

TITLE: British Association of Landscape Industries: National Annual General Meeting
DATE: Wednesday 16th September 2026 at 10:30am
LOCATION: The Loft, Hall 3 within GroundsFest, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG

PRESENT:

Adrian Wickham	:	Chair (City Suburban Tree Surgeons)
Wayne Grills	:	Chief Executive (BALI)
Richard Stone	:	Honorary Treasurer (Bawden Managed Landscapes)
Matt Nokes	:	Vice-Chair (Ground Control)
Alistair Bayford	:	Director (Frosts Landscape Construction)
Kersten Catella	:	Director (Wyevale Nurseries)
Jake Catling	:	Director (The Landscaping Consultants)
Paul Downer	:	Director (Oak View Landscapes)
Richard Gill	:	Director (Green-tech)
Mark Gregory	:	Director (Landform Consultants)
Paul Lynch	:	Director (Elmtree Garden Contractors)
Dave Twist	:	Director (Elite Landscapes)
Ricky Whiteman	:	Director (Maylim)

Together with the following British Association of Landscape Industries members:

Association staff in attendance:

Fran Bienek	Membership Engagement Manager
Amy Cobbett	Head of Policy and Public Affairs
Nicky McMurdo	PA to Chief Executive (Minutes)
Jonathan Pettit	Head of Skills Careers and Certification
Sarah Potrykus	Head of Membership
Cheryl Ranner	Skills and Careers Officer

Attendees:

Kerri Finn (Addagrip Terraco), Ben Shaw (Adtrak), Jonathan Hill (Bioscapes), Thomas Stabler and Jeremy King (Boningale), Toby Radd (Elmtree Landscapes), Noel Brock (Frogna Gardens), George Davies (George Davies Turf), Lee Andrew, Stuart Ridd-Jones, Chantal Ridd-Jones (Harrowden Turf), Will Innes-Taylor (Hillier Nurseries), Jordan Sailsman, Michelle Maybury and James Simpson (Krinkels UK), Colin Smith (Land Technology), Charles Blumlein (Location Landscapes), Michael Wale, Brian Herbert (Outdoor Options), Ryan Horsman (Palmer Landscape), Thomas Holland (Perennial Landscapes), Kate Cooney (Perennial), Kim Sones (Sones Accountancy), Tom Owen (Van Den Berk Nurseries), Matthew Murphy (Whiting Landscapes).

Welcome & Introduction

Adrian Wickham welcomed members to the 2026 National AGM, announcing this would be his final AGM as Chair and expressing his gratitude to the industry, members and board directors for their support and achievements over this two year tenure.

1. Apologies:

Chris Bridgman (Bridgman & Bridgman LLP), Colin Byrne (Dagenham Landscapes), Matt O'Conner (John O'Conner Grounds Maintenance), Matthew Carr (MJ Carr Landscape Construction), Kate Miller (Natural Swimming Pools), Sue Payne (Quality and Service Commercial Landscapes), Adrian Turner (TW Landscapes).

2. AGM Calling Notice: In accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the AGM Calling Notice was sent to all voting members on 3rd July 2026.

3. Declaration of Interest: There were no interests declared that would compromise the validity of decisions made at the AGM.

4. **Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting:** The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the British Association of Landscape Industries held on 9th September 2025 were proposed by Paul Downer and seconded by Paul Lynch and accepted as a true and accurate record of proceedings.
5. **Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last AGM.
6. **National Chair's Report:** The Chair asked for his report to be taken as read. There were no questions surrounding the Chair's report.
7. **Chief Executive's Report:** As part of the Annual Report and Accounts 2026, the Chief Executive's report was taken as read.

Wayne Grills thanked the Chair for his commitment, leadership and clear purpose specifically for championing collaboration, inclusion and membership engagement.

Board members and regional chairs were recognised for their unpaid volunteer contributions. GoLandscape Ambassadors were also recognised for volunteering at schools, colleges and universities as well as careers events and career changer events.

The inaugural National Conference was held in March fulfilling a core goal of Adrian Wickham's chairmanship.

The BALI National Landscape Awards will take place on 4th December 2026 at JW Marriott Grosvenor House on Park Lane, London. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Awards and Black Tie is optional to celebrate the milestone.

Key resources include Landscape News, weekly newsletters and the Dig Deep podcasts. Business support services include Adtrak and Quest with new services expected to be launched in the coming weeks and months. Membership webinars include a monthly session for new members to help them utilise association resources.

The Association continues to engage with government policymakers and stakeholders, notably through the Environmental Horticulture Group (EHG). Also, the Association is collaborating with DEFRA to develop an environmental horticulture strategy. In Scotland, the Association has developed a joint plan and manifesto in partnership with the Landscape Institute in Scotland.

