British Society of Rheology: Annual Report 2025

The British Society of Rheology (BSR) is registered in England and Wales under Charity number 249967.

Trustees (elected April 2025)

Prof. Rob Poole (President), Prof. Maria Charalambides (Immediate Past President), Dr R. Watson (Secretary), Dr A. Aufderhorst-Roberts (Treasurer), Dr M. Oliveira (Membership Secretary), Dr C. Ness (Bulletin Editor), Dr F. Del Giudice (Web Editor), Dr M. Tassieri (Publications manager), Dr R. Thompson (ordinary member), Dr R. Hodgkinson (ordinary member), Dr J. Hodges (ordinary member), Dr C. McIlroy (ordinary member), Dr. M. Zajac (ordinary member).

Structure, Management, & Recruitment

The structure of government of the BSR is detailed in the constitution document.

Any person interested in rheology is eligible to apply for membership of the BSR and may do so through the society's website. Each member pays an annual subscription fee.

The affairs of the BSR are managed by a Council of 13 members, which includes the President, Immediate Past President or President-Elect, 5 executive officers, namely Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Web Editor, and Bulletin Editor, and 6 ordinary members. The members of Council are deemed to be "Trustees" as defined by The Charities Act 1993.

Council meets three times per year to manage the funds and affairs of the BSR in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 1993. Council reports to members of the BSR at an Annual General Meeting, which takes place in the spring of each year. The business at the AGM includes

i) The election of officers and other members of Council.
ii) To receive a report and accounts from Council.
iii) To deal with any resolution or special matter which Council desire to bring before the members or any member wishes to raise and receive suggestions from the members for consideration by Council.

The President is elected at an Annual General Meeting to serve in that office initially as President Elect for 1 year, as President for the subsequent 2 years, and as Immediate Past President for the final year. All other members of Council are elected at each Annual General Meeting and may serve in a role for up to 4 years. Candidates for council are proposed and seconded by members of the BSR.

Objectives & Activities

The objective of the BSR is the promotion of scientific inquiry and the diffusion to the public of knowledge connected with the advancement of pure and applied rheology defined as the science of the deformation and flow of matter.

To fulfil this objective, the BSR coordinates several activities, including

- Organisation and sponsorship of scientific meetings,
- Funding initiatives for members, which can be applied for via the website,
- Awards to recognise excellence in the field of rheology, as nominated by BSR members,
- Publication of a bulletin for members 3 times per year to promote rheology.

When planning activities for the year, the BSR Council consider the Commission's guidance on public benefit. Further details of the activities taking place in the year 2025 are given in the following section.

Achievements & Performance

Membership

The BSR counts 282 Individual Members, including 64 Honorary Members, in addition to corporate memberships. This represents and increase of 21 members from last year, with several of the new membership subscriptions occurring in advance of BSR organised/sponsored meetings. The membership consists of Industrial, Academic (including postdoctoral researchers) and Student members. The majority are based in Great Britain, but membership extends globally including Europe, Americas, Asia as well as Australia and New Zealand.

Scientific Meetings

Scientific meetings are beneficial to BSR members by enabling knowledge exchange, network building, and skills development. Our BSR meetings provide a platform for rheologists to interact and be inspired by the latest advancements in rheology. This year BSR was involved in:

- The joint BSR-INNFM bi-annual "Spring Meeting in Rheology" (April,2025) took place in Wirral, where the 84th AGM for BSR members took place.
- The BSR Non-Newtonian Club (September,2025) took place in Liverpool on "Constitutive Modelling and Flow Transitions in Complex Fluids: Bridging Fundamentals and Applications" following the UK Fluids Conference with free attendance supported by our Non-Newtonian Club Fund.
- The BSR Mid-Winter Meeting (December,2025) took place in Edinburgh, where our BSR awards were celebrated.

Funding Initiatives

Our funding initiatives enable our members to promote rheology through conference presentations, meeting organisation, and public outreach events, as well as inspire the next generation of rheologists through supervision of undergraduate research projects. These initiatives ultimately strengthen the rheology community and its impact on and engagement with society.

This year we had 5 applications for our Undergraduate Summer Research Bursaries, 3 of which were funded, as decided by a sub-committee of council members. The summer bursary programme is designed to meet the living wage requirements and to allow universities to apply at which summer students are classed as PAYE employees. Student bursary holders provided reports for the bulletin detailing their work.

One Career Development Grant was awarded, but unfortunately not taken up by the successful applicant.

BSR funded ~£5k in travel grants for members to present their work at a various national and international rheology conferences. All grant holders provided reports for the bulletin detailing their experiences.

BSR Awards

Our BSR Awards celebrate members' achievements, motivate members to achieve high standards and share best practices, and raise the visibility of rheology. By promoting excellence, these awards ensure that the public benefits from more effective, innovative, and trustworthy research and practice.

