



British Biophysical Society – Building Better Science

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**Minutes of the 147th Committee Meeting of the British Biophysical Society
held on Thursday 14th May 2009 at 30 Russell Square, Room 404**

MINUTES

Present: Liz Hounsell (Chair); Julea Butt, Chris Cooper, Guy Grant; Mike Ferenczi; David Klenerman, Paul O'Shea, Ehmke Pohl, John Seddon, Dave Sheehan, Mark Szczelkun, Mark Wallace.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Rob Cooke, Sabine Flitsch, David Hornby, Mark Leake, Gordon Roberts, Alison Rodger, Tony Watts.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the 146th meeting were approved.

3. Matters Arising:

- The BBS website is currently down (looked after by Dave Hornby and Geoff Ford, Sheffield).

Action: Liz

- Mike Ferenczi gave a verbal report on EBSA 2009, to be held in Genoa from 11th – 15th July. There are more than 700 participants registered so far; things are going extremely well. The two BBS nominations for the EBSA Prize (Richard Berry, Oxford and Oscar Ces, Imperial College) have been considered by the EBSA committee [note added later: neither were successful, although Berry came second]. Four bursaries of £200 have been awarded by BBS for attendance at EBSA 2009. EBSA have awarded forty EUR400 bursaries, out of 65 applications, restricted to people from Eastern European EBSA countries. He

noted that EBSA have introduced bursaries to allow young people to spend some time working in other European labs.

- Mike, Tony, Liz, John and Paul will be attending the EBSA Congress, and the BBS AGM will be held there.
- The BBS will hold biennial meetings out of phase with the EBSA Congresses, ie, in 2010, 2012, and 2014.
- Dave Sheehan will produce a list of past Irish Tour lecturers for the BBS website.
- Trustee liability insurance – wait for a quotation via Tony Watts before coming to a decision.

Action: Tony

- A replacement for John Seddon is needed from 2010 to sit on the Royal Society's Scientific Unions Committee (SUC) and represent the BBS / IUPAB. Chris Cooper has agreed to take this over, but John will attend the September meeting. John will inform the Royal Society of the change.

Action: John

- Paul O'Shea is resigning from the IOP Biological Physics Group. Mark Leake will represent BBS.
- Julea Butt is taking over as the BBS rep on the Inorganic Biochemistry Discussion group of the RSC.
- Mark Leake is proposing a 2-3 day IOP meeting on Imaging in 2010. There was some concern that this could impact adversely on the BBS Anniversary Meeting; it is likely that Mark will be asked to Chair an Imaging Theme at the BBS meeting. In any event, it would be best if any IOP meeting did not take place within a year of the BBS Meeting.
- It was mentioned that the Biochem. Soc. is planning a 2011 Meeting on Imaging, with some single-molecule elements.
- Paul wondered whether BBS could link more closely with the Biochem Soc, but Chris commented that they don't have obvious specific interest groups where links could be made.

Lobbying Research Councils: funding Interdisciplinary grants in Biophysics

- Paul pointed out that EPSRC are no longer willing to contribute to BBSRC grants. The IOP is lobbying about this. Discussions have taken place with Douglas Kell. Chris asked whether Physics / LSI signposting is not working. According to Paul it is dominated by mainstream physicists. He reported that Physics was reviewed last year by EPSRC, and they were criticised for not paying enough attention to interdisciplinary research. Paul was on the Strategy Panel of the EPSRC LSI, but has just come off after four years. It is now called the Interdisciplinary Research Strategy Panel. Paul will report back to us the

outcome of the IOP meeting to discuss Signposting, which will take place on the 3rd December [Mike F. suggests that we invite EPSRC and BBSRC to attend the BBS 2010 Meeting and present their Strategy for Biophysics.

4. Chairman's Report (Liz Hounsell)

Nominations for the 2010 Young Investigator Award will be needed in the summer of 2009. This should be included in the BBS Newsletter and put on the website.

A photo of Rob Gilbert with his medal should be sent to Liz for the BBS website.

Action: John.

Liz and John are to become co-signatories with Dave of the BBS bank accounts at HBOS.

5. Secretary's Report (John Seddon)

- No additional items.

6. Treasurer's Report (verbal report by Liz Hounsell)

- There is £4,000 in the BBS Current Account, and £23,000 in the NS Account.
- We should aim to find a new Treasurer to replace Dave Hornby by 2010.
- Do we need the BBS accounts to be audited annually?
- Guy commented that income from conferences should not go through the BBS books.
- Is Dave doing the Charity Commission returns?
- Our IUPAB subscription for 2009 is €4,500, of which the Royal Society pays 49%.
- Can Dave prove that our 2006-2008 IUPAB subscriptions have been paid?

Action: Liz

7. Meetings Secretary's Report (Guy Grant)

- Guy mentioned that there is some expectation that new BBS Committee members will organise 1- or 2-day BBS-sponsored meetings within the coming two or three years.
- Ehmke Pohl mentioned that he will be involved with Sarah Wilbourn in organising a meeting at Durham in about two years time.
- Paul O Shea is running a meeting in Nottingham this year from 2-3 July on 'Functional Optical Imaging', and he generously offered to waive the Registration Fee for BBS committee members.
- The March 2009 Durham Bionanotechnologies meeting cost the BBS £800. Sarah Wilbourn should provide a Meeting Report to Guy, who will then forward it to Mark for the BBS Website. Guy made all participants at the Durham meeting members of BBS.
- We are unaware of whether the Leicester meeting in honour of Gordon Roberts went ahead.
- The number of participants at EBSA 2009 is estimated at approx 900.

