

British Biophysical Society

<http://www.britishbiophysics.org.uk/>

Registered Charity No. 25474

Minutes of the 155th Committee Meeting of the British Biophysical Society held on Tuesday 31st January '12 at Imperial College London, Chemistry Dept, room 234

MINUTES

Present: Anthony Watts (Chair), Tharin Blumenschein, Jeremy Craven, Mike Ferenczi, Guy Grant, Matt Hicks, John Seddon, Dave Sheehan.

1.	Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Julea Butt, Rob Cooke, Dave Klenerman (plans to resign from BBS Committee), Mark Leake, Paul O'Shea, Ehmke Pohl, Gordon Roberts, Mark Wallace.
2.	Minutes of the Previous Meeting The Minutes were approved, and are available on the BBS website.
3.	Matters Arising. Tony brought up the following points: IUPAB/BBS/IOP Tony gave an overview of his presentation bid for IUPAB 2017 to combine with EBSA 2017 in Beijing, at the IUPAB congress. The audience included 70 voting members and 17 council members who were invited along with the 29 UK speakers to a reception Tony organised at the British Embassy the day before the IUPAB General Assembly. Tony informed them that the last IUPAB meeting in UK was held in 1984, giving a good reason for it to be held in 2017 in the UK. Tony highlighted the joint meeting in 2005 held in Montpellier which worked well, the 2011 Budapest EBSA meeting, and the 2011 Beijing meeting with 2500 attendees, with 10% English speaking participants. The 2015 EBSA meeting will be held in Dresden and then hopefully the 2017 IUPAB meeting will be held in Edinburgh. The sponsoring societies are BBS and the Institute of Physics, chaired by Tony Watts & Andrew Turberfield respectively. John Walker gave an in-depth talk on the history of British biophysics and its influence world-wide, and then reinforced the proposal that the 2017 Congress should be in the UK, and this was well received. The planned Edinburgh venue, the EICC, has a capacity of 4000 delegates and

750 poster spaces. All lecture theatres are in the same building. Tony has booked 2000 student rooms in the period 16.7.17 – 20.7.17, between the end of University term and the beginning of the Edinburgh festival.

Tony's bid to the American Biophysical Society for a Thematic Meeting on 'Lipids in Membrane Protein Structures: the Evidence' has been turned down. Thematic meetings on Lipid-Protein Interactions will be held in Hyderabad, India (Nov 1 – 5th 2012) and China (2013).

Bursaries

There were no requests for BBS bursaries for the 2011 IUPAB Congress in Beijing; however 3 applications were received for the EBSA Budapest meeting.

Committee Members

Tony has spoken to Cait McPhee and Malcolm Walkinshaw and both have agreed to join the BBS committee well before the 2017 IUPAB Congress in Edinburgh.

Website

Mark has redesigned the website. Tony's secretary is currently doing a lot of work on the website in Mark's absence owing to surgery. New Honorary Members to be put on the website.

Action: Iara (Tony's secretary)

4. **Chairman's Report (Anthony Watts)**

Hon Members 2011

Tony has written to Judith Howard and Greg Winter to ask if they are willing to be nominated as Honorary members of BBS. They have accepted, and their names were ratified at the 2011 AGM (Colchester). Tony has now written to the new Hon members, informing them of this decision.

Tony suggests that IUPAB matters be added as a regular BBS Committee Agenda item.

BBS/IoP/RSC/EBSA/IUPAB Congress, 2017

Tony (as an EBSA representative) presented to the IUPAB Council the request for EBSA to be accepted as an adherent body to IUPAB. This was unanimously accepted.

A lunchtime reception was organized at the congress centre on Tuesday Nov 1st with lunch and drinks for 70 people, including the IUPAB Council, all voting delegates and the First Secretary from the British Embassy. John Walker (Cambridge) gave a 20 min speech on how British scientists had shaped biophysics throughout the world, and the position of the UK in biophysics. A bagpipe player was also in attendance for 3 hours either side of the event.