A new Policy Committee, led by the Amy Cobbett (BALI's Head of Policy and Public Affairs) has been established to enable quicker reactions to policy issues and decisions.

The past year has demonstrated the value of maintaining a strong and resilient organisation. Despite continued economic uncertainty, rising costs and wider pressures affecting businesses across the landscape sector, BALI remains in a sound financial position. That stability allows us to look beyond the immediate challenges and continue investing for the future. We have maintained our focus on providing practical support, representation and opportunities for members, while ensuring that the Association remains well positioned to respond when circumstances change.

8. **Honorary Treasurer's Report and Financial Accounts:**

As part of the Annual Report and Accounts 2026, the Treasurer's report was taken as read.

The Association concluded a difficult financial year with a small modest surplus. Day to day trading resulted in a small deficit, however income from investments and higher interest rates on deposited funds exceeded the budget, generating the overall surplus. Reserves increased by £20K over the previous year, bringing the total

reserves to £655K. These are maintained to ensure the Association can continue operating for six months plus during difficult situations and conflicts.

Membership numbers remain static compared to the previous year which was noted a positive outcome given the challenging economic climate. Economic uncertainty has made it difficult for some members to prioritise membership fees as they focus on running their businesses.

Richard Stone reported no questions had been received prior to the meeting. There were no further questions relating to the Honorary Treasurer's report. Richard Stone was credited for his management of and input into the Association's financial matters.

9. **Regional Reports:** As part of the Annual Report and Accounts 2026, each of the region's reports were taken as read. The Regional Chairs and committees were thanked for their hard work and contributions made over the past 12 months and for which they continue to make. There were no questions raised.

10. **Propositions:** The following propositions were put to members at the AGM and voted on along with proxy votes received. Members were reminded that only one vote per company was permitted.

A. Accept and approve the financial accounts for year ending 31/03/26

Proposed: Charles Blumlein

Seconded: Noel Brock

Meeting

In Favour: 26 votes

Against: 0 votes

Proxy

In Favour: 1 vote

Against: 0 votes

Total

In Favour: 27 votes

Against: 0 votes

The motion was carried.

B. Proposal to increase membership fees for the period April 2027 to March 2028.

Proposed: Paul Lynch

Seconded: Ricky Whiteman

Meeting

In Favour: 23 votes

Against: 0 votes

Proxy

In Favour: 1 vote

Against: 1 vote

Total

In Favour: 24 votes

Against: 1 vote

The motion was carried.

C. Election of existing board members offering themselves for re-election

Proposed: Dave Twist

Seconded: Jake Catling

Meeting

In Favour: 25 votes

Against: 0 votes

Proxy

In Favour: 1 vote

Against: 0 votes

Total

In Favour: 26 votes

Against: 0 votes

The motion was carried.

D. Proposal for Benec Consulting to continue as Auditors of British Association of Landscape Industries

Proposed: Paul Lynch

Seconded: Noel Brock

Meeting

In Favour: 26 votes

Against: 0 votes

Proxy

In Favour: 1 vote

Against: 0 votes

Total

In Favour: 27 votes

Against: 0 votes

The motion was carried.

11. Any Other Business

Members were asked to raise any questions 48 hours prior to the meeting taking place. There were no questions received prior to the AGM.

Thanks were conveyed to Matt O'Conner for his commitment standing in as immediate past chair for an extended period.

The meeting was formally closed at 11:15am

Adrian Wickham handed over to Matt Nokes as newly appointed Chair. Matt expressed it was a great privilege to become National Chair for the next two years and outlined his primary vision – building an Association that is closer to its members, stronger and louder in its influence, that develops people, supports businesses and demonstrates contribution our industry makes to the economy, society and the environment. The focus will be on maintaining continuity and driving renewed momentum following the established business plan. There will be an emphasis on ensuring the member benefits provided are relevant, understood, accessible and utilised by members. Commitment to increasing and broadening the membership base with an immediate goal to surpass the 1000 member mark and working towards the target of 1200 members. Strengthening Regions and fostering closer relationships between regional committee members, chairs and the Board will continue.

Following the formal AGM, presentations were made by the following speakers for which the board were very grateful:

- Jonathan Pettit, Head of Skills and Certification at BALI
'LISS – New Look, same trusted scheme'
- Richard Blackwell, Director, Water Resources West
'Tomorrow's Water, Today's Challenge!'
- Amy Cobbett, Head of Policy and Public Affairs at BALI
'Lay of the Land'

END.