

British Biophysical Society

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Registered Charity No. 25474

**Minutes of the 153rd Committee Meeting of the British Biophysical Society
held on Tuesday 10th May '11 at Imperial College, Chemistry Dept, room 234**

MINUTES

Present: Tony Watts (Chair), John Seddon, Chris Cooper, Mike Ferenczi, Guy Grant, Jeremy Craven, Julea Butt, Tharin Blumenschein, Matt Hicks, Mark Wallace, Dave Klenerman, Gordon Roberts, Dave Sheehan.

In Attendance: Althea Hartley-Forbes

1.	Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Mark Leake, Paul O'Shea, Mark Szczelkun, Sabine Flitsch, Rob Cooke, Ehmke Pohl.
2.	Minutes of the Previous Meeting Tony welcomed and thanked everyone for attending and highlighted the society being in its 51 st year. 2. BBS Logo. Mike has sent on the logo and will be discussed further as per Agenda 6. JMS has yet to contact Julia Goodfellow regarding missing BBS Minutes. Action: John (Done – Julia was not able to help) 14. Correction made to spelling of Dave Stuart's name: Stuart, not Stewart. Action: Althea (Done)
3.	Matters Arising Tony informed the Committee that Tim Cross will be coming over on sabbatical and may be willing to visit a number of UK labs (eg, Durham). Action: Tony Watts

4.	<p>Chairman's Report (Anthony Watts)</p> <p>Poster prizes BBS poster prize certificates for the RSC ESR meeting, York have been printed and sent to the recipients, as have their cheques: Mr Benesh Joseph (ETH Zurich) and Dr Richard Ward (St Andrews).</p> <p>Durham Annual BBS Conference, 2012 This site is now secured for the 2012 conference, and negotiations have started with the local organizers. No formal letter has been sent since the new Biosciences Institute Director is not yet in post. Ehmke is pressing on in the meantime, together with a local contact, John Girkin. Action: Tony Watts</p> <p>BBS/loP/RSC/EBSA/IUPAB Congress, 2017 Tony has been approached by Andrew Turberfield (Chair, loP, Biological Physics sub-group) regarding bidding for the 2017 IUPAB Congress. Andrew thought that the BBS should reconsider bidding to host this meeting with organizational input from loP. Action: Tony Watts</p> <p>EBSA Young Investigators' Award, Budapest, August 2011 Two candidates were chosen to be the BBS nominations for the EBSA Young Investigators' Award: Rob Gilbert and Mark Leake. Action: Tony Watts</p> <p>Mark D. Szczelkun Mark has resigned from the BBS Committee, due to his difficulties in getting to meetings. Tony thanked him for his contributions to the Society.</p> <p>Research Councils Implementation plans have not been put in place yet, and so there is still some uncertainty about how RCs are going to react to the CSR. One issue is that equipment awards will be severely restricted on grants for the next 4 years, and this impinges on biophysics. Ref 2014: Chris Cooper (nomination supported by BBS) is on a Panel, and Tony may be too.</p>
5.	<p>EBSA Activities Mike gave an update on the EBSA Congress in Budapest this summer. Everything is going well, with currently 750 registrations which is above the break-even point. There will be 60 bursaries @ €300 each for biophysicists from Eastern Europe. EBSA finances are greatly bolstered by the €200K per year contribution from the European Biophysics Journal (Springer).</p> <p>There will be a number of satellite conferences and courses continuing through August as follows:</p>

	<p>‘Membrane domains and transmembrane signalling’, organisers: György Panyi (Debrecen, Hungary) and Hannes Stockinger (Vienna, Austria);</p> <p>‘Spectroscopy in the Biological Sciences for the 21st Century’, organisers: Beáta Bugyi (Pécs, Hungary), Gábor Hild (Pécs, Hungary), and Alexander Demchenko (Kiev, Ukraine);</p> <p>‘Fluorescence correlation spectroscopy in cell biophysics’, organisers: György Vámosi (Debrecen, Hungary) and Joerg Langowski (Heidelberg, Germany)</p> <p>‘EBSA Biophysics Course on Solar Energy - Biological and Biomimetic Solutions’, organisers: Alfred Holzwarth (Mülheim, Germany), Huub de Groot (Leiden, Netherlands), and Győző Garab (Szeged, Hungary);</p> <p>‘Structure, function, folding and assembly of membrane proteins - insight from Biophysics’, organisers: Tibor Páli (Szeged, Hungary), Anthony Watts (Oxford, UK), Alajos Bérczi (Szeged, Hungary), and Balázs Szalontai (Szeged, Hungary).</p> <p>The courses will cost 100 Euros to participants who are paying for attendance at the EBSA Congress.</p> <p>The following EBSA congresses are scheduled: Lisbon 2013, Dresden 2015.</p>
6.	<p>Secretary’s Report (John Seddon)</p> <p>Previous BBS Minutes have been circulated; Edited Minutes put up on BBS website.</p> <p>IUPAB The Royal Society will no longer pay for a BBS delegate (out of three needed) to attend the IUPAB General Assembly. Tony will attend the IUPAB Congress as a speaker and to make the pitch for the IUPAB 2017 Congress.</p> <p>Young Investigators Award Nominations due by 31st August 2011, and will be discussed at the September committee meeting. The winner will be selected by the January 2012 Committee meeting by a sub-group of the Committee. The winner will give a lecture at the Durham 2012 BBS meeting. Tony encouraged the committee members to put forward nominations.</p> <p>BBS Membership of the Society of Biology There is an outstanding invoice for SoB £469 for the period Oct '10 - Sept '11. It was noted that EBSA is signing up to ISE (International Science Excellence) which lobbies the EU for science.</p> <p>Meetings John gave a brief report of the ‘<i>Soft Matter High Pressure X-ray Scattering</i>’ workshop held at Diamond from 27th - 28th April, with 30 participants. BBS was acknowledged as a sponsor, although no funding was requested.</p>