At the IUPAB Council Meeting, with ~70 voting members of adherent societies (Nov 2nd 2012), Tony presented the BBS proposal for a BBS/IoP organised IUPAB

congress in Edinburgh, from July 16th – 20th 2017. Andrew Turberfield, IoP Chair, spoke about the IoP's involvement. Tony reminded delegates of John Walker's talk and pointed out that 29 UK speakers (the greatest number from any country other than the host country) gave talks at the Beijing 2011 congress, with ~ 2500 participants. Competing bids were from Turkey (Istanbul), Canada (Quebec City), and Brazil (Rio de Janeiro). Edinburgh won over the next two closest bids (Canada and Brazil).

At the EBSA Executive Committee meeting, Lisbon, Jan 14th 2012, Tony repeated the same presentation as for IUPAB to the EBSA committee, and the proposal was accepted unanimously to hold a joint IUPAB/EBSA congress in Edinburgh. IUPAB (President Gordon Roberts and Secretary Cris dos Remedios), have been informed, and have welcomed the decision.

EPSRC

Research Councils engagement: EPSRC now have a specific "biophysics" line, and discussions between Tony and Andrew Bourne (ex. Leeds Biophysics graduate) were focused on raising the profile and awareness of biophysics within EPSRC.

A new initiative, "Understanding the Physics of Life", was discussed and has been suggested as an EPSRC Grand Challenge for 2012, as a result of an initiative from Athene Donald, Peter Weightman and Andrew Turberfield. Graham Leggett is chairing the group.

Durham Annual BBS Conference, 2012

This site is now secured for the 2012 conference, and negotiations have started with the local organizers. Registration and abstract submission web pages are being created. Tony is in regular contact with Ehmke Pohl.

A formal letter from BBS has been sent to the new Director of the Durham Biophysical Sciences Institute, John Girkin, to congratulate him on his appointment.

BBS International Lecture Tour

Tim Cross has a full schedule of Oxford, Southampton, Durham, Glasgow, Warwick, Diamond, Liverpool and Imperial College for his lecture Tour. The BBS logo is being associated with the lectures. To date, this has been at no cost to the BBS and is going very well. Tony encouraged the Committee, if anyone knows of someone on sabbatical coming over to UK, to take the opportunity to set up a lecture tour, which will cost BBS little.

EBSA Young Investigators' Award, Budapest, August 2011

Two candidates were chosen to be the BBS nominations for the EBSA Young Investigators' Award. This eventually was awarded to Kinneret Keren, Israel. Two women kicked off the congress, which went very well.

BBS Young Investigator's Medal, 2012

Three nominations were received (September 2011), and Marina Kuimova, Imperial College, was selected by the panel. Tony has written to congratulate her, and has invited her to give a Plenary lecture at the BBS meeting in Durham in July.

NMR in the UK

A document on the status of NMR in the UK has been compiled by various groups, and circulated reasonably widely within the CCPN. This will go to INSTRUCT and then RCs. The suggestion is for a central management group, with regional and national facilities, managed much as for other LSFs. Meetings with the RCs are going ahead. Tony is on the panel. This affects both Biophysics and the BBS.

Venki Ramakrishnan

Tony has written to Venki Ramakrishnan (Honorary Member of BBS) to congratulate him, on behalf of the BBS, for being made a Knight Bachelor in the 2012 New Year Honours List.

New Members of Committee

Chris Cooper has resigned, and Sabine Flitsch has stepped down. Tony has spoken to Matt re newsletter going adrift. Tony has spoken to Syma Khalid, Southampton, who is keen to join the BBS Committee and to help with the Newsletter. Tony suggests Matt get in touch with Syma to discuss the best way forward for the Newsletter.

Cait McPhee (Edinburgh) is very keen, and will join the BBS committee in 2014. BBS is still looking for few more Committee members, with the hope of a Scottish representative. Tony will see who he can interest in joining; Matt also has some suggestions and will let Tony know.

