

BRITISH BIOPHYSICAL SOCIETY

The 43rd Meeting of the Committee will be held at 2.30p.m. on Wednesday October 2nd 1974 at the Biochemical Society, 7 Warwick Court, High Holborn, London.

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Cooption to the Committee of Professor N.H. March
3. Minutes of the 42nd Meeting of the Committee (enclosed)
4. Matters Arising:
Society Membership and Meetings registration fees as discussed at the last meeting
5. Annual General Meeting:
Nominations by Committee for Secretary, Meetings Secretary, Treasurer and three vacancies on the Committee. (N.B. the Treasurer is the only official eligible for re-election.)
6. Treasurer's report
7. Meetings Secretary's report
8. Physical Biochemistry Group report
9. Reports from representatives on Joint Committees
10. Proposed book on 25 Years of Biophysics (paper enclosed)
11. Possible revision of Summary made by the Society of Biophysics Courses in U.K.
12. Any other business
13. Date of next meeting.

BRITISH BIOPHYSICAL SOCIETY

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

<u>Present</u>	Professor G.A. Gilbert (Chairman)
	Professor W. Fuller (Secretary)
	Dr. R.H. Pain (Meetings Secretary)
	Dr. H.C. Watson (Treasurer)
	Dr. D.J. Cove
	Dr. J.C. Metcalfe
	Dr. A. Miller
	Dr. K. Murray
	Dr. S.P. Spragg
	Dr. M.P. Tombs

Apologies were received from Dr. M. Brewer and Dr. J.J.B. Jack.

- 74/13 The Secretary was asked to write to Dr. E.M. Bradbury, the retiring Chairman of the Committee thanking him for his work as Meetings Secretary, Secretary and Chairman of the Society. Dr. Bradbury's services to the Society had extended over many years and had embraced a wide variety of activities, both as an officer of the Society and as a representative of biophysics interests on a number of national committees.

- 74/14 The Minutes of the 41st Meeting of the Committee were approved and signed by the Chairman.

74/15 Matters Arising from the Minutes

(i) International Congress of Biophysics, Copenhagen 1975

The Secretary reported that he had so far had 25 replies to his request in the last circulation to members for the names of those interested in attending this Congress and who would like to be considered for financial support which the Society was seeking from the Royal Society. The closing date for requests was May 1st, but the Secretary said that this had been a preliminary date, and in the next circulation to members he would be asking for any further requests and hoped that by the end of September he would be able to have a good estimate of the number of Society members on whose behalf support from the Royal Society should be sought. It was planned that this application would be considered in November 1974 so that it should be possible for an allocation to be made towards the end of November or early in December 1974. The Secretary reported that he had also written to the Wellcome Trust seeking support for expenses for scientists attending this meeting, and that they had offered £750 for this. He said that he was not aware of restrictions on the people to whom this money could be allocated, and suggested that it should be kept separate from any Royal Society allocation which might be much more restrictive as regards the nationality and seniority of people who would be eligible.

(ii) Invitation to the Institute of Physics to suggest names for one member to be coopted to the British Biophysical Society

The Secretary reported that he had written to the Institute of Physics suggesting that it may help collaboration between the two Societies, and meet the growing need of physicists interested in biophysical problems, if the Institute were to nominate a member to the British Biophysical Society Committee. The Executive Secretary of the Institute had replied that their Meetings Committee would welcome such a proposal and had suggested three names from whom the Society might like to choose a member to coopt. It was agreed that the Secretary should approach Professor N.H. March, Department of Physics, Imperial College, who had interests in solid state physics, to ask if he would be agreeable to being coopted as a member of the committee until December 1977. Professor March's membership of the committee would begin, if he were agreeable, with its next meeting, but normally the Institute of Physics representative would serve for a three year period from January to the December three years later.

