

AUE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

9TH – 10TH SEPTEMBER 2026

LEEDS UNIVERSITY



ACCOMMODATION

Most delegates stayed in the University's Charles Morris Halls of Residence.

The accommodation was nestled in beautiful grounds with an abundance of wildlife: a heron, Koi Carp and rabbits, who seemed to increase in number every day.

The heron was even spotted flying off with a Koi Carp, but possibly not as tasty as the conference refreshments!



THE EXHIBITION

The Trade Exhibition opened on 9th September in Sports Hall 1, The Edge.

It was officially opened by Ann Allen, Director of Campus Innovation and Development, Leeds University and Billy Ferguson, National AUE Chair.

This taking place alongside a wonderful lunch and refreshments which LiftX Consult (formerly Cook & Associates) kindly sponsored on both days. Our main sponsors Thorn Zumtobel and Normec Crowthorne are especially thanked.

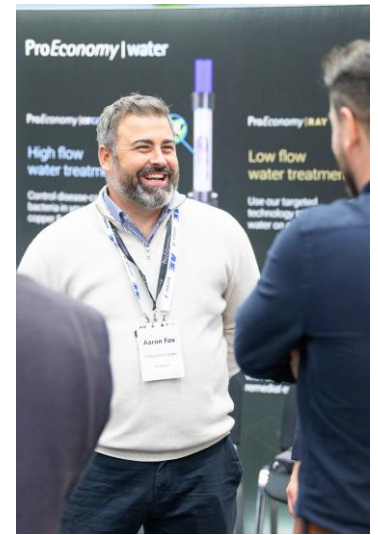
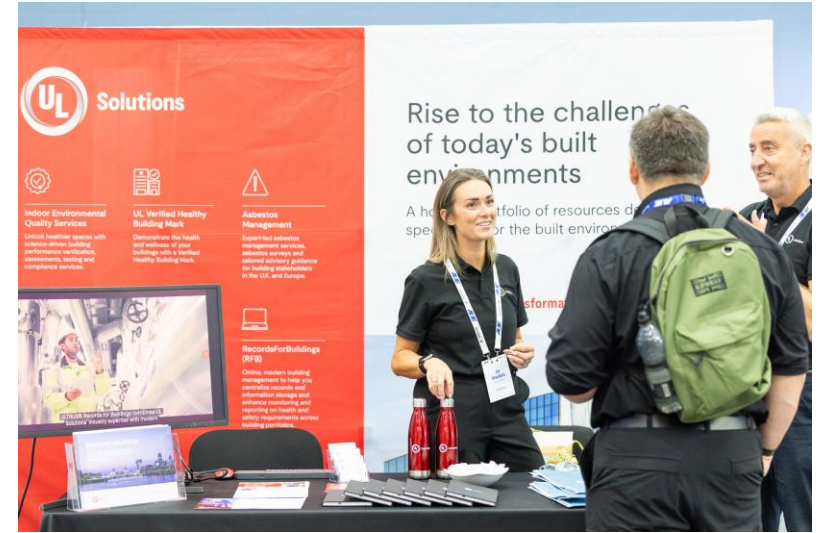
In total there were **45** exhibitors. More information on each is available on the AUE 2026 Conference webpage.

The opening was followed by the Welcome Dinner.











GALA DINNER

The dinner was held at the Leeds University Refectory.

The After Dinner Speaker, Jamie Jones-Buchanan, gave an inspiring speech about his time playing for the Leeds Rhinos from 1999 – 2019, his role as CEO of the Rhinos and his relationship as a player and friend with legendary teammates, Kevin Sinfield and Rob Burrows.

The Rob Burrow Centre for Motor Neurone Disease was the Charity supported this year.

*The proceeds from the Gala Dinner “Heads or Tails” raised **£1,268** for this worthwhile cause.*



THE AUE NATIONAL CHAIR

Billy Ferguson, handed over the role of AUE National Chair to Sam Heppell at the Gala Dinner.

There were a few issues handing over the Chair regalia. But thankfully with a full house of engineers this was soon resolved!

Billy is thanked for his work as national conference host, Scottish AUE Chair, then, National Vice and subsequently National Chair.

His dedication to the AUE has been second to none.



HARLAND ROBERTS AWARD

Winner: David Larbie,
Imperial College



HARLAND ROBERTS AWARD

Runner Up: Beyza Dilber,
Oxford University



JOHN HALLETT AWARD

Winner: Billy Ferguson,
National AUE Chair



TOM BRADLEY AWARD

Winner: Phil Atkinson,
Sheffield University



PLENARY SESSIONS & WORKSHOPS

There were 4 Plenary Sessions, hosted by Angela Lamont.

Topics ranged from *AI in Action: Delivering Smarter, More Efficient Estates* and *The Engineer and the Unintended Consequence (How Engineering Decisions Impact on Accessibility and Inclusion)*.

There was also a choice of 9 Workshops to attend.

More information on each is available on the AUE 2026 Conference webpage.



Sessions hosted by Angela Lamont



Nicola Wall presenting on 'The Engineer and the Unintended Consequence'





Closing

Sam Heppell, AUE National Chair, closed another successful AUE Conference.

The 2027 Conference is confirmed: 8th – 9th September: Manchester Metropolitan University.