

## British Biophysical Society

Minutes of the 113th Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 20th January, 1998 at 1.00 pm. at the Biochemical Society, 59, Portland Place, London.

**Present:** R. Cooke, M. Ferenczi, J. Helliwell, G. Kneale, E. Hounsell, R. Leatherbarrow, A.C.T. North, S. Radford, J. Murray-Rust, G.C.K. Roberts, W.A. Thomas, A.J. Thomson, J. Thornton (Chair), A Wilkinson.

**1. Apologies for absence:** Justin Molloy, David Hulmes, Keith Fox, Steve Harding, Mark Sansom, Len Fisher, Tony Watts and Andy Lane.

### **2. Committee changes.**

Keith Fox and David Hulmes have resigned from the Committee after long periods of service. (DH is now living and working in France, making attendance impractical). At the AGM in January, Andy Lane, Sheena Radford and Andrew Thomson were officially elected to the Committee. At this meeting, Judith Murray-Rust and Tony Watts agreed to join the Committee. It was agreed that in future, resignations should be announced in September of each year. Four members (JT, WAT, RL and GK) announced their intention of resigning in September 1998, having spent at least three years on the committee.

### **3. Minutes of the previous meeting.**

These were accepted without correction.

### **4. Matters Arising.**

(i) Paul Engel had replied to ACTN's letter concerning the possibility of an Irish representative on the BBS committee. As a result Guy Grant should be asked to join the committee as a co-opted member representing Irish Biophysics. (**Action: JT to write to Guy Grant**)

(ii) ACTN raised the issue of adherence to IUPAB in the event of the Royal Society's future policy. After some discussion concerning the advantages and possible cost disadvantages of continued adherence, the following points emerged :-

(a) We clearly favour continued adherence.

(b) Our subscription should be negotiated with the RS, aiming for a figure of \$1000 pa., which would be reasonable for a Society such as BBS with low member subscription rates.

(c) Phased payments should be introduced at a later stage.

(d) Further action should await the result of the RS meeting on the subject (**Action - ACTN**).

(iii) MF raised the issue of hosting an EBSA meeting in 2006 in the UK. (not 2005 as there is a European IUPAB meeting that year). Some discussion took place re the poor UK numbers attending the last EBSA meeting in France, the problems of 3 parallel sessions but too many themes, and consequent disorganisation. It was agreed

that Paul Vigny should be invited to the next meeting of BBS to discuss the possibility of a bid for 2006. **(Action: WAT to write to Paul Vigny).**

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

(i) The AGM in January was sparsely attended. Reports were presented by WAT, RL and JT (for EH). One plea from the floor asked that the composition of future BBS committees should reflect biophysical interests other than the major players such as structural biology.

(ii) BBS headed notepaper with the new logo is to be obtained. **(Action - JM-R)**

Other items for discussion were put under AOB.

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

The Accountant's Report will be presented at the next meeting. It was agreed to raise the level of Bursary awards for attending meetings in 1998. The new maxima would be £2000 for a 2-day meeting and £750 for a 1-day meeting

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

(a) "Getting the Most from your Genome", University of Warwick, 9th Dec. 1997, organised by D.Jones and S.Hubbard. This meeting was well attended and described as a good, vibrant meeting. The report and budget need chasing up. **(Action-EL)**

(b) "Frontiers in Visualisation and Human-Computer Interaction", Wellcome Trust Genome Campus, Cambridge, 10/11th Dec. 1997. Information provided.

(c) "Structure, Function and Dynamics of Nucleic Acids", held at the University of Surrey, Guildford, 12/13th Jan. 1998, organised by Andy Lane and Keith Fox. JT reported that this was an interesting meeting with ~ 80 participants. In particular, the conference facilities were excellent value for money. Report and final budget to follow **(Action-AL and KF)**

(d) "From Proteome to Function: The Applications of Mass Spectrometry to Molecular Cell Biology", Glaxo-Wellcome Medicines Research Centre, Stevenage, April 8/9th 1997, organised by W. Blackstock. RC presented the final report and budget for this meeting. The deficit of £1246 will be met by Glaxo-Wellcome.