Action: Matt

Mike announced he will be leaving the committee to take up a position in Singapore in summer 2012. Tony will write to Mike officially to thank him for his work and contributions to the committee. Tony has asked Mike for suggestions of a suitable person to replace him. A possibility is Tony Wilkinson – EBSA representation?

5. **EBSA and IUPAB Activities**

EBSA have endorsed the BBS running the 2017 IUPAB Congress. BBS should advertise the new Avanti Lipid EBSA award (\$3000). Nominations are needed for the 2013 EBSA Young Investigators Award (presented at the Lisbon congress, July 2013), closing date: end of 2012.

The Croatian Biophysics School is going ahead in Primosten, over a 10 day period. [30.09-09.10.2012]. It is EBSA supported and IUPAB support has been applied for, and 12 speakers are confirmed.

EBSA is now a 3-vote member of IUPAB; Simon Philips, David Lilly and Pier-Luigi Baggio were the voting EBSA members at the IUPAB congress, Beijing, 2011.

	<p>The 2013 EBSA meeting (Organiser: Manuel Prieto) site in Lisbon is not ideal, using the Expo 97 site. The Plenary speakers list is impressive, and details will be included in the next BBS newsletter. The 2015 EBSA meeting in Dresden, and 2017 in Edinburgh, are now confirmed.</p> <p>EBSA is now a contributing body to ISE (Initiative for Scientific Excellence), a group of 20 scientific organisations lobbying Europe scientific decision-making. Wolfgang Eppenschwandtner is Executive Coordinator. They are nominating people to go on ERC Council, since its budget is becoming significant and increasing, on the ESFRI and large Infrastructures groups of the EU. Nominations from individuals, societies and countries are being sought, and EBSA is making nominations – BBS could feed nominations through EBSA.</p> <p>The IUPAB 2011 Congress in Beijing had over 2,400 registrants.</p>
6.	<p>Physics of Life Network proposal (Anthony Watts)</p> <p>Tony gave an update of feedback from Graham Leggett on the Physics of Life meeting. Graham was asked to assemble a team to prepare a proposal to EPSRC. He was pleased that Steve Evans (Leeds), Ramin Golestanian (Oxford), Simon Hanna (Bristol), Jamie Hobbs (Sheffield), Mark Leake (Oxford), Cait MacPhee (Edinburgh), Tom McLeish (Durham) and Peter Weightman (Liverpool) were all willing to be involved. He prepared a proposal, and explained that Athene Donald and Andrew Turberfield were also willing to join the proposed core network membership prior to submission (although no representation from BBS was sought). The proposal has now been submitted, and is entitled: 'From Molecules to Systems: Towards an Integrated Heuristic for Understanding the Physics of Life'.</p> <p>If the proposal is funded there will be three initial plenary events, the first of which will be around the end of this calendar year, with two more in the following six months. The suggest themes for these meetings are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Living Cell • Synthetic Biology • Multicellularity <p>Within each, a significant number of cross-length-scale challenges have been identified. These meetings will start the process of trying to develop a framework for integrating biology across the length scales. Subsequently, there will be a larger number of focussed workshops aimed at catalysing the formation of new cross-disciplinary partnerships and building a more substantial understanding of biology across the length scales.</p> <p>Tony has written to Graham Leggett and invited him to come to the BBS Durham meeting to explain this initiative. If Graham is successful with funding he will do this. Tony will push for BBS to get exposure, and Jeremy will find out more from Graham Leggett.</p>

