

# Minutes of the 121st Committee Meeting of the British Biophysical Society

19 September 2000, 1.00pm

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## MINUTES

Present: R Cooke  
M Ferenczi  
D Hornby  
A Lane  
J Molloy  
M Miles  
J Murray-Rust  
A North  
S Radford  
M Sternberg  
A Thomson

### Action

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from G Grant, S Harding, J Helliwell, E Hounsell, S Radford, G Roberts, M Sansom, G Taylor, A Watts and A Wilkinson.

2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Item 8 - the contact for the BCA meeting in December is Nick Keep not Nigel Kemp. With this alteration the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

3. **Matters Arising**

**Item 3:** A list of Honorary and Emeritus Members has been compiled from BBS records. These are contained in the Secretary's report.

The Royal Society was asked to pay the BBS contribution to IUPAB direct this year. The payment has been received by IUPAB.

The registered charity number is available on documents. The letterhead is available from Judith Murray-Rust, on request.

John Helliwell is investigating the value of payments to IOB.

The value of payments to the Foundation for Science and Technology still needs to be investigated.

**A Thomson**

**Item 5:** John Helliwell has responded to the IOB in respect to their request for a list of priorities.

A letter of condolence will be written to the widow of Prof Preston.

**A Thomson**

A short note on Prof Preston appeared in the last BBS Newsletter.

**Item 6:** More lucrative forms of investment for BBS funds are currently being investigated by Tony Wilkinson.

New Scientist has been contacted regarding sponsorship of an Essay prize. Sheena Radford presented some ideas to recognise the contributions of young biophysicists - along the lines of the Biochemical Society Colworth Medal. This could be named the BBS Medal to the value of £1,000, and possibly awarded every other year. The recipient may be asked to give a lecture which could be published in EBJ. The prize should be restricted to people based in Great Britain and Ireland. A full proposal would be prepared.

**S Radford**

**Item 7:** The Irish Lectures will be held in Belfast, Dublin and Cork on 11 -13 October.

**Item 8:** The BCA did not feel they could host the BBS AGM in December. It was agreed to hold the BBS AGM during the Condensed Matter meeting in Bristol on December 20. Details will be provided to Liz Hounsell and Judith Murray-Rust.

**M Miles**

Discussions with the Molecular Enzymology Group regarding a joint meeting in September 2001 are underway.

The MGMS have been contacted regarding a joint meeting in late 2001 or early 2002, and they are interested in pursuing this.

4. **Publicity Officer's Report (presented by Judith Murray-Rust)**

It was not possible to obtain BBS as a web domain. Attempts will now be made to secure British Biophysics or something similar.

The Committee was reminded to contribute to the *What is Biophysics?* page.

It was agreed to send posters to the forthcoming Careers Fares.

**J Murray-Rust**

The suggestion to establish a BBS Newsgroup was rejected because of concerns about 'spamming'.

The Committee were reminded to tell Judith of changes to their personal details.

5. **Honorary Secretary's Report (presented by Rob Cooke)**

Further information would be obtained from the Learning and Teaching Support Network.

**R Cooke**

The list of Honorary Members should be made available on the BBS Website and should also be printed in the next Newsletter. Along with a list of Honorary Members a reminder would be made to BBS members that they can apply for Emeritus membership upon retirement.

Nominations for election as Honorary Members at the BBS AGM were received for Bob Simmons and Pauline Harrison.

6. **Honorary Treasurer's Report**

The report was held over until the next meeting.

7. **Irish Subsection**

This item was held over until the next meeting.

8. **Honorary Meetings Secretary's Report**

The report was held over until the next meeting.

The Techniques meeting planned for Norwich in Spring 2001 has now been rescheduled for September 2001.

David Hornby suggested a Biophysics day could be held as part of the Nucleic Acids Meeting in Sheffield on April 5-9 2001.

**D Hornby**

Concern was expressed about the dwindling numbers of BBS meetings, and that the concept of having a main meeting in Spring and a smaller meeting in December was not being followed.

Tony North reported on the recent EBSA congress and General Assembly in Germany. At the Assembly there was concern about a proposal to increase the level of subscriptions from national organisations from 1 to 2 Euros per member. The Assembly had agreed to allowed the national organisations to contribute between 1 and 2 euros per member, as they felt appropriate.

Future EBSA meetings would be in Alicante (2003) and Montpellier (2005, jointly with IUPAB). The next meeting is likely to be in 2007 - possible hosts are the UK, Croatia, Hungary and Italy. As the UK had already expressed interest in hosting the 2007 meeting the feasibility of this would be investigated in more detail.

**M Ferenczi/  
S Radford/  
A North**

9. **Any Other Business**

The question of personal liability of BBS Committee Members would be investigated.

**R Cooke**

It was noted that some Committee Members had completed three years' service may wish to resign from the Committee. If they decide to do so they should contact Rob Cooke.

10. **Date of the Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting has been set for January 16, 2001.