

BRITISH BIOPHYSICAL SOCIETY

The 42nd Meeting of the Committee will be held at 2.30p.m. on Wednesday, April 24th 1974, at the Biochemical Society, 7 Warwick Court, High Holborn, London.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the 41st Meeting of the Committee (enclosed)
2. Matters Arising:
 - 74/3(i) International Congress of Biophysics, Copenhagen 1975
 - 74/11(i) Invitation to Institute of Physics to suggest names for one member to be co-opted to the British Biophysical Society Committee.
 - 74/11(v) Possibility of collaboration in the organisation of scientific meeting of Macromolecular Group of the Chemical Society.
 - 74/11(vi) Progress with the possibility of a joint circulation with the Belgian Society of Biophysics, advertising biophysical activities in Europe.
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Meetings Secretary's Report
5. Physical Biochemistry Group Report
6. Reports of Representatives on Joint Committees
7. Any other business
8. Date of next meeting

BRITISH BIOPHYSICAL SOCIETY

The 41st Meeting of the Committee was held at 2.30p.m. on Tuesday, January 8th 1974 at the Biochemical Society, 7 Warwick Court, High Holborn, London.

Present: Dr. E.N. Bradbury (Chairman)
Professor W. Fuller (Secretary)
Dr. R.M. Poin (Meetings Secretary)
Dr. X. Brewer
Dr. D.J. Cove
Dr. A. Miller
Dr. J.P. Spring
Dr. H.P. Taylor

Apologies were received from Dr. X. Murray and Dr. H.C. Watson.

74/1

The Chairman welcomed the two new members of the Committee, Dr. H. Brewer and Dr. D.J. Cove. The Secretary was asked to write to Dr. J.M. Creeth, the retiring member of the Committee, thanking him for his work both as a Committee member and as Secretary of the Physical Biochemistry Group.

74/2

The Minutes of the 40th Meeting of the Committee were approved and signed by the Chairman.

74/3

Matters Arising from Minutes

(1) International Congress of Biophysics, Copenhagen 1975

The Secretary reported on correspondence from Mr. Gruner of Express Boyd, who were the Society's official travel agents for this Congress. The proposals for a package including travel and accommodation had been presented to the Annual General Meeting and had been well received. However, there had been considerable support for the possibility of an alternative package by Express Boyd using cheaper accommodation. The Secretary had been asked to discuss this further with Mr. Gruner. At the A.G.M. the Secretary had reminded members that the Society would be applying to the Royal Society for a block grant to provide contributions to the travel expenses of British biophysicists attending this meeting. While it was recognised by the meeting that many members would wish to avail themselves of the package being offered by Express Boyd, a number of members made the point that the support from the Royal Society should not be conditional on members travelling with the official group. The Secretary had been instructed to take this up with the Royal Society. However, the Chairman made the point that in previous years no such restrictions had been made on money distributed in respect of Biophysical Society Congresses.

The Secretary was asked to write to the Royal Society applying for support to help British biophysicists attend this meeting, and also to write to the Wellcome Trust to see if they could help with this. It was recognised that the Wellcome Trust was reducing its support of Biophysics and Molecular Biology, and might therefore no longer be prepared to provide support of this kind.

74/4

Chairman's Term of Office

The Chairman reported that it had been suggested to him by the Secretary that the Chairman's term of office be altered so that he terminated his year of office with the first Committee Meeting of the new year, rather than at the end of the calendar year. This had the advantage that items which came up at the Annual General Meeting could be presented by the Chairman to the next Committee meeting. This had become a more important consideration now that the pattern had been established of holding the first Committee meeting of each calendar year very soon after Christmas, so that there was relatively little time for the new Chairman to become informed on outstanding Society matters before taking over. The Committee agreed to this suggestion which did not require any revision of the Constitution.

74/5

Election of Chairman for 1974

The Chairman proposed that Professor G.A. Gilbert be invited to act as Chairman of the Society for 1974. This was agreed unanimously.

74/6

Report of Annual General Meeting

The Chairman had been ill at the time of the Annual General Meeting, and the Secretary had taken the Chair. He reported that all the Officers' reports were accepted, the nominations made by the Committee for Officers for 1974 had been approved, and that the nominations made by the Committee for new committee members to serve for three years from January 1974 had been the only nominations for these committee vacancies. These nominees had therefore been elected.

74/7

Treasurer's Report

In the absence of the Treasurer from the Committee meeting because of illness, the Secretary reported that the revision of the membership and mailing list was going well, and that a number of members were now paying their subscriptions for the first time for some years.

74/8

Meetings Secretary's Report(i) Polysaccharide Meeting, December 1973

The Meetings Secretary reported that 145 people had attended the meeting, of whom 53 were from industry. Although final figures for the finances of the meeting were not yet available, these numbers should ensure that the Society had not made a loss on the meeting.