This year's Annual Award for significant contributions to rheology was awarded to Dr Manlio Tassieri, University of Glasgow. The Vernon Harrison Award for the most distinguished PhD was awarded to Peter Angerman, Swansea University on "Spatio-temporal Instabilities in Discontinuous Shear Thickening Fluids". This year we also awarded a Gold Medal to Prof Wilson Poon, University of Edinburgh. All awardees presented their work at the Mid-Winter Meeting and were asked to provide articles for the bulletin.

Other Activities

This year the BSR collectively wrote and published an article "Recent Progress and Future Opportunities in the field of Rheology: A British Society of Rheology Review" in Proceedings of Royal Society A. We hope that this collective work will prove helpful for all current and future rheologists.

Financial Review

For the last few years, council has taken the decision to run an operating deficit due to our large cash reserves. This has included the new funding schemes and investments, including the enhancement of our summer bursary in 2024 (£3k per student with living wage and costs for consumables), the Career Development Award in 2025 (£2k to an early career research to pursue an independent research vision) and new A4 bulletin format also in 2025 (now £4.6k per year). In 2025 we ran an operating deficit of £5,490.70, which is in line with our strategic plan to run a deficit of £5-6k per year.

Reserves Policy

The reserves policy of the Charity is to hold free reserves of between £25,000 and £100,000 to meet expenditure commitments as they fall due. The Charity on 31st December 2025 has total funds of £84,805, of which £9,667 is held as restricted funds, leaving £75,137 in free reserves. This is within the range allowed by the reserves policy.

Risk management

The Trustees have considered the principal risks facing the charity. The main risks relate to maintaining sufficient income and volunteer engagement to support the Society's charitable activities. These risks are managed through regular financial monitoring, maintenance of appropriate reserves, oversight by the Trustees, and ongoing efforts to attract and retain members and volunteers.

Funds structure

Unrestricted income funds comprise those funds, which the Charity is free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objects. Restricted funds are to be used in accordance with the specific restrictions imposed by the donor. The Charity's only restricted fund is the Scott Blair Fund which is used to maintain the library of George Scott Blair.



Dr Claire McIlroy

BSR Ordinary Member of Council

23rd October 2026

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

THE BRITISH SOCIETY OF RHEOLOGY

Reg. Charity 249967

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	01/01/2025	To	31/12/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds Note 5 to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Members subscriptions	6,052	-	-	6,052	5,315
Donations	499	-	-	499	130
Scientific meetings	15,060	-	-	15,060	37,993
Awards, Prizes, Grants and Bursaries	-	-	-	-	-
Publishing	3,934	-	-	3,934	2,856
Website advertising	1,940	-	-	1,940	895
Investment income	2,535	84	-	2,619	2,416
Sub total *(Gross income for AR)*	30,021	84	-	30,104	49,605
A2 Asset and investment sales					
none	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	30,021	84	-	30,104	49,605
A3 Payments					
Scientific Meetings	21,036	-	-	21,036	9,800
Awards, Prizes, Grants and Bursaries	18,208	-	-	18,208	14,344
Publishing	3,425	-	-	3,425	2,281
Website maintenance	2,154	-	-	2,154	2,330
Banking and Insurance	1,674	-	-	1,674	1,468
Trustee expenses	360	360	-	720	528
Sub total	46,857	360	-	47,217	30,750
A4 Asset and investment purchases					
none	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	46,857	360	-	47,217	30,750
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 16,836	- 276	-	- 17,112	18,855
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	93,799	9,944	-	103,743	84,862
Cash funds this year end	76,963	9,667	-	86,630	103,716

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Current account	3,224	-	-
	Deposit account	64,665	-	-
	Scott-Blair current account	-	9,447	
	Membership current account	7,248		
	Stripe Account	-	-	-

GoCardless Account	- 0		
Savings Account	1,825	221	-
Total cash funds	**76,963**	**9,667**	**-**
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
none		-	-

B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which	Cost (optional)	Current value
none		-	-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
Presidential chain of office	Unrestricted	-	12,200

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
none			

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Dr Anders Aufderhorst-Roberts, Honorary Treasurer	28/10/2026
	Dr Claire McIlroy	27/10/2026

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	Charity Name The British Society of Rheology		
On accounts for the year ended	31/12/2025	**Charity no (if any)**	249967
Set out on pages	1 - 2 (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 / 12 / 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:	J.Williams	**Date:**	27/10/2026
Name:	Joel David Williams		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	Fellow of the Association of Charity Independent Examiners		
Address:	1 Montrose Avenue Stretford, Manchester M32 9LN		

Section B	Disclosure
	Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).
Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.	NONE