

**Minutes of the 118th Committee Meeting of the British Biophysical Society
held on 15 September 1999 at the Biochemical Society**

Present: R Cooke, J Helliwell, D Hornby, E Hounsell, A Lane, R Leatherbarrow, J Murray-Rust, G Roberts, M Sansom, M Sternberg, G Taylor, A Thomson, A Watts

1 Apologies for absence

M Ferenczi, G Grant, S Harding, M Miles, A North, S Radford, A Wilkinson

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

3 Matters arising

Item 4: Production of pens for publicity purposes is on hold until a new URL for the BBS has been created. **(action J Murray-Rust)**

The possibility of having BBS posters included with the physics journal has still to be investigated. **(action A Thomson)**

The poster would also be sent to EBSA affiliated societies.

(action J Murray-Rust and M Ferenczi)

Gary Taylor had agreed to serve on the BBS committee and was welcomed to the meeting.

Item 6: A letter has been sent to IUPAB stating that BBS accepted adherence. Tony North had approached potential additional BBS delegates for the IUPAB congress in New Delhi. John Helliwell raised the matter of future IUPAB congresses. Following the meeting in Buenos Aries in 2002, it was anticipated that the meeting in 2005 will be held in North America. The committee approved that John vote for a location as he saw fit. Nominations for committee members were also discussed. The committee supported the candidature of Ian Smith, but felt unable to comment on the others.

Item 7: Letters have been drafted for non-paying and under-paying members and sent to the latter. It was decided to stay with the same accountant. Names of members cannot be provided in an electronic format, but non-electronic lists can be distributed. New members would be asked if they consented to their details appearing on the BBS website and a message would appear in the next newsletter, asking existing members if they also would consent.

Item 8: Financial details for the Irish lectures next spring are still being resolved.

Item 10: Len Fisher no longer wished to be considered a member of the BBS committee. He would be thanked for his service and the RSC approached for a suitable replacement. **(action A Thomson)**

4 Publicity Officer's report (presented by Judith Murray-Rust):

Rates for advertising with the BBS were circulated. Interested parties should approach Judith Murray-Rust.

The UK Life Sciences Committee was prepared to distribute promotional material at three forthcoming careers conferences (Sheffield, Cardiff and Queen Mary College). A BBS contribution would be compiled.

(action J Murray-Rust and G Roberts)

The possibility of setting up a mail server for the BBS would be investigated.

(action J Murray-Rust and R Leatherbarrow)

5 Honorary Secretary's report (presented by Rob Cooke):

Gordon Roberts raised concerns expressed by the UK Life Science Committee about the ability of the Institute of Biology to represent areas such as the molecular aspects of biology.

Liz Hounsell agreed to attend the October 27 meeting of the UKLSC.

Robin Leatherbarrow agreed to attend the November 23 meeting of the IOB

The question of exactly what the BBS is paying to each of these committees would be resolved. **(action R Cooke and A Wilkinson)**

6 Honorary Treasurer's report was held over to the next meeting.

7 Irish sub-section report was held over to next meeting.

8 Honorary Meetings Secretary's report (presented by Liz Hounsell):

Requests for bursaries for the December BBS meeting had been received from eleven people. It was agreed to pay for registration but not the meals.

William Degrado has been replaced by Leila Geirasch as the BBS sponsored speaker at the Biochemical Society meeting in Leeds in April.

The Norwich meeting may be moved to later in the year, possibly to include the BBS AGM.

Mark Sansom updated plans for the meeting at Unilever. Funding from Unilever was generous, and may mean fees only reflect accommodation costs. Unilever will also fund a poster prize. Registration fees will be structured to attract new members.

Suggestion for new meetings were: solid state NMR; ESR; protein stability in extreme environments; protein expression for structural studies; structure based drug design.

9 Any other business

John Walker and Tony North had been suggested as Honorary Members of the BBS. The committee approved that they be consulted, and if in favour, their names put forward at the AGM. **(action A Thomson)**

Tom Blundell and Richard Henderson were also mentioned as possible future recipients of Honorary Membership. It was agreed that the BBS committee should consider such cases each year, so that suitable candidates could be nominated at the AGM.

A list of existing Honorary Members needs to be compiled.

(action R Cooke and A Wilkinson)

Concerns had been raised by Freddie Gutfreund about what registration fees retired BBS members should be expected to pay, in particular for the Biophysics Past and Future meeting in December. These concerns would be relayed to Janet Thornton with a recommendation that such cases be subject to student registration rates **(action A Thomson)**

The UKLSC had requested opinions on the RAE statement on criteria for assessment of Biological Sciences, and the proposal that sub-panels would not be used. The relevant URL will be sent to committee members. **(action G Roberts)**

The potential for biological projects to be funded by the EPSRC was mentioned by Tony Watts. A meeting has been scheduled for November.

10 The next meeting will be held on Wednesday January 19th