7.	<p>Secretary's Report (John Seddon) John gave an overview of the report.</p> <p>IUPAB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jeremy has invoiced the Royal Society for their 49% contribution to our 2012 IUPAB subscription. The Scientific Unions Committee of the RS has been disbanded, so we do not need a replacement for Chris Cooper. Once we know what the IUPAB subscription would be for 2-vote membership of IUPAB, we can check with the RS that they will be happy to pay 49% of a reduced amount. - John has copies of the Minutes of the Extraordinary General Assembly, and the 54th General Assembly of IUPAB, held on 2nd Nov 2011 in Beijing. <p>BBS membership of the Society of Biology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is an outstanding invoice for £469; it was decided to discontinue membership. <p>Action: John</p> <p>Meetings / Lectures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tim Cross will give a lecture at Imperial College London at 12.30 on Weds 8th February (Sir Alexander Fleming Building) as part of his BBS UK Lecture Tour. <p>EMSI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The European Soft Matter Infrastructure initiative offers free access for European soft matter scientists to world-class instruments. It comprises Experimental, Synthesis, and Supercomputing Platforms. www.esmi-fp7.net or p.lang@fz-juelich.de.
8.	<p>Treasurer's Report (Jeremy Craven) 1) Accounts for 2010-2011 (year end is 30th June)</p> <p>These are provided separately.</p> <p>2) Current Financial situation</p> <p>We have banked a surplus from the 50th BBS symposium. We have seen a very small rise in subscription income of about £127. (See below)</p> <p>IUPAB subscriptions for 2006 and 2007 are still outstanding (see section 9).</p> <p>3) Payments made</p> <p>CCPN poster prize (£100) Scarborough meeting. One travel bursary (£200) EBSA, Budapest meeting</p>

One poster prize (£100) IUPAB, Beijing meeting.

Jeremy is not aware of any outstanding claims for bursaries to the EBSA or IUPAB congresses, so these were substantially underclaimed (i.e. only one payment of £200 whereas we budgeted for £1400).

4) Meetings sponsorship

i) 2 x £100 poster prizes for IBDG 2012

5) Membership

The January standing order payments are in, which represents the bulk of our membership income.

Total membership income this January was £2926, compared to £3272, £2919, £2848 and £2799 in the years 2008/9/10/11. i.e. we have gone up for the first time in four years !!!

Preliminary analysis shows about 34 (out of 200) people are now paying at the £25 rate, so we still have a lot to do to get all people paying at that rate.

There may have been some dropouts, and also some people may have rationalised their payment date to 1st Jan from later in the year so these figures are all "open to revision".

Suggest we aim to make our recording of receipt of payments more systematic, and then target the people still paying at the wrong rates with some skillfully crafted individual emails (as a task shared around several members of committee).

Tony suggests that the people paying low amounts, i.e. £2 - £15 should be informed.

Action: Jeremy. (Jeremy has latest spreadsheet from Ehmke.)

6) Organisation

i) Online banking is nearly in place. Delayed due to change in Bank of Scotland procedures whilst Jeremy was procuring the appropriate documentation.

ii) We will have to undergo independent examination of accounts for 2011/12 due to our increased income. This is not likely to be more than £100-200 and is probably a good exercise in checking we are doing things right.

iii) Jeremy is considering changing the Savings Account to a National Savings Direct Saver account as attracts a much better rate of interest currently than our "Investment Account" (1.5% vs 0.2%).

7) Paypal

We have created a British Biophysical Society Paypal account, so that we can receive credit (and Paypal) payments from the 2012 conference.

We still need to detach the Bank of Scotland current account from a previous Paypal account for which the details seem to be lost. I am working on this. We need to attach the account urgently, in order to withdraw any monies received via Paypal into the bank account. This is in hand.

Movements of money into and out of the Paypal account will have to be carefully monitored, and accounted for.

8) 2012 Conference

Ehmke and Jeremy have agreed that all registration fees will be paid to BBS, administered by Tony Watts' secretary.

The conference costs will be paid by BSI, and then they will bill BBS.

Ehmke will be in charge of the overall accounting but Jeremy will liaise with him.