	<p>The Programme for Faraday Discussion 162 on '<i>Lipids and Membrane Biophysics</i>', 11th – 13th September, 2012, Burlington House, London, has now been published. John asked BBS Committee members to display the flyer in their Departments.</p>
7.	<p>Treasurer's Report (Jeremy Craven)</p> <p>Jeremy gave an overview of his report as follows:</p> <p>EBSA subs have been paid for 2009, 2010 and 2011, a total of £1053 (621 members-years x €2).</p> <p>An indication from membership receipts shows the drop in income over the last 2 years is only 2-3% per annum compared to 7% in the few years before that. Payments at £25 will commence in January 2012.</p> <p>Jeremy has put together a new Standing Order form. This needs to go on the BBS website and he also suggests an email is sent out to inform members about the changes to the new form. Chris mentioned that he had emailed the email address on the website but he has not had a response, and is not sure it is working properly. Mark confirmed that the email should be redirected to the Chairman, Secretary and also to Tharin; however none has been received. Mark will investigate and rectify, and will redirect the Secretary emails to JMS' Imperial address.</p> <p>Jeremy mentioned that the Charity Commission return for 2012 is not required.</p> <p>The 2011 IUPAB subscription will be paid soon.</p> <p>Jeremy went through recent payments: £300 to the Peptide Arrays Meeting, March 2011*; £500 to the <i>Dynamics within and between Proteins</i> conference (Biochemical Society, Essex, September 2011); £200 to the ESR conference (Royal Society of Chemistry, York, April 2011) for two poster prizes.</p> <p>*Note added later: a meeting report has been received and will be circulated.</p> <p>Further payments envisaged for 2011 and agreed at the last meeting: £1000 for five £200 travel bursaries to the EBSA Congress, Budapest, and £100 to the CCPN conference, Scarborough, September 2011 for a poster prize. Total for 2011: £2100.</p> <p>The BBS bursaries are advertised on the EBSA Congress website, but Guy informed the Committee that he has yet to receive any applications. Tharin to include in mail shot details of the bursaries available.</p> <p>Gordon asked whether there should be BBS bursaries for the IUPAB Congress in Beijing, and it was agreed that we would provide two £400 bursaries.</p> <p>Action: Tharin.</p>

