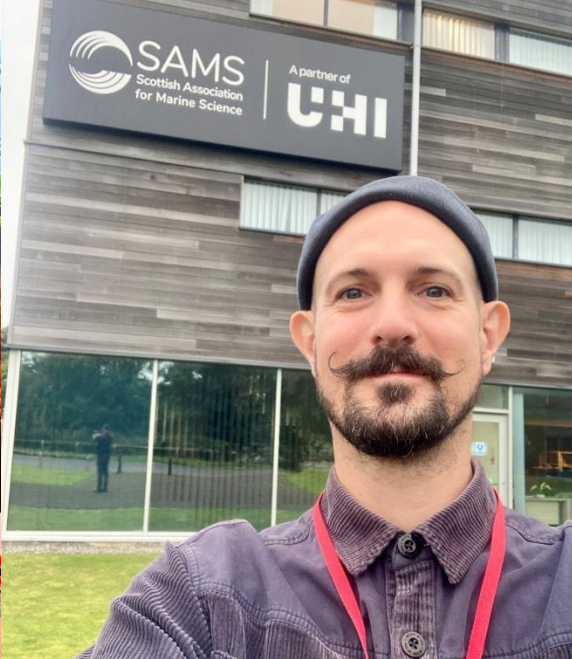
4. Portfolio reports

Early Career Researchers

Early Career Researcher Activities in 2024

Early Career
Researcher Portfolio
Holder: Dr Siddhi Joshi

In person science
communication training
with **Incredible Oceans**
for ECRs in Oban



Also, Challenger Society URGE POD continued
monthly meetings with poster presented at
Challenger Oban conference

4. Portfolio reports

Education and Outreach

Education & Outreach



Projects and engagement

- Involvement in the Primary Focus project (funded through NERC Opening up the Environment call) aimed at improving access to marine science for primary school aged children. This project aims to improve accessibility to outreach content (video, printable outreach materials) which aligns with Challenger E&O strategy.
- 100 years of Discovery outreach event in Dundee
- Engagement with 'This is Geoscience' and 'The Access Project' - *call for volunteers to come shortly!*

Development of Challenger Society online outreach

- Seminars and conference videos now launched on Challenger YouTube channel
- Outreach material to be launched before Christmas – *further calls to come for more content!*
- Low uptake of online video workshop, exploring option of in-person event through Marine Mumbles