(ii) Meeting on Folding Nucleation and Interaction to Biopolymers to be held in Newcastle from 26th to 28th March 1974

The Meetings Secretary, who is also the Meeting Organiser, circulated a copy of the programme. On the basis of the registration fees agreed at the last committee meeting and the considerable support obtained from industry, the break-even figure for this meeting was 60 paying members of the Society and 20 paying non-members. The interest which was already being shown in the meeting indicated that there should be no difficulty in reaching such figures.

(iii) One-day Meeting on Neutrons in Biology, April 2nd 1974

This meeting was to be held at the Rutherford Laboratory and the Meetings Secretary passed round a proof of the poster. The Society has no financial commitments to this meeting, except for the cost of production and circulation of posters. The Meetings Secretary was attempting to get the Institute of Physics to share this cost, but the Committee agreed that the Society would pay the total bill if he was not successful in this.

(iv) One-day Meeting on Crystal Growth

This meeting suggestion arose out of the interest of the U.K. Crystallographic Council in a summer school on Crystal Growth. The Meetings Secretary was making enquiries with a number of other societies, including the British Association for Crystal Growth, and the Biochemical Society to explore the possibilities of joint sponsorship. A likely time for this meeting would be late September 1974 and Professor North would probably be prepared to organise it at Leeds.

(v) Meeting on Muscle to be held in December 1974

The joint organisers for this meeting are now Dr. A. Miller and Dr. G. Offer. The likely place is London, but a hall has still not been obtained. The original booking of a hall at University College was revoked when the authorities at University College found they had double booked. Dr. Miller reported that a programme had been worked out and speakers would be invited as soon as a hall booking was confirmed. The Meetings Secretary and Dr. Miller agreed to begin making requests for financial support from the Royal Society, Sainsbury's and the Meat Marketing Board were also suggested as possible sources of funds.

(vi) Meeting on Immunglobulins during Spring 1975

Since the 1974 Horden Conference was covering interactions in multi-subunit enzymes, it was felt that the Society should not have a meeting on this topic, and an alternative one relating to crystallographic studies on immunoglobulins was decided upon. Dr. Watson had agreed to organise a meeting on a crystallographic topic in Bristol, and the Meetings Secretary agreed to pursue this with him.

(vii) Meeting on Membranes

It was agreed that the programme originally drafted out by Dr. Metcalfe for a meeting on Membranes would make a suitable basis for the Christmas 1975 meeting. It was planned that this meeting would take place in London, and Dr. Metcalfe be asked if he were prepared to organise it, or if not, to suggest someone else.

74/9

Physical Biochemistry Group Report

No meetings of the group had taken place since the last Committee Meeting. Dr. Spragg reported on two future meetings, one to be held in September 1974 at King's College London, and organised by Dr. E.G. Richards on the Kinetics of Conformational Change, and the second to be organised by Dr. Miller of Loughborough during March or April 1975 on Photoelectron Spectroscopy.

Future topics for the Physical Biochemistry group were discussed. One topic which received considerable support was Immobilized Enzymes. It was felt that this would attract a great deal of interest from biophysicists and biochemists in industry as well as in universities. Dr. Spragg agreed to approach Dr. Peter Doherty at University College London, to ask if he were prepared to organise such a meeting in September 1975.

It was agreed to bear in mind the possibility of a future meeting on Synchrotron Sources. However, it was felt that it was not opportune to do this in the immediate future.

Reports of Representatives on Joint Committees(i) British National Committee for Biophysics

The Committee is represented on this Committee by the Secretary and Chairman. They reported that a great deal of discussion in the meeting of this Committee held on November 29th was concerned with the International Congress of Biophysics to be held at Copenhagen in 1975, and in particular on the names of people to be nominated to offices of the International Union of Pure and Applied Biophysics, and to serve on its committees. It was agreed that any member of the committee who thought of suitable candidates for these elections should let the Secretary know, so that they could be communicated to the British National Committee.

An important change of policy in the International Union was noted in that they were increasingly interested in supporting schools, rather than meetings on Biophysics.

(ii) National Committee for Biochemistry

Nothing to report

(iii) Parliamentary and Scientific Committee

Nothing to report.

(iv) Biological Council

Nothing to report.

(v) British Joint Committee for Electron Microscopy

The Winter meeting of this committee scheduled for December 19th had been postponed because of travel difficulties. However the representative, Peter Highton, reported that the committee had applied to the Royal Society on behalf of member societies for a block grant to travel to the 8th International Congress for Electron Microscopy, Canberra, Australia, 25th to 31st August 1974. This application will be considered at the Royal Society January meeting. It was agreed that the Meetings Secretary would include a notice about this meeting in the next circular with a note to the effect that anyone interested in obtaining help with travelling expenses should write directly to the British Joint Committee for Electron Microscopy.

(vi) U.K. Crystallographic Council

Nothing to report.

