

Dear BGA Member,

Welcome to the BGA's summer newsletter. This is my last as Chair and gives me an opportunity to reflect on a few events during my term. It began with the first BGA Annual Dinner & Lecture, given by Professors John Burland and Jamie Standing. This was something that emerged from the pandemic, as a way of getting people back in the room, so to speak, and it has proved to be a huge success. I hope that you agree that it's a great way to open the BGA season of events each year and I'm really looking forward to the next (3rd) one on 7 October, when our guest speaker will be Professor Dame Sarah Springman. Something else that I am particularly proud of is the half day mini-symposium format that we introduced last year, and I hope will continue into the future. It gave us an opportunity to allow more than just a single presentation, like we have in our normal evening lecture series, and to focus on a number of aspects on a single subject. Of course, my abiding memory is of the day spent celebrating 75 years of the BGA. Thank you again to everyone that made it happen, not just the day, but those that have, over so many years, made the BGA the community it is.

Next year, as the UK member society of the International Society of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE) the BGA will be part of the 21st International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering in Vienna, Austria. Yet again the BGA has topped the table of abstracts that were submitted, and the role of a member society is to review the abstracts and subsequent papers. The BGA's Prizes and Awards subcommittee reviewed the abstracts in the spring and 172 were accepted. Reviewing that number of full papers is far too onerous for such a small group of people, so I'm inviting you to volunteer to help with this. The full papers will become available over the summer and the more people that can help to review them, the easier it will be for everyone. If you are a BGA member and would like to help, please send an email to bga@ice.org.uk.

There are some tasks that are still on-going, so although I will be stepping down as BGA Chair at our AGM on 25 June, I will be continuing as Immediate Past Chair and will be completing the process of incorporating the BGA, something I reported on in the last newsletter. There's also the 4th Biennial Conference on Earthworks in Birmingham this September, that we are organising, and I look forward to seeing many of you there. Registration is now open, and I encourage you to take advantage of the Early Bird rates. Information is available on the BGA and conference websites.

Yuli Doulala-Rigby is succeeding me as Chair, and I know she is going to do an excellent job. I'd like to thank her for her support during my term as the Chair and everyone else that has helped make it so enjoyable.

Andrew Ridley
BGA Chair

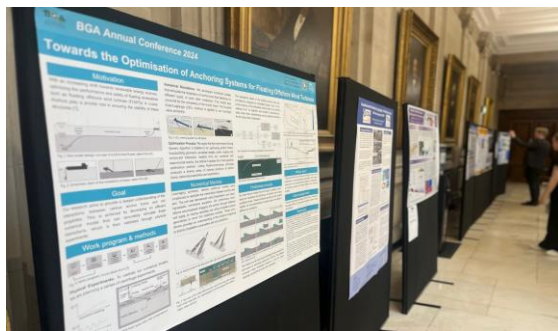
Call for Entries – Young Engineers’ Poster Competition 2025

The BGA invites submissions for the Young Engineers’ Poster Competition, held as part of the BGA Annual Conference and AGM on 25 June, at the ICE, London.

Open to all young geotechnical engineers (under 33 on 31 December 2024), the competition is a chance to showcase your work - be it project-based, technical innovation, or academic research. A £150 prize will be awarded to the best poster.

Key details:

- Submission deadline: Midnight, Monday 16 June
- Format: PDF poster (landscape, up to A0), plus brief CV and application form
- Eligibility: ICE or BGA members (students can join the BGA for free)



All posters will be displayed at the BGA conference in June, with judging taking place in advance and the winner announced on the day. Posters will also be available to view on the BGA website after the event.

To view last year’s entries, download the competition flyer, and access the application form, visit:

<https://www.britishgeotech.org/call-for-submissions-bga-annual-conference-young-engineers-poster-competition-2025/>



BGA AGM and Conference 2025 – FREE TO ATTEND

We are delighted to invite you to the British Geotechnical Association (BGA) Annual Conference 2025 and AGM, being held on 25 June at the ICE, London.

A cornerstone event in the geotechnical calendar, this year's event will be held in person, offering an invaluable opportunity for networking, knowledge-sharing, and celebrating excellence in our field.

The conference brings together an exceptional group of speakers from both academia and industry, showcasing the full spectrum of geotechnical engineering. Attendees can expect insightful presentations on groundbreaking research, emerging technologies, and real-world applications drawn from major infrastructure projects.

For the full programme and speaker details, please visit:

<https://www.britishgeotech.org/event/bga-annual-conference-2025-and-agm/>

We look forward to welcoming you to what promises to be a lively and thought-provoking gathering of the geotechnical community.

Earthworks 2025 – 4th Biennial BGA Conference

The British Geotechnical Association (BGA) is pleased to announce that its 4th Biennial Conference will be held on the theme of Earthworks. The conference will take place at the University of Birmingham on 16 & 17 September, with additional activities scheduled across the week.

This in-person event will bring together experts, researchers, and practitioners to share knowledge and discuss the latest advances in earthworks design, construction, and performance in the context of evolving climate challenges and modern technologies.



Conference Highlights:

- Main Conference Sessions: 16–17 September
- Opening Lecture & Evening Reception: 15 September
- Site Visits: 18 September
- Gala Dinner: Evening of 16 September (ticketed separately)

All daytime events are included in the conference fee; tickets for the Gala Dinner on 16 September are available separately.

For event information, please visit the conference website: <https://earthworks2025.com/>

We would like to thank Blackwell Earthmoving, Platinum Sponsor of this event. Sponsorships are especially important to the success of BGA events, and we thank Blackwell for continuing to support the BGA.

A range of sponsorship packages are still available, for information please contact: earthworks2025@in-conference.org.uk

BGA Dinner 2025 - 3rd BGA Annual Dinner and Special Lecture

The BGA Annual Dinner, which is being held on 7 October 2025, is a highlight of the British Geotechnical Association's calendar - an elegant evening that brings together professionals from across the geotechnical community for fine dining, engaging conversation, and unparalleled networking opportunities.

Now in its third year, this prestigious event will be marked by a special lecture delivered by the renowned Professor Dame Sarah Springman DBE FREng. Please note, the lecture is exclusively available to those attending the dinner.

The evening will begin with a drinks reception at 18:00, followed by a three-course dinner, and conclude with carriages at 23:00. The dress code is lounge suits, and both BGA members and non-members are warmly welcomed. Advance booking is essential and will include access to the drinks reception, lecture, and dinner.

Booking details will be shared on the BGA website closer to the date - please keep an eye out to secure your place.

And finally...

As we look ahead to a busy and exciting second half of the year for the BGA, we want to thank all our members for your continued engagement and support. Whether you're contributing to technical discussions, attending events, mentoring others, or volunteering behind the scenes, you help ensure that the BGA remains a vibrant and forward-thinking community.

We encourage you to take full advantage of the opportunities coming up - whether at the AGM and Annual Conference in June, Earthworks 2025 in September, or by lending your expertise in the ISSMGE paper reviews. Wishing you all an enjoyable summer.



Celebrating 75 years of the BGA. Thank you again to everyone that made it happen, not just the day, but those that have, over so many years, made the BGA the community it is.