4. Portfolio reports

Website

WATCH THIS SPACE 😊

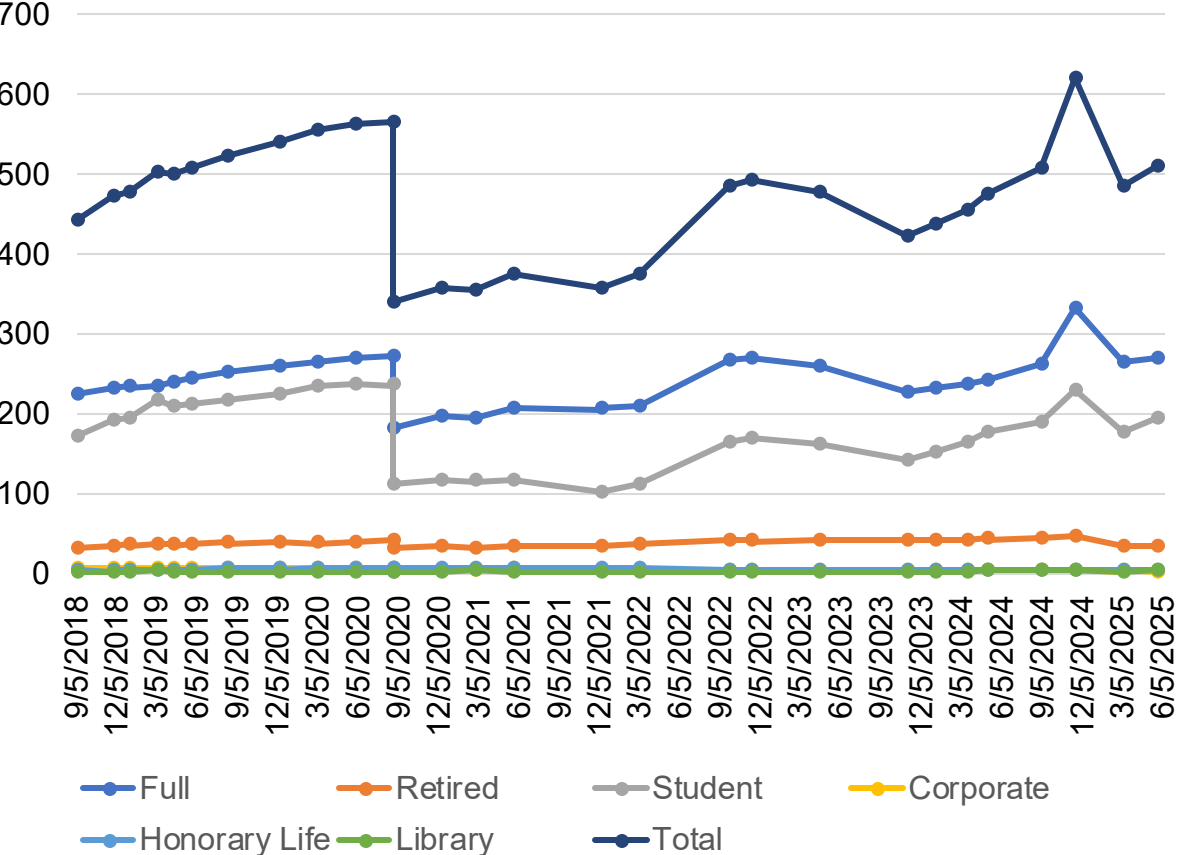
4. Portfolio reports

Membership and data protection

Membership and Data Protection

Chelsey Baker

- Updated membership statistics (November 2024) & data protection policy was reviewed and updated (Oct 2024)
- Increased membership throughout 2024 due to conference year & 2 year complementary memberships with registration
- Dip in membership at the end of 2024 due to removing legacy standing order members with no new payment set up → annual membership fees ~£20k income



Membership Type	Membership (20.11.2024)	Change up to November 2024
Full	332 (53.5%)	+99
Retired	47 (7.6%)	+4
Postgraduate student	230 (37.0%)	+79
Corporate	4 (0.6%)	+1
Honorary Life	5 (0.8%)	No change
Library	3 (0.5%)	+1
Total	621	+184