- The EBSA 2011 Congress will be held in Budapest, EBSA 2013 in Lisbon, and EBSA 2015 in Dresden.
- The Biochemical Society is planning a meeting for 11-12 January 2010, jointly with the BBS. We will fund a BBS Speaker, and give BBS Bursaries.
- In 2011 there will be an Essex Meeting on Protein Structure and Dynamics (Chris Cooper). It will be a 2-day Biochem. Soc. 'Themed' Meeting.
- In early 2012 there will be a Faraday Discussion on 'Lipids and Membrane Biophysics', Chaired by John Seddon and Calum Drummond (CSIRO, Melbourne).
- Dave Klenerman mentioned that there will be a Leica Lecture Tour in October, and it might be appropriate to organise a half-day meeting in conjunction with it.

BBS 50th Anniversary 2010 Meeting plans

- The Meeting will be held in Robinson College, Cambridge from lunch on Friday 16th, to lunch on Sunday 18th July.
- The College has 270 rooms, 170 of which are en-suite. There are two lecture theatres, seating 270, and 140 people.
- The cost will be £100 per person per day, and this will cover everything (full-board plus all the facilities).
- Registrations will be handled by Guy.
- We will offer up to 100 students free registration (if they join BBS), but we will charge them £200 for accommodation / meals (or if local, only charge them for the meals).
- Plenary Lecturers (4): we will cover their reg. fee, acc, and 2nd class travel.
- Invited Lecturers (18): we will cover their reg. fee only.
- We should ask Rob Cooke if he could help with raising sponsorship.
- Mike Ferenczi has a list of the EBSA 2007 sponsors.
- Mike also stated that EBSA will be happy to sponsor the Meeting – we should write to them. This will require us to invite some European speakers.
- Paul wondered whether the Wellcome Trust, the Royal Society, or Springer would be willing to provide some sponsorship.
- Chris wondered whether the RSC Biophysical Chemistry Group might be a possibility – David Klenerman thinks not.
- Guy noted that the Royal Society is holding a 350th Anniversary Meeting from 30th June – 4th July 2010.
- Julea noted that there will be a Faraday Discussion in July 2010.
- Guy asked the Committee to suggest Themes for the Meeting to him as soon as possible.
- Plenary Speakers to be invited in June 2009 by Guy / Liz / Tony.
- Guy will discuss suggestions for Themes / Plenary Lecturers with Tony Watts before finalising.
- Sydney Brenner was suggested as an after-dinner speaker on the Saturday.
- It was mentioned that Dave Delpy is a good speaker (a number of other people were discounted).

- Possible Themes mentioned were: Electrophysiology / Neuroscience; Muscle Biophysics (Chair: Mike F.); Single Molecule Imaging (Chair: Mark Leake).
- One possible structure of Meeting, with 'molecular' and 'cellular' parallel themes:
Day 1: Lunch, Plenary, then 2 x 3 Invited Lectures in parallel;
Day 2, am: Plenary, then 2 x 3 Invited Lectures in parallel;
Day 2: Lunch, Plenary, then 2 x 3 Invited Lectures in parallel.
Day 3, am: 'Past, Present and Future, possibly given by Tom Blundell; the BBS Medal Winner's Lecture; the final Plenary, then lunch.
- However, there was some feeling that there should be no parallel sessions, other than technical sessions in the evenings.
- Dave Hornby is meeting with Pauline Harrison to ask her about the BBS history.
- David Klenerman kindly offered the services of his secretary to help with the organization of the Meeting.

Actions: Guy

8. Publicity / website

Mark Szczelkun needs to be given editing rights by Geoff Ford. Items for the Website and Newsletter should be sent to Mark. We need to set up a BBS email address for Mark. New members should send a paragraph about themselves to Mark, along with a photo, and they should offer to write something for 'What is Biophysics' (this should have a UK flavour).

9. Irish Sub-section (Dave Sheehan)

- Dave is putting together a list of past Lecturers for the BBS website, and he will send it to Liz.
- Dave has asked Helen Saibil to do the Lecture Tour in November 2009.

Action: Dave S.

10. Biosciences Federation (Liz Hounsell)

The current BBS subscription to BSF is £446. The BSF is disbanding and joining with the IoB to form the Society for Biology. Liz overviewed its activities, and posed the question as to whether we wish to remain a member. Our 2008 BSF subscription of £383 (for 10 months) should be paid, but then we should wait to see whether we wish to join the SfB. We need more information as to its constitution and what we will get out of membership.

Action: Liz.

11. Honorary Members

- New names suggested: Chris Dobson, Helen Saibil and Fran Ashcroft. Other suggestions should be sent to Liz.

12. AOB

13. Date of the next meeting: Monday 5th October 2009, at Imperial College.