

BRITISH BIOPHYSICAL SOCIETY

The 36th Meeting of the Committee was held at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 14 June 1972 at the Offices of the Biochemical Society, 7 Warwick Court, High Holborn, London.

Present

Dr E.M. Bradbury - Secretary
Dr J.M. Creeth
Dr W. Fuller - Meetings Secretary
Professor G.A. Gilbert
Dr J.C. Metcalfe
Dr A.C.T. North - Chairman
Dr R.H. Pain
Dr M.P. Tombs - Treasurer

Apologies were received from Prof. J.H. Subak-Sharpe, Dr D. Marr, Dr H.C. Watson and Dr K.D. Parker.

72/13 The Minutes of the 35th Meeting of the Committee were approved and signed by the Chairman.

72/14 Matters arising from the minutes:

Training and Careers in Biophysics (70/22, 70/24, 71/3, 71/13, 71/24, 72/3)

A table has been prepared on Biophysics Courses and Courses containing a substantial biophysics content. Dr M.P. Tombs offered to write a foreward to the Table which would then be printed and distributed to members of the Society and on request.

Dr Fuller reported that Prof. R.E. Burge was willing to write an article on the two meetings held at Queen Elizabeth College on Teaching and Research in Biophysics. The view was expressed that Prof. R.E. Burge should be encouraged to write this article, stressing the divergent views expressed at the meeting on Teaching of Biophysics, and submit it to Nature for publication.

Representatives on Joint Committees

It was suggested that representatives on Joint Committees should write a brief report on their meetings and send them to the Secretary.

72/15 Reports from Representatives on Joint Committees

Notes
i) British National Committee for Biophysics

A meeting of this Committee was held on 29 February 1972.

Membership: Prof. D.C. Phillips has been appointed as a member of the National Committee in place of Dr M.G.P. Stoker.

*Burge
Pain
Stoker*

4th International Congress of Biophysics, Moscow 1972

later
The Chairman reported that a block grant of £2,500 has been authorised by Council of the Royal Society for travel grants to this Congress. A subcommittee consisting of Professor J. Rotblat (Chairman), Professor O.F. Hutter, Dr R.P. Parker and the Secretary of the Biophysics Society would allocate the funds.

5th International Congress of Biophysics, 1975 was to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark.

There was little support for the proposal that this Congress be held in Edinburgh.

ii) British National Committee for Biochemistry

BIOCHEMICAL EDUCATION (not Union)
Professor G.A. Gilbert reported the proposal that because Biochemistry was an intellectually difficult subject, a Journal of Biochemistry Education should be established. In the interim period however, a Bulletin on Biochemistry Education might be issued.

iii) Parliamentary and Scientific Committee

Dr W. Fuller reported on the A.G.M. of this Committee and on the Annual lunch held on 17 April 1972. The Rothschild Report was discussed both at the A.G.M. and by Mr Heath in his after lunch speech.

The Committee discussed whether or not to maintain its membership. Dr Fuller felt that it was important for Parliamentarians to have contact with scientists though a more active exchange of views than exists at present would be desirable. It was decided to continue the membership.

iv) U.K. Crystallographic Council

Dr A.C.T. North reported that the U.K.C.C. has decided to sponsor a meeting in November on the "Role, Support and Organization of Crystallography during the 1970's". The meeting will be organized by the Institute of Physics. Although the organizers wished to invite European participants the Institute of Physics would not pay their travel expenses. Dr Kennard suggested that the accumulated funds of the U.K.C.C. should be used for this purpose. This was opposed by Dr North on the grounds that the subscription was to be used for purely administrative purposes. If there was a surplus the subscriptions should be reduced. Further the societies should have a say in whether funds should be used for this purpose. The U.K.C.C. resolved that the organizers should try to find funds from other sources and only in the last resort should funds of the U.K.C.C. be used. If this occurred, however, it should not be taken as a precedent. The Committee of the B.B.S. supported this attitude and requested that its views be expressed by Dr D.M. Blow.

v) Editorial Board of the Biochemical Journal

Dr North said that although few biophysics papers were being sent to the Biochem. J. the Editorial Board was not dissatisfied with the present situation.

vi) Harden Planning Committee

The Secretary reported that two Harden Conferences had been arranged for 1973.