(iii) Collaboration over meeting organisation with the Macromolecular Group of the Chemical Society

The Meeting Secretary reported that he had contacted Professor Bamford and was arranging a joint meeting with representatives of the Macromolecular Group of the Chemical Society and himself and the Secretary to discuss the possibility of collaboration in the organisation of scientific meetings.

(iv) Contact with European Biophysical Societies

The Meetings Secretary reported that he was still obtaining little response from other European Biophysical Societies, apart from the Belgian Society. Arrangements for joint circulations were progressing. However he did note an unfortunate tendency which seemed to be developing recently in some quarters of the European Economic Community countries for proposals for meetings restricted to scientists from Common Market countries. It was agreed that members of the committee would oppose such developments as vigorously as possible on all national and international committees.

(v) Book on Twenty-five Years of Biophysics

The Secretary reported that Dr. Miller and he had been contacted by a representative of Butterworths concerning the possibility of the book entitled "Twenty-five Years of Biophysics". It was hoped that a summary of possible contents for such a book would be prepared in the next few weeks to form a basis for discussion with the publishers. It was agreed that this summary would be circulated to all members of the committee for their comments.

74/16

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that he hoped to circulate to all members of the Society a full membership list with the Christmas circulation, together with a copy of the rules of the Society. He also reported that the three hundred reminders which he had sent out at the beginning of the year had resulted in the recapture of a hundred lapsed members. The membership was now back at 600.

The Treasurer also reported the nomination of a number of new members and specifically referred to one applicant whose eligibility was not clear. It was agreed that further information be sought from the proposer. It was also agreed that at the next meeting the possibility of rephrasing the membership qualification to encourage technicians to join be considered.

The Treasurer also reported that there were difficulties for some non-U.K. members paying their membership fee. It was agreed that the Treasurer should be allowed to use his discretion in this matter, so that members from countries for which it was difficult to remit payment, should be allowed to postpone payment until they next attended a Biophysical Society meeting, or the membership fee could in special cases be waived.

The Treasurer also reported that a number of overseas members had asked if they could pay an additional fee so that the circulation to them could be Air-Mailed. It was agreed that the Treasurer should fix an appropriate fee for this, i.e. in the region of 50p per annum.

The Committee expressed their great appreciation for the work which Dr. Watson had done in reorganising the Membership list, the value of which was already being demonstrated by the very considerable response from lapsed members.

74/17 Meetings Secretary's Report

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

The Meetings Secretary, who was also the meeting organiser, reported that almost 150 people had attended the meeting which had been very successful. Preliminary accounts of the meeting indicated that a small profit of approximately £30 had been made. However the point was made that the meeting would not have been anything like self-supporting but for the very considerable amount of support from industry etc. which the Meetings Secretary had been able to obtain. The Meetings Secretary also noted that at this meeting two publishers had paid £12 each for a stand on which they could display their books.

The Meetings Secretary reported that the experiment of having some free communications had worked very well. There had been a good response from members wishing to read a paper, and by having duplication of sessions it had been possible to select for presentation all the papers received by the stated date. The point was made that free communications were only invited on the subject of the meeting, whereas the alternative experiment of inviting free communications on any subject was to be tried at the Winter 1974 meeting of the Society.

(ii) One day meeting on Neutrons in Biology, April 8th 1974

Dr. S.P. Spragg reported that this meeting which was held at the Rutherford Laboratory had been extremely successful. About 100 people were there, mainly biologists, but also with some physicists. The cost to the Society had been limited to 75% of the Poster costs, i.e. £38. The Meetings Secretary spoke very highly of the administration by the staff at Harwell and the Rutherford Laboratory.

(iii) One day meeting on Crystal Growth, Leeds, September 24th 1974

The Meetings Secretary reported that this meeting which was being organised by Professor A.C.T. North, was also supported by the Biochemical Society. The Biochemical Society has agreed to underwrite a loss of up to £25 and also to advertise the meeting as if it were a Biochemical Society meeting. The estimated cost of the meeting to cover administration and speakers' expenses was £160. Some concern