(vii) Biochemical Journal

The Secretary read a letter from Professor A.C.T. North, reminding the Committee that in September 1974 he came to the end of his five year term of office on the Editorial Board of the Biochemical Journal as one of the Society's nominees. It was agreed that the names of two people whom the Society would be glad to have as their nominees on the Editorial Board should be forwarded to the Editor of the Biochemical Journal through Professor North. It was felt that these nominees should most appropriately be from the area of Physical Biochemistry, and should be Dr. S.P. Spragg and Dr. M. Tombs.

(viii) Harden Conference

The Secretary reported that Professor J.B. Lloyd had taken over from Professor A.P. Mathias as Chairman of the Harden Conference Subcommittee. One conference had been planned for 1974 from September 15th to 20th on Enzymes: Evolution, Specificity and Control, to be chaired by Dr. D.H. Blow. There would probably also only be one conference in 1975 - probably on Cancer from September 14th to 19th.

(ix) Computer and Instrumentation Group

The Society's representative on this group, Dr. E.G. Richards, had written to the Secretary, saying that in view of an increase in his departmental commitments he would not be able to continue as their representative. It was agreed to ask Dr. David Dover if he would take over from Dr. Richards when he returns to London in September 1974. Dr. Spragg who sat on the committee in another capacity, agreed to cover the period between Dr. Richards' resignation and Dr. Dover's arrival.

Dr. Spragg said that the Joint Computer and Instrumentation Group would find it helpful to have at least a token of financial support from the Biophysical Society. It was agreed that the Society should contribute £5 to the group each year.

Any Other Business

- (1) The Chairman reported that he has had a letter from Professor Tredgold of the New University of Ulster asking if he would be interested in supporting him in a proposal to the Institute of Physics that they set up a Biophysical Group. Professor Tredgold had apparently been unaware of the fact that Dr. Bradbury was Chairman of the British Biophysical Society. Dr. Bradbury had written to him explaining that the Society did its best to cater for all interests and would welcome any suggestions which Professor Tredgold would like to make for meetings. Apparently Professor Tredgold had remained unconvinced that the Biophysical Society could cater for the solid state physicist, interested in working on biological problems. It was agreed by the Committee that it might be helpful from the point of view of physicists in general who were interested in biophysics, to ask the Institute of Physics if they would like to submit two or three names of physicists interested in biophysics but working in other areas of physics, who would be prepared to serve on the British Biophysical Society Committee. The Committee would then choose one of these names and coopt the person as a committee member.
- (ii) The Chairman reported that he had had a letter from SRC in his capacity as a member of the SRC Biology Committee, asking if he could indicate at the next Committee meeting growth points in Biophysical areas. He stressed that this was peculiarly important since the SRC would need to be increasingly selective in view of the shortage of funds. A considerable discussion ensued in which a number of subjects and techniques were discussed. There were strong feelings that magnetic resonance techniques would be of increasing interest, particularly when used in conjunction with diffraction analysis, and also the analysis of macromolecular arrangements in biological structures in addition to the structural analysis of biological macromolecules themselves.

- (iii) The Chairman reported on an enquiry he had had from the publishers, Butterworths, about the possibility of a book reviewing 25 years of Biophysics, which would parallel a successful book they had recently published on the first fifty years of wave mechanics. The committee generally welcomed the idea, although it was felt that it was important that at least two of the editors should be members of the committee. Dr. Miller and Professor Fuller agreed to act in this capacity.
- (iv) The Meetings Secretary noted that he had had a letter from the Biochemical Society and Chemical Society, saying that their Polysaccharide Group had not been informed of the Polysaccharide Meeting organized by the Biophysical Society in December 1973. While the Meetings Secretary was sorry about this, it was recognised that in view of the enormous number of societies involved and the large number of meetings being arranged, such lack of communication was inevitable. The point was made that the Meetings Secretary had sent information on the meeting to the parent societies of both these Polysaccharide groups, and therefore to a large extent their ignorance was due to lack of communication within the societies themselves.
- (v) The Meetings Secretary reported on a letter he had received from Professor Bamford of the Macromolecular group of the Chemical Society, suggesting the possibility of collaboration with the Biophysical Society, and the possibility of joint meetings. It was agreed that the Meetings Secretary and the Secretary should meet with Professor Bamford and the Secretary of the Macromolecular group to discuss this.
- (vi) The Meetings Secretary reported on the response he had had from European Biochemical Societies when he had circulated with regard to preparing a Newsletter of Biophysical activities in Europe. He had had replies from the Swiss, Yugoslav, Italian and Belgian societies. The Belgian societies already had some kind of Newsletter which covered a number of European events, although its circulation appeared to be restricted to members of the Belgian Biophysical Society. The Meetings Secretary said he would pursue with the Belgian Society ways in which a joint circulation might be produced.

14/11 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting should take place on Wednesday April 26th, at 2.30p.m. at the Biochemical Society.

The Meeting closed at 4.50p.m.

G. A. Gilbert

26 April 1974