9) Future planning

BBS is the only national society paying 3-vote membership; France pay through their academies not through membership. Scandinavia – 1 vote, Austria – 1 vote, Australia – 2 vote. Tony strongly suggests now is the time to pull back having been supporting IUPAB for a long time. We will have to wait till the 2014 Brisbane meeting to be approved. Tony suggested we might use profit from the 2017 meeting to pay back our historical debt to IUPAB. It was agreed to pay half of the back payment now, but to wait until later to pay the other half.

It was noted that the Royal Society may not pay anything towards our subscription from 2015. Jeremy will let the Royal Society know that BBS plans to move to category 2 membership.

Action: Tony/Jeremy to inform Patrick Cozzone that we have decided to move the BBS to category 2 membership.

9. Meetings Secretary's Report (Guy Grant)

2011

June: *Workshop on Fluorescent Imaging*, University of Cambridge, (David Klenerman, Leica). Guy waiting for feedback from David.

30/10 – 3/11: *IUPAB Congress*; Beijing.

2012

Jan: *Joint meeting with IMDG: Role of Metals in Neurodegenerative Diseases*; Queen Mary, London (Julea Butt).

26/3 – 28/3 *Biothermodynamics Today*; University of Oxford (Tony Watts and David Staunton). This has been delayed until September 2012.

11/7 – 13/7: *BBS Biennial Meeting*; University of Durham (Ehmke Pohl, John Girkin). International students should be funded by the conference. IUPAB has no funding for sponsoring students. BBS is offering bursaries (£300 - £400) to UK student members of BBS. A link will be put on the BBS web page. Ehmke to find out if EBSA will sponsor any European students.

22/8 – 23/8: *Biomolecular Motility*; Heythrop Park House. (Co-organised by Mark Leake and Richard Berry).

3/9 – 5/9: *Physics meets Biology 2012*; St. Anne's College Oxford. (Andrew Turberfield, Mark Leake and others)

11/9 – 13/9: *Faraday Discussion 161: Lipids and Membrane Biophysics*; Burlington House, London (John Seddon). From 108 Abstracts submitted, 15 Orals have been selected in addition to 10 Invited Lectures. There is a BBS Poster prize.

2013

Thematic Workshop on “Lipids in Membrane Protein Structures: the Evidence” sponsored by the American Biophysical Society (Tony Watts - decision pending).

Possible BBS 1 day meeting – a volunteer to organise this is needed.

13/7 – 17/7 2013 *EBSA Congress*, 13th – 17th July (Lisbon).

NMR Workshop (Tony Watts) Dates?

Protein Dynamics Workshop, 2 days, Autumn, Durham (Ehmke Pohl)

2014

BBS Biennial Meeting, University of Warwick or Birmingham? To be held 1st or 2nd week of July. Matt encouraged to start looking for accommodation and to avoid clashes.

2017

Joint IUPAB/EBSA Congress, Edinburgh. Guy thanked Tony for securing this Congress for the UK, and for negotiating funds for BBS.

10.	<p>2012 BBS Meeting in Durham (Ehmke Pohl) Ehmke gave an update via Skype. Posters, international type programme are planned, with orals presentations selected from poster abstracts. The chairs are worried that too many people may want to attend; in the event of changing the</p>
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venue this will require a 5 – 10 minute walk to the conference centre, and is more expensive. The finalised Programme will be ready by 1st Feb and put up on the Conference web page. Ehmke to send it to Tony before it goes live. Ehmke informed the Committee that the registration procedures are being sorted out. Student accommodation fees have been increased to £100. Sponsorship received so far is £2K (1 company £1K and 2 others £500 each). Ehmke would like further contacts for sponsors. Tony encouraged Ehmke to speak to publishers for sponsorship of poster prizes, e.g. Springer, IOP.

Registration page to go live on 6th Feb or as soon as the Paypal facility is working. The registration deadline before the price increases is 25th April. It was suggested that the Abstract deadline should be earlier to encourage registration at the early rate.

Accommodation should be VAT-exempt as BBS is non profit organisation and the meeting is an educational event. However if sponsors are recognised in any way, we will be liable for VAT. The sponsorship forms already sent to sponsors do not specify that the sponsorship may attract VAT, so the conference will have to absorb this. There is room for exhibitors, and approximately 50 posters can be accommodated.

