

British Biophysical Society

Minutes of the 112th Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 30th September, 1997 at 1.00 pm. at the Biochemical Society, 59, Portland Place, London.

Present: K.R. Fox, S.E. Harding, R. Leatherbarrow, A.C.T. North, J. Murray-Rust (observer), G.C.K. Roberts, W.A. Thomas, J. Thornton (Chair).

1. Apologies for absence: Sheena Radford, Michael Ferenczi, Mark Sansom, Rob Cooke, Andrew Thomson, John Helliwell, Michael Ferenczi, Tony Rees, Tony Wilkinson, Len Fisher, Geoff Kneale, Liz Hounsell, David Hulmes and Andy Lane.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

Steve Harding should be included under 1. Apologies. Under **5. (i)** the sentence beginning "A £700 surplus ---" is incorrect and was removed. Under **5. (xiii)** the names of Axel Brunger and Durward Cruickshank are misspelt.

2. Matters Arising.

ACTN reported that he had written to Paul Engel concerning the possibility of an Irish section of BBS and that a reply was awaited.

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

The offers of discounted subscriptions to "Nature Structural Biology" and various journals distributed by "Current Biology" was discussed. The Committee was enthusiastic about the discounts, but not the royalty scheme suggested by Current Biology. Access to the BBS mailing list should be on the same basis as previously, ie. JM-R to provide a roll of stick-on labels at the agreed price. Advertising in the Newsletter would be free in the first instance to the publishers, and at a reduced cost for subsequent requests. A link between the WEB pages of Nature SB and BBS should be set up (**Action - JM-R**). The Current Biology journals of interest to the society were identified as "Structure", "Folding and Design", "Current Opinion in Structural Biology" and "Current Biology". (**Action-WAT to write to both parties**).

ACTN reported that "Quarterly Reviews of Biophysics" was also available to adhering body members at a discount.

Other items for discussion were placed under AOB (below).

4. Honorary Treasurer's Report: presented by RL

No financial matters were presented for this meeting. The results of the survey of members' interests were tabled for discussion (copy attached). More than a quarter of the membership replied. As expected, protein structure/function was the major interest. Some surprises were identified. It was suggested that the Committee take heed of these interests in recruiting future members for the Committee.

5. Honorary Meetings Secretary's Report: presented by JT (in the absence of EH)

(i) "Biophysics Driven by Microscopy", a BBS Discussion Meeting held on July 11th, 1997 at NIMR, Mill Hill, organised by MF. The report, tabled by MF indicated a successful meeting. An overall excess of income over expenditure resulted in £285 being returned to BBS accounts. The Committee commended MF for his efforts
(Action - WAT)

(ii) "Molecular Basis of Cell and Tissue Organisation" 14-17th Sept. 1997, held at Hulme Hall, Manchester, organised by DH and A. Brass. DH reported by email that despite the low turnout (70) the meeting was most successful, with a high standard of presentations and plenty of discussion. The multidisciplinary nature of the attending scientists, and the timeliness of the topic will undoubtedly lead to future collaborations in the study of complex systems. The meeting is expected to break even financially without recourse to BBS support. A version of the report should be produced for the WEB site and the Newsletter **(Action - WAT to contact DH/AB to thank them etc.)**

(iii) "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. KF reported that financially, the meeting was looking healthy. The meeting was also the venue for the **AGM** of the society, to be held after lunch on the 12th Jan. (probably around 1.00 pm.) **(Action - WAT. KF to check on timing)**

(iv) 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. In the absence of MS, some disquiet was expressed about certain aspects, particularly costs. However BBS should offer £250 to support the meeting. A detailed report was requested for the next meeting.
(Action- MS)

(v) Meeting on "Computers in Structural Chemistry and Molecular Biology", to be held on June 16/17th, 1998 in the Department of Chemistry, University of Manchester and organised by John Helliwell. The final programme was tabled by JH in his absence. It was agreed that £1000 should be available from BBS if required, bursaries should be available and should be emphasised. Budget details should be provided at the next meeting. **(Action - WAT to inform JH)**

(vi) "Molecular Interactions of Biomembranes", to be held at the University of Bristol, 16-18th December 1998. In the absence of LF and MS (BBS representatives on the

organising committee) several questions were left unanswered. Is this a joint meeting with BBS? What is the proposed budget ---etc? LF and/or MS should attend the next meeting with further details. **(Action - LF and MS)**

