

## British Biophysical Society

Minutes of the 111th Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 13th May, 1997 at 1.00 pm. at the Biochemical Society, 59, Portland Place, London.

**Present:** R. Cooke, , K.R. Fox, , E. Hounsell, G.G. Kneale, J. Helliwell, D. Hulmes, A. Lane, R. Leatherbarrow, J. Molloy, A.C.T. North, J. Murray-Rust (observer), G.C.K. Roberts, W.A. Thomas, J. Thornton (Chair), A. Wilkinson.

**1. Apologies for absence:** Sheena Radford, Michael Ferenczi, Mark Sansom and Andrew Thomson. John Helliwell was welcomed as a new member of the Committee. + S. Helliwell

### 2. Minutes of the previous meeting

In the Meetings Secretary Report under 5. (vii), M. Blackburn's name should be replaced by Bernard Connolly. With this minor correction the minutes were approved.

### 2. Matters Arising.

**(i)** The tax relief status of BBS membership was raised again. Information had not been received at the time of the meeting. (Subsequent to the meeting, confirmation was received that membership of BBS is officially approved by the Inland Revenue for tax relief purposes)

**(ii)** The breakdown of member's scientific interests by category was promised for the next meeting **(Action - RL)**

### 3. Honorary Secretary's Report: presented by WAT.

**(i)** Following two requests for funding by BBS from Ireland (a bursary for attending EBSA and a request for support from a student Biochemical Society), the status of Ireland was discussed. The consensus view was that BBS should support members from Eire on the same basis as the UK. However ACTN promised to write to Paul Engel on the subject, to seek his views on the formation of an Irish section of BBS, on analogous grounds to the Biochemical Society. **(Action - ACTN)**

**(ii)** With the retirement of Bill Hunter, the Committee no longer had a representative on the Institute of Biology. John Helliwell, who has applied for membership of IoB agreed to represent BBS. **(Action - WAT to write to IoB)**

**(iii)** The EBSA Committee had asked for a voting rep. from BBS at the forthcoming conference in France. Rob Cooke agreed to take on this role. **(Action - RC. WAT to inform EBSA)**

### 4. Honorary Treasurer's Report: presented by RL

The accounts for the year ended 30th June were presented. The surplus of income over expenditure for the year (£2,354) was slightly greater than in the previous year. There was some discussion about the high level of accumulated assets in the Society, amounting to £34,897. This was thought to be excessive relative to those held by other societies which often hold only 1 - 2 years funds at any one time. JT suggested that the income should be reduced to ~£20K. Part of the money could be used for Bursaries for BBS members, formalised centrally (**Action - EH**) and advertised via the WEB. (**Action - JM-R**). £500 would be made available for Bursaries for big meetings and £200 for one - day meetings. Individual amounts issued would normally be £50 to help with travel, subsistence and registration. If applicants had to travel > 100 miles then up to £100 would be considered reasonable. The Treasurer reported a healthy response so far to the request for increased subscriptions. The Accounts were approved by the Committee.

### **5. Honorary Meetings Secretary's Report: presented by EH**

(i) "From Proteome to Function :- The Application of Modern Mass Spectrometry to Molecular Cell Biology", held 8-9th April, 1997 at Glaxo Wellcome, Stevenage, and organised by Walter Blackstock and RC. RC reported that the meeting went very well, with 160 attendees equally split between industry and academia and several overseas visitors. A report will be produced for the WEB. ~~A £700 surplus resulted from the meeting.~~ (**Action - RC**)

(ii) "Biophysics Driven by Microscopy", a BBS Discussion Meeting to be held on July 11th, 1997 at NIMR, Mill Hill, organised by MF. So far only 30 people had registered for this meeting though many more were expected to register closer to the date of the meeting.

(iii) "2nd European Biophysics Congress" (EBSA97) to be held in Orleans, Jul 13 - 17th, 1997. The WEB site for this meeting was described as wholly inadequate. So far only 13 members of BBS had registered out of a total of ~600. There will be 2 or 3 major themes plus satellite meetings at the conference.

(iv) "Molecular Basis of Cell and Tissue Organisation" 14-17th Sept. 1997, to be held at Hulme Hall, Manchester, organised by DH and A. Brass. The organisation was well underway. A WEB page will be organised. £500 would be made available from BBS at a flat rate of £50 for Bursaries (to be paid out after the meeting). The break - even point for the meeting was to have ~50 attendees.