Jeremy confirmed he will be chairing a session and emphasised there should ideally be 2 invited speakers per session.

Action: Tharin to speak to Ehmke re speakers and budget.

A Conference email account has been set up; Tony to check that the email is in operation. Tony thanked Tharin, Guy and Jeremy for their helpful interactions with Ehmke.

There was a preliminary discussion of the 2014 BBS meeting; Matt agreed to take the lead on this, to be held in the Midlands.

11.

Newsletter

Tharin gave an update of information sent out via email. This includes a job advert which has received 28 applications. Tharin will be advertising Mike Geaves' Workshop, available studentships, and the BBS International lecture tour of Professor Tim Cross. The Durham meeting will be advertised once the conference website is up and running, along with other news items including the Avanti Lipids Award, the 2013 EBSA meeting, and the 2017 IUPAB Congress.

Matt apologised for not making a great impact on the Newsletter. He was asked to send the last 2 Newsletters to Syma who will be taking over looking after the Newsletter. Jeremy suggests sending it in html format instead of pdf. The suggestion was made to include the EPSRC article 'Understanding the Physics of Life'. It was agreed that the frequency of the Newsletter should be 6 monthly, with 4 x A4 pages of content. It was suggested that the next newsletter should include a photo with a short note on any student who received a bursary. Tony thanked

	<p>Matt for his contributions to the Newsletter.</p> <p>Syma Khalid (Southampton), a new member, will take responsibility for the Newsletter.</p>
12.	<p>Website (Mark Wallace) Mark has redesigned the BBS Website to make it cleaner and clearer. He asked for people to send in photos of events.</p> <p>The Durham 2012 BBS Meeting will be hosted on the BBS website.</p> <p>Mark asked whether it would be desirable to have an electronic form which sends details to our Membership Secretary, and it was agreed to do 3-4 times a year.</p>
13.	<p>Membership (Ehmke Pohl) Ehmke commented that he cannot check whether Standing Orders have been set up correctly.</p> <p>The start date will be 1st Jan 2013 for any new ones.</p>
14.	<p>Irish Sub-section (Dave Sheehan) Suggestions for next speaker: Andrew Turberfield, Hagan Bayley – highly favoured, or Mark Leake – BBS Award winner. BBS will continue to support the Lecture Tour, but with the revised budget model. The next Lecture Tour is scheduled for Mar/Apr.</p>
15.	<p>Honorary Members (Tony Watts) The nominations of Sir Gregory Winter and Prof. Judith Howard were ratified at the 2011 BBS AGM at the Essex Meeting, and they have both been informed. They should be added to the BBS Website. Action: Mark</p> <p>Suggested nominations for 2012 were: Hagan Bayley and Mike Ferenczi.</p>
16.	<p>AOB</p> <p>Supporting Meetings Guy raised the issue of supporting meetings that BBS is not associated with. What should BBS support, and to what extent? BBS to set an annual Bursary budget (see Treasurer's report), which will be for our meetings and will be available in open competition in amounts of £200 each. Committee to decide what type of meetings wish to support? Timing – to be done swiftly. Suggestion to have 3 deadlines a year. Information to be put on website. Applies to UB based students who needs to be a member before applies. £2k a year budget for bursary. Guy to send summary of availability to Tony who will arrange for secretary to put on website. Action: Guy/Tony</p> <p>Raising the profile of the BBS</p>

	<p>Tony suggested that it would be very helpful if the BBS had an Honorary Chair, someone with influence and a high profile. The Honorary Chair would attend at least one BBS Committee meeting per year, but the Committee would continue to do most of the work.</p> <p>Action: Tony</p>
17.	<p>Date of the next meeting Tuesday 8th May at Imperial College London, room 111, Sir Alexander Fleming Building (restricted access - congregate at SAF Reception).</p>