(vii) "Enzymes Interacting with DNA", to be held in Spring 1999 at an undecided venue, jointly hosted by BBS and the Nucleic Acids group of the Biochemical Society. An email from GGK reported that he was still trying to contact Bernard Connolly re details of the meeting. A report on progress should be tabled for the next BBS Committee meeting. **(Action - GGK / KF)**

(viii) "Biophysics of Molecular Motors" a 1-day Discussion meeting at York University, 30th June / 1st July, 1998, organised by JM. In the absence of JM, no further information was available. **(Action - JM)**

(ix) "Laser Light Scattering Spectroscopy" proposed for 1999 in Nottingham, organised by SH, D. Sattelle and V. Bloomfield. This meeting was put on hold.

(x) "The 5th UK Analytical Ultracentrifuge Users' Meeting" 26th-27th March 1998, to be held in the University of Nottingham and organised by SH and Kornelia Jumel. The proposal, tabled by SH was for a meeting jointly sponsored by BBS plus the Techniques Group and the Protein and Peptide Groups of the Biochemical Society. The proposal was enthusiastically received by the Committee, and £250 was made available if required from BBS. **(Action - SH)**

(xi) "International Biophysics Congress, New Dehli, 19 - 24th Sept., 1999. 1st circular should appear in a few months' time.

(x) The proposal, emailed by MF, that the UK should bid to host EBSA 2005/2006 was discussed, bearing in mind comments emailed by RC. ACTN pointed out that there may well be a IUPAB meeting in Europe in 2005 which would clash with the EBSA meeting. MF was to be asked what kind of meeting was envisaged. Although generally supportive, the committee favoured smaller meetings based on the BBS form, perhaps with 3 parallel meetings. MF was also to be asked if Paul Vigny should attend our next BBS meeting. **(Action - WAT to contact MF)**

(xi) "Getting the Most from your Genome" organised by CCP11 and BBS for Dec. 1997 or Spring 1998. No discussion at this meeting.

(xii) The proposal for a meeting to celebrate the Millennium in Dec. 1999 was not discussed due to lack of time and sufficient numbers of committee members.

6. AOB

(i) The request by the Southampton University Biochemical Society for support towards expenses of having David Lilley lecture was agreed, at the level of £50.

(ii) The new logo for the society should be incorporated in headed notepaper for the society. **(Action - WAT /JM-R)**

(iii) GCKR tabled a draft reaction from the UK Life Sciences Committee to the Dearing Report (copy attached for those members absent). Any further comments or reactions should be passed to him before December.

(iv) Following discussion concerning the tabled "Position Paper on Access to Databases", it was agreed that BBS should write to the Patent Office expressing our concern at the pending privatisation/blocking of databases. **(Action - JT)**

(v) The Institute of Biology proposal to hold a congress on the "Quality of Life" on 8-11th March 1999 in Birmingham, invited affiliated societies to be involved in the organisation of the meeting. It was agreed that BBS should sponsor a lecturer for the congress. In addition SH and JH were nominated as central people for BBS (JH as our IoB rep. and SH because the programme involved food science and pharmacy where Nottingham has considerable expertise). Copies of the letter and programme are attached. **(Action - WAT to reply to IoB)**

(vi) A letter from the Royal Society concerning adherence to the ICSU family and the value of membership of IUPAB, sought views from BBS. The committee confirmed that these links to IUPAB were valuable and should be maintained. ACTN thought that the future cost of adherence could be up to \$6000 per annum depending on the size of the society. **(Action - WAT to reply to letter)**

(vii) A letter from IUPAB (ACTN) asked for nominations from the society for the advisory committees supporting various task forces. The following nominations were agreed; **(Action - WAT to reply)**

Bioinformatics - JT

Biophysics Education - Andy Brass or David Moss

Capacity Building in Biophysics - Peter Murray-Rust

Environmental Biophysics - no nominee

NMR in Biophysics - GCKR

(viii) The "Foresight Survey" Questionnaire tabled was discussed briefly. **(Action - JT to reply)**

(ix) The date of the next Committee meeting was agreed as **Tuesday January 20th, 1998.**