8.	<p>Meetings Secretary's Report (Guy Grant)</p> <p>2011</p> <p>April: <i>RSC EPR Meeting</i>, York. Poster prizes awarded to Mr. B. Joseph, ETH Zurich, and Dr Richard Ward, University of St Andrews.</p> <p>27-28th April: <i>High Pressure X-ray Scattering Workshop</i>, Diamond. (Nick Terrill, Dora Tang and John Seddon). John reported on this earlier on the agenda.</p> <p>26th June: <i>Workshop on Fluorescent Imaging</i>; University of Cambridge (David Klenerman and Leica). Dave to report at September BBS meeting. Action: Dave K, Mark to contact Tony Wilson</p> <p><i>Lipid Rafts</i>; Imperial College (Rob Law, Justin Molloy, Harvey McMahon)? John not sure if this meeting is going ahead – he will check with Rob Law. Action: John</p> <p>23/08 – 27/08: <i>EBSA Congress</i>; Budapest – Discussed earlier on agenda.</p> <p>31/08 – 02/09: "<i>Dynamics within and between proteins</i>"; University of Essex (Chris Cooper) www.biochemistry.org/MeetingNo/SA118/view/Conference Chris confirmed all is set to go. £500 used for two £250 poster prizes. Chris will need BBS banner & leaflets for publicity. Action: Matt to send Chris PDF of BBS newsletter; Chris to liaise with John to collect the BBS banner.</p> <p>Oct/Nov: <i>IUPAB Congress</i>; Beijing. December: <i>Biophysics Meeting on Functional Imaging</i>; Ningbo China (Paul O'Shea)</p> <p>2012</p> <p><i>IBDG Meeting</i>. John Viles (Queen Mary's) has agreed to host this meeting in 2012, with dates to be decided by him. IBDG will lead the organising. Julea has suggested two BBS poster prizes of £100 each.</p> <p><i>BBS Biennial Meeting</i>, Durham – July 11th – 13th. A preliminary budget has been prepared. Guy advises that the organisers should be careful not to underestimate the costs. He will be meeting with Ehmke Pohl in June to help advise with organising the Meeting.</p> <p><i>Faraday Discussion 161: Lipids and Membrane Biophysics</i>, Burlington House, London. John confirmed that this meeting will be taking place from 11th – 13th September and not 2nd – 4th April as previously stated.</p> <p>2013</p> <p>Easter: <i>BBS Spring Meeting</i></p>
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	<p>Guy asked for volunteers to organise a 1-day or 2-day BBS meeting. Committee members were asked to bring ideas to the next Committee meeting in September.</p> <p>Tharin mentioned a possible link to the American Biophysical Society, who will fund Themed Meetings to the tune of \$10k – \$20k. Tharin has spoken to Dorothy Beckett: application deadline will be Jan 2012 for 2013. Tharin to send details to committee; we will need to agree a Theme by the September Committee meeting. Action: Tharin</p> <p>The <i>2013 EBSA Congress</i> will be held in Lisbon.</p> <p>2014</p> <p><i>BBS Biennial meeting</i> This will be held at Warwick. Matt to put together a preliminary proposal. Action: Matt</p>
9.	<p>Newsletter (Matthew Hicks) Matt asked for material for the next Newsletter which is due to be sent out by email only, by the end of June. Suggestions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dave Sheehan to send a report with photos of the 2011 Irish Tour; - Gordon to send details of the IUPAB Congress in Beijing; - John to send details of Faraday Discussion 161; - News about members (awards); - Gordon to write a couple of paragraphs on IUPAB; - Showcase high profile papers; - Advertise travel bursaries; - Report from York meeting, with photos of Poster prizewinners; - Biography section (e.g. Tharin). <p>Matt to send draft of what he's put together to Tony. Matt will also include some text linked to the BBS website and check how many hits the webpage/Newsletter gets. It was recommended that the Newsletter should be smaller and more frequent (two-monthly). Action: Matt</p>
10.	<p>New Website (Mark Wallace) The new website is stable, and is hosted for free. All items should be loaded via Mark W. Tony suggested that we have a rethink of the identity of the BBS with regard for the webpage. Mark offered to put something together explaining what the roles of the BBS and the Committee are, to try to make it more attractive.</p> <p>Julea asked whether a separate Newsletter is really needed, as everything could simply be put on the website. However, the committee felt that the Newsletter and emails are needed to prompt people to visit the website. Action: Mark</p>

11.	<p>Membership Nothing to report from Ehmke in his absence.</p> <p>Reminders to be sent to the complete Email list (600 + contacts).</p> <p>An annual task will be to check the list to see who has paid, and send separate emails to those who have paid, and to those who have not. Include info on travel bursaries, and ask for nominations for the 2012 Young Investigator Award.</p> <p>Action: Jeremy to send Mark W copy of spreadsheet with details of paying and non paying contacts.</p> <p>Action: Tharin to think further about membership and process of contact, and by next meeting have a proposed mechanism.</p> <p>It was suggested that a footnote be added to the Newsletter with a tick box so people can opt to be removed from the circulation list.</p>
12.	<p>Irish Sub-section (Dave Sheehan)</p> <p>Irish Lecture Tour A list of previous Lecture Tours is available. There were no Tours in 2006 or 2010.</p> <p>Judy Armitage from Oxford was the guest lecturer for 2011, which was a great success. Dave Sheehan to send a report with photos, for the BBS Newsletter.</p> <p>Tony asked whether Dave felt there was scope for a 1.5 – 2-day Meeting in Ireland. Dave will present plans to the BBS committee in September for a Meeting in late 2011 / early 2012.</p>
13.	<p>Honorary Members (Tony Watts) A number of names were discussed, and it was agreed to nominate Sir Gregory Winter and Judith Howard. Tony will write to them and find out if they are happy for their names to be put forward. Their nominations will then be confirmed at the BBS AGM at the Essex Meeting (31st August – 2nd Sept '11).</p> <p>Action: Tony Watts (done - both nominees have accepted – ratify at BBS AGM)</p>
14.	<p>AOB Tony commended Althea for her time and efforts in taking the minutes of the BBS meetings, and thanked her on behalf of the Committee.</p>
15.	<p>Date of the next meeting Thursday 22nd September 2011 at Imperial College London.</p>