- i. 9 - 14 September. Conference under the Chairmanship of Professor L.L.M. van Deenan on chemical, physical, pharmacological and physiological aspects of phospholipids.
- ii. 16 - 23 September Conference under the Chairmanship of Professor Peter Wildy on "Animal Virology".

vii) Computer and Instrumentation Group

Dr A.C.T. North reported a very successful meeting, organized by Dr S.P. Spragg, on "Problems of Data Logging", 19 April 1972.

72/16 Reports on Scientific Meetings

- LMC*
- i. "Calorimetry in Biological Sciences", 17/18 April 1972

Dr Creeth reported that the meeting had attracted 126 participants, 31 members, 68 non-members paid, 27 speakers and visitors. Although the scientific quality of some contributions was not high the meeting had provided an interesting review of the field. Support of LKB was very important to the success of the meeting. Cost to the Society will be less than the £150 agreed contribution.

Dr North expressed the gratitude of the Committee to Dr Creeth for organizing the meeting.

72/17 Future Meetings

- LMC*
- i. Metalloenzymes 4 - 7 September 1972

Dr Fuller reported that although a good programme had been arranged there had been only a small response. This was thought to be due to the overall registration fee of £20.

- ii. Biophysics Since 1960, 19-20 December 1972 at King's College, London

Dr North said that a very interesting programme was now complete with 13 speakers. Ciba Foundation had offered the Society the use of 4 single and 6 twin bedded rooms for the meeting. A conference dinner with a speaker had been arranged.

The model exhibition was proceeding well. 25 people had agreed to exhibit models and displays.

The Registration fee for the conference will be £2.50 for members and £3.50 for non-members.

- iii. Peptide Antibiotics and Hormones 5 & 6 April 1973, Trinity College, Cambridge

Dr Metcalfe reported that a provisional booking had been made at Trinity for 100 people on the night of 5 April. For an audience greater than 150 another lecture hall would have to be booked. It was planned to invite 3 speakers from the U.S.A. and 3 speakers from Europe.

Applications for funds will be made to the Royal Society, the

Wellcome Trust and CIBA Foundation.

- iv. Suggested title for April 1974 was 'Polysaccharides'

Physical Biochemistry Group

- i. Luminescence Methods in Physical Biochemistry 2 October 1972

Organized by Dr J.N. Millor, Department of Chemistry,
Loughborough University of Technology, Loughborough.

72/18 Finance

Dr Tombs reported that 11 new members had joined the Society and that the finances of the Society are sound.

72/19 Federation of European Biophysics Societies

The Committee discussed the proposed Federation and decided that they would support i) the continuation of the informal club of European Biophysics Societies, ii) the organization of European meetings on selected topics in depth and iii) an information exchange probably through the FEBS News Sheet.

72/20 International Biophysics Congress

The Secretary reported that a sub-committee meeting had been held to allocate the travel funds received from the Royal Society and the Wellcome Trust. 17 applications came within the rules of the Royal Society and grants were made to the value of £120 for 14 applicants, £60 for two applicants and £90 for one. The Wellcome Trust Grant of £500 had been used and £1,390 of the grant of £2,500 of the Royal Society. Unused funds are returned to the Royal Society.

72/21 Any Other Business

- i. It was decided, in response to a request from the North Holland Publishing Company, that the membership list should be provided for a consideration. This is a policy similar to the Biochemical Society.

- ii. Journal of Biophysics Dr D. Rosen sent a notice concerning a proposal from the Elsevier Publishing Co. to establish a Journal of Biophysics. The Committee decided that the promotion of a new journal should be opposed. However, the suggestion was made that Elsevier Publishing Company may be planning to split its journal Biochem. Biophys. Acta and that the new Biophysics Journal might result from this. It was decided that more information was required and that the Secretary should ask Dr Rosen to make further enquiries.

- iii. Aaron Katchalsky Memorial Dr Pain brought to the attention of the Committee the proposals of the Aaron Katchalsky Memorial Committee to establish a memorial to the memory of Aaron Katchalsky. It was decided that the Chairman, Dr North, should write a letter to Nature protesting against the manner of the death of Aaron Katchalsky and to offer the support of the Society to the Memorial Committee.

- iv. As Dr Peter Spragg is the Secretary of the Physical Biochemistry Group the Committee decided that he should be coopted as a member of the Committee.

Date of Next Meeting: 2.30 p.m., Wednesday, 18 October 1972,