(e) "Functions of Channels and Pores", University of Southampton, joint meeting with the Membrane Group of the Biochemical Society, Friday April 3rd, 1998, organised by Charles Pasternak. BBS financial support to be up to £250 but no bursaries, equivalent underwriting to be offered by the cell surface research fund of St. Georges.

- (f) "Computers in Structural Chemistry and Molecular Biology", miniconference organised by J.R. Helliwell, Chemistry Dept., University of Manchester, 16/17th June, 1998. BBS have offered £1000 if required plus bursaries. The programme and proposed budget were tabled for discussion. Axel Brunger's costs should be queried beforehand. A pull-out should be provided in the next Newsletter, plus a URL advertisement. More than 90 participants are expected.
- (g) "Molecular Interactions of Biomembranes", Faraday Discussion Meeting, University of Bristol, December 16-18th, 1998. A letter from Len Fisher stated that this is a Faraday Discussion of the RSC and **not** a joint meeting with BBS. Since this was scheduled to be the main BBS DEc. meeting for BBS, a gap in our programme results. **(Action-JT to write to LF and or MS).**
- (h) "Biophysics of Molecular Motors", University of York, 30th June/1st July, 1998, organised by Justin Mulloy. In the absence of JM, MF reported a conversation with JM, in which a change of date was suggested, to fit in either side of a course on the subject at the Marie Curie Centre, Oxted, Surrey in Sept., 1998. After some discussion it was agreed that a better solution would be to have a 2-day meeting in December, to fill the hole left by the Faraday meeting. **(Action-JT to telephone JM. AW to talk to him as well).** \* Subsequently, a joint meeting with the Anatomical Society in Leeds, Jan. 1999 was suggested. **(JM to report at the next BBS meeting)**
- (i) "Molecular Interactions in Complex Assemblies of Proteins", University of Glasgow, Spring 1999. Joint meeting with the Nucleic Acid Group of the Biochemical Society, organised by Bernard Connolly, KF and GK. It was suggested that RNA interactions should be included in the programme. £2000 would be offered by BBS if a 2-day meeting resulted. Registration needs sorting out with the Biochemical Society. **(Action- KF, GK).**
- (j) "5th UK Analytical Ultracentrifuge Users' Meeting", University of Nottingham, 26/27th March, 1998. Joint meeting with the Techniques and Protein & Peptide Groups of the Biochemical Society, organised by K. Jumel and SH. Programme tabled by SH in his absence and approved. £500 from BBS was proposed for Schachman's expenses.
- (k) "IUBMB/FEBS 18th Internat. Meeting, 16-20th July 2000. Programme Committee chaired by Keith Gull. Suggested topics/speakers tabled.
- (l) "BBS Millenium Meeting" 1999. A brief discussion suggested several ideas. "Emerging Techniques for the New Millenium" was a generally popular title. Andrew Thomson suggested that "high throughput techniques" should be included. **(Action- AT and others to give it some thought before the next meeting)**
- (m) "International Biophysics Congress", New Dehli, 19-24th Sept., 1999. Nothing to discuss at this stage.

(n) IoB "Quality of Life" Congress, Birmingham, 8-11th March, 1999 was raised by JH. Among the speakers, JH, JT, and Tom Blundell were suggested. RC suggested Trower for Gene Differentiation. Enrico Cone was suggested for "Flowers".

## 6. AOB

(a) GCKR mentioned the UKLSC questionnaire based on HEFCE's own questions. Several committee members had provided answers broadly in agreement with those from other societies.

(b) GCKR also mentioned the participation of UKLSC in promoting careers conferences. Volunteers from the BBS committee would be welcome in organising and running these meetings.

(c) It was agreed that there should be a push to attract new members to BBS. JM-R was asked to email committee members asking us to nominate key people in academia and industry to be contacted. **(Action-JM-R)**

(d) Committee members were reminded that there were still gaps in the information section of the WEB site allotted to particular scientific topics, eg. drug design. **(Action-tardy committee members)**

**(e) Date of next BBS Committee meeting: Wednesday 13th May at 13.00 at the Biochemical Society, 59, Portland Pl., London.**