(v) "Structure, Function and Dynamics of Nucleic Acids" a BBS Main Meeting, Jan. 12-13th, 1998, to be held at the University of Surrey and organised by Andrew Lane and Keith Fox. The programme and finances were presented by AL. The finances were essentially balanced. The Committee thought that the registration fee could be increased by £10. Information should go on the WEB plus the registration form. The **BBS** AGM would be held at the same meeting. Bursaries would again be made

available as a total of £500 (Normally £50 except when travel > 100 miles when up to £100 would be available).

(vi) Proposed Colloquium on "Function of Channels and Pores" scheduled for 3rd April 1998 and jointly organised by the Cell Surface Research Fund, the Membrane Group of the Biochemical Soc. and BBS was discussed. Members thought that the subject of the meeting looked too narrow and that far too many overseas speakers were involved. In the absence of MS the meeting was **put on hold**.

(vii) A joint meeting with the Biophysical Chemistry sub-group of the Faraday RSC Division on "Thermostable Proteins" . **Put on hold. (Action - EH to contact LF)**.

(viii) Joint meeting with the Faraday Society " Molecular Interactions at the Cell Surface", proposed for Dec. 1998, organised by MS. In his absence, no progress could be reported. **(Action - MS)**

(ix) "Biophysics of Molecular Motors" a 1-day Discussion meeting at York University, 30th June / 1st July, organised by JM. It was suggested that the proposed lunch to lunch meeting could be replaced by a meeting starting at coffee time on the 30th, and running on to teatime on the second day. The meeting would then qualify for £1000 from BBS as a 2 day meeting. Some misgivings about the local financing arrangements were felt by the Committee. JM would attempt to raise £2.5K from sponsors. **(Action - JM)**

(x) "Enzymes which Interact with DNA" jointly hosted by the Nucleic Acids Group of the Biochemical Society and BBS for Spring 1999. Organisers KF, GK and Bernard Connolly. Venue undecided. The meeting will be either a 1.5 or a 2 day meeting. The subjects would include protein/RNA interactions. A report should be tabled for the September BBS Committee meeting including speakers and budget. **(Action - KF,GK)**

(xi) "Laser Light Scattering Spectroscopy" proposed for 1999 in Nottingham. **(Action - EH to contact Steve Harding)**

(xii) "International Biophysics Congress, New Dehli, 19 - 24th Sept., 1999. Nothing to discuss at this stage.

(xiii) JH raised the prospect of a meeting to be held in Manchester 16/17th June 1998 to celebrate the anniversary of the first computer to be used for crystallography. 1.5 days had been set aside for the meeting and CCP4, BCA and BBS had been approached for speakers. Alwyn Jones, Sid Hall, Axel Brunger, David Cruickshank and JT had already been approached. The Committee thought that something on the genomic side should be included, and that the Molecular Graphics Society ought to be involved as well. BBS should contribute £1000 towards the meeting costs and also assign Bursaries. ~100 people were needed to break even. **(Action - JH)**

(xiv) JT announced a proposed meeting in Warwick "Getting the Most from your Genome" organised by CCP11 and BBS. The meeting would be in Dec. 1997 or

Spring 1998, organised by David Jones (Warwick) and Simon Hubbard (Manchester). A £500 commitment from BBS was suggested with £200 for bursaries. **(Action - JT)**

Finally the idea for a meeting for the Millennium in late Dec. 1999 organised through BBS was received with general enthusiasm. Ideas for a programme and speakers should be brought to the next meeting. **(Action - BBS Committee)**

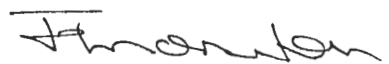
## 6. AOB

(i) JM-R announced that 5 completed modules for topics describing Committee members research interests had been received for the WEB pages.

(ii) Two entries for the LOGO competition were judged by the Committee. That produced by ACTN was adjudged the winner.

(iii) GCKR reported on the proposed meeting with the government Chief Scientist on 1st July 1997. Among the many issues the Dearing Report published in July is reputed to favour further concentration of research funds in centres of excellence, further favouring of applied versus basic research and transfer of substantial funds from HEFCE to the Research Councils. The implications of these proposals were explored by the Committee. GCKR was asked to summarise our views in July. He will produce a draft summary of our views as an e-mail for Committee members to add to. **(Action - GCKR)**

(v) The date of the next BBS Committee meeting is **September 30th, 1997**, at 1.00 pm. at the Biochemical Society, 59, Portland Pl., London.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thompson", with a horizontal line above the first few letters.