4. Portfolio reports

Industry liaison

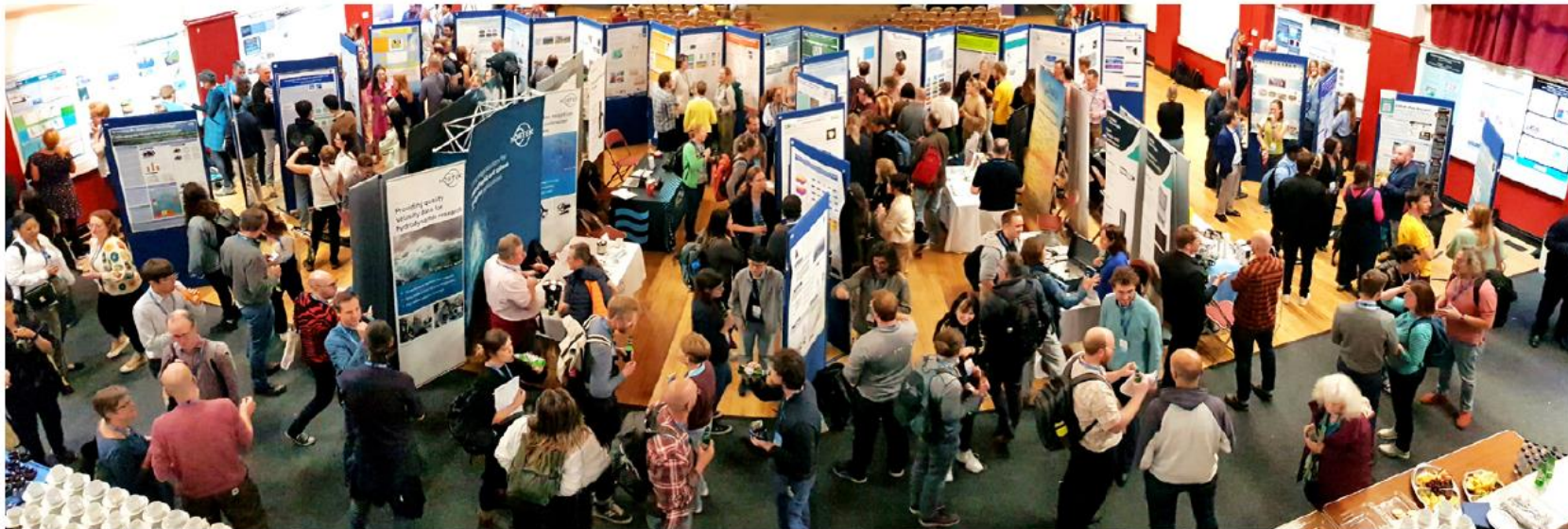
Industry Liaison and Technology

Terry Sloane



- Liaison with industry to provide access to news, research opportunities, commercial opportunities and employment opportunities from within the ocean business community
- Liaison with MSTG (Marine Science & Technology Group) of SMI, The Society for Underwater Technology & IMarEST to provide a conduit for government organisations and policy makers from a lobbying, economic and business perspective and with the international oceanographic, hydrographic and meteorological instrument manufacturers and suppliers www.maritimeindustries.org www.imarest.org www.SUT.org

The main activity in 2024 was raising sponsorship and organising the mini expo for Conference held by SAMS in Oban. Many thanks to Julie Platt from SAMS, who helped enormously with this.



5. Co-opted member reports

EDIA Working Group

Challenger Society EDIA Working Group Activities 2024



CSMS conference 2024: EDI panel discussion on avoiding over-work, good recruitment practices and retention in the discipline

Undertook diversity monitoring survey at 2024 conference with improved response rate (55% vs 30% in 2022)

Initiated the inclusion of an EDIA representative on Challenger conference committees

Began development of a database of inclusive fieldwork practices (ongoing)

Updated EDIA pages on Challenger Society website with links to resources (ongoing)

Represented Challenger Society at the EDI Satellite Event at the Coastal Futures Conference

Initiated consideration of personal circumstances for travel awards and Stepping Stones applications

Explored and implemented anti-racism principles through the Challenger URGE pod, and presented at 2024 conference

5. Co-opted member reports

Challenger Conference 2026



PRIFYSGOL
BANGOR
UNIVERSITY

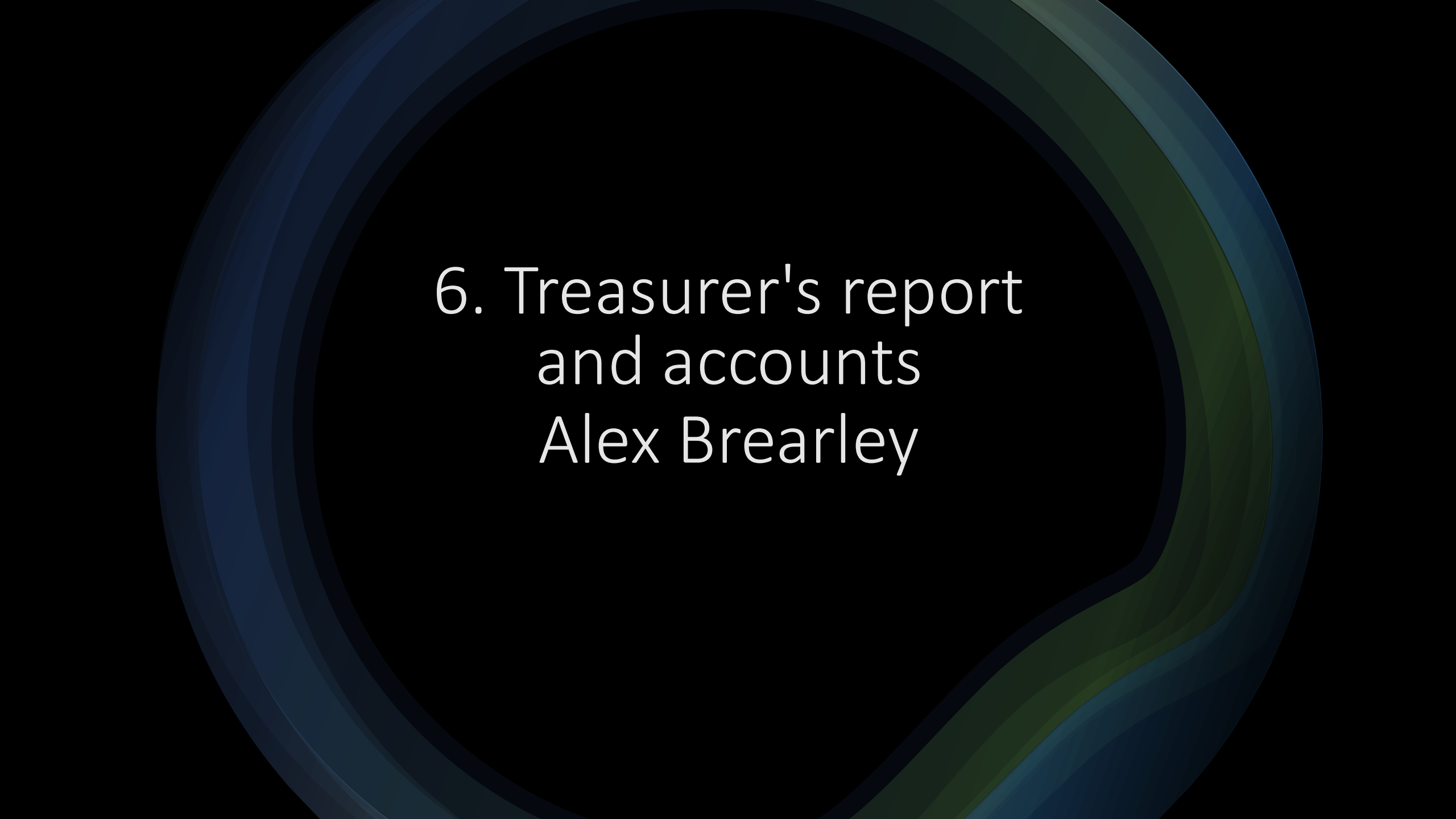
Challenger 2026: 7th – 11th September

Main conference: Main Campus 8th-10th September

- *Science committee (almost) in place.*
- *Local organising committee in place.*
- *Started to develop material to attract sponsorship.*

SIG Meetings: Menai Bridge Campus 7th and 11th September

- *Contact Tom Rippeth for details/ to book a slot*



6. Treasurer's report
and accounts
Alex Brearley

2024 Accounts *YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024*

As of 2019 the CSMS hosts the finances of the UKPN, all numbers presented do not include the UKPN restricted funds.

- The Society's total income for 2024 was £39,913 an increase on 2023 (£29,963).
- Total expenditure during 2024 was £41,458 an increase from 2023 (£36,419).

Other finance news

UKPN were able to open their own account in 2025 and so CSMS will no longer host their finances going forward (but this will be fully reported next year).

Questions on 2024 accounts ?

Proposer: Robyn Tuerena

Secunder: Maeve Lohan

Motion passed unanimously

Reserves policy

The Society's reserves policy has been prepared through consultation with the Charities Commission guidance on reserves policies for small charities and has previously been agreed by council.

- 1) **£15k** would be placed in reserve to cover unforeseen emergencies
- 2) **£30k** (3 x £10k) would be placed in reserve to offset any potential future uncertainties in income (effectively the difference between annual subscriptions (£15k) and total income=expenditure ~£25k)
- 3) A contingency fund of **£20k** (equivalent to one year average annual expenditure over past decade) be held in reserve to meet unforeseen needs including unexpected opportunities which might arise for the society to further its objectives.

The reserved policy to be kept under review by council and presented for acceptance by the membership annually at the AGM

Reserves policy


In summary:

Council proposes a £65k reserve to be kept under annual review.

Current funds held, excluding UKPN, (31 December 2024) are £96,398 - this is a slight decrease from 2023 (£96,429)

Fixed assets (investment) £68,537

Current assets (Bank Accounts) £27,861

The background features a series of concentric, semi-transparent circles in shades of dark blue and teal, centered on a black background. A wavy, semi-transparent teal line curves across the lower right portion of the image.

7. Appointment of auditors for Independent Financial Review

Accountants

In the interests of maintaining complete transparency in all of our affairs, the Challenger Society Council elected to continue to engage the services of an external auditor to perform an Independent Financial Review of the Society's accounts each year.

We have retained the services of:

Argents Chartered Accountants
15 Palace Street
NORWICH
Norfolk
NR3 1RT

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8. New and outgoing council members

Chris Auckland - Portfolio for awards

Senior Research Associate at University of East Anglia

- Receiving applications for the two schemes and responding to applicant inquiries
- Soliciting and compiling input from the rest of the Council for assessing the applications
- Communicating with successful and unsuccessful applicants for the two schemes
- Working with the Honorary Treasurer on allocating funds to successful applicants
- Following up with award winners on their reporting requirements
- Attending Council meetings four times a year (in person or online) and contributing to discussions and decision making for CSMS



Proposer: Anthony Lucio

Seconder: Chelsey Baker

Motion passed unanimously

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And a BIG thank you to Sophie Wilmes for her great work in this role over the past few years!!

9. AOB

A note from Sidhi Joshi about an upcoming ECR event on training in FAIR data principles in November 2025

A note from Alex Brearley that he will shortly be circulating budget authority forms