

British Biophysical Society

Minutes of the first meeting of the Committee

The first meeting of the Committee took place at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 21st February, 1962 at King's College, London.

Present: Dr. S. Brenner
Professor J. A. V. Butler
Professor A. F. Huxley
Dr. R. D. Keynes
Professor J. T. Randall
Professor J. J. Weiss
Dr. J. C. Kendrew (Honorary Secretary)
Professor D. D. Eley (Meetings Secretary)

Apologies for absence were received from: Professor R. D. Preston, Professor J. W. S. Pringle, Professor F. J. W. Roughton, and Dr. P. M. B. Walker.

62/1 Election of Chairman

- (a) On a motion proposed by Dr. Brenner and seconded by Professor Randall, it was agreed to elect a chairman for one year.
- (b) On a motion proposed by Dr. Keynes and seconded by Professor Weiss, Professor Randall was elected chairman.
- (c) A vote of thanks to Professor Butler for his work as Chairman of the Steering Committee was proposed by Dr. Kendrew and carried unanimously.

62/2 Report on meeting at the Royal Institution, 12-13 December 1961.

The Meetings Secretary reported that the two symposia had each been attended by about 170 people, the session for contributed papers by about 80, and the dinner by 51.

62/3 Future Meetings

a) Middlesex Hospital, 10th March 1962

Dr. Keynes reported on the arrangements for this meeting; and stated that all speakers and the officers of the British Biophysical Society were invited to attend the Biochemical Society's dinner on 9th March. It was agreed that application would be made to the Wellcome Trust for funds to cover Dr. Kepes's air fare from Paris.

b) Edinburgh, 12th-13th April, 1962

A report from Dr. Walker on the arrangements for this meeting was conveyed to the Committee, and general approval was given to it.

Consideration was being given to starting the meeting on 12th April rather than on 11th April as originally planned; it would then last for two days only. The Committee recommended that the earlier plan should nevertheless be further considered, in order to give more time for contributed papers and for the final symposium which appeared to be rather long.

It was agreed that

- i. Application should be made to the Wellcome Trust for funds to cover Professor Lehninger's air fare from U.S.A.
- ii. Travel expenses and subsistence allowance at a rate to be agreed between Professor Eley and Dr. Walker should be paid to foreign guests and to Professor Peters.
- iii. Abstracts should be produced by a litho printing process, as proposed by Dr. Walker, at a cost of about £40 (instead of £20 for typescript, but with a consequent saving of £20 in folding and postage)

c) Cambridge, 27th September 1962

Dr. Kendrew reported that a meeting on haemoglobin was being organized by Professor V. M. Ingram at Arden House, Columbia University in November 1962, and that in consequence the local committee recommended postponement of the British Biophysical Society meeting on this subject until 1964 or possibly 1963.

The Committee agreed that instead there should be a one-day meeting at Cambridge for contributed papers, and it was hoped that a visit could be arranged to the new Laboratory of the Medical Research Council Unit for Molecular Biology. The Local Committee was asked to bring forward detailed proposals for this meeting

d) University College, December 1962

On the invitation of Professor Huxley it was agreed to hold a meeting at University College in December 1962, and Professors Huxley, Katz and Eley were asked to act as a Local Committee.

At the suggestion of Dr. Brenner, the local Committee was asked to explore the possibility of including an evening lecture on a general topic.

- e) A number of suggestions were made for topics for symposia at future meetings. The Meetings Secretary was asked to prepare a tentative programme for the meetings of the Society during the next two years or so.

62/4 Procedure at meetings

The Committee agreed

- (a) that subsistence allowance should be paid to foreign invited

speakers at a rate decided for each meeting on the recommendation of the Meetings Secretary.

(b) that notices of all meetings should include the following statement: "meetings of the Society are private and may not be reported to the Press without permission of the Committee, which may be sought through the Secretaries".

(c) that from time to time meetings should include an evening lecture reviewing progress in some particular field (see minute 3(d) above).

(d) that the possibility should be explored of producing abstracts by a litho-printing or similar process (see minute 3(b) (iii) above).

(e) that steps should be taken to ensure that adequate time is allowed for discussion of papers, chairmen of sessions and speakers being briefed on this subject by the Meetings Secretary, who also agreed to look into the possibility of having a system of warning lights constructed.

62/5 British National Committee for Biophysics

Dr. Kendrew reported that the Council of the Royal Society had agreed to set up a British National Committee for Biophysics, with membership as follows

<u>ex officio</u>	Biological Secretary (Royal Society)
	Physical Secretary (Royal Society)
	Foreign Secretary (Royal Society)
	Sir Gordon Sutherland (Honorary Vice-President of the Organization)

<u>Representatives from</u>	Royal Society (4)
	Association for Radiation Research (1)
	Biochemical Society (1)
	British Biophysical Society (4)
	British Institute of Radiology (1)
	British Photobiology Group (1)
	Hospital Physicists Association (1)
	Institute of Physics and the Physical Society (1)
	Physiological Society (1)

The Committee nominated Professor Butler, Dr. Keynes, Dr. Kendrew and Professor Randall as its representatives.

62/6 Proposals for Conferences and Commissions to be discussed at the Council of the International Organization for Pure and Applied Biophysics at their meeting in 1962.

Professor Butler reported that the following suggestions had been made:

4.

1. Commission on the Teaching of Biophysics
2. Commission on Molecular Biology
3. Radiological Units.

The Committee asked Professor Butler to represent its view that it did not favour the setting up of a Commission on the Teaching of Biophysics, and that the title and terms of reference of the Commission on Molecular Biology needed closer definition.

62/7 It was agreed that the next meeting would take place at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday 9th May, unless urgent business made it necessary to hold an earlier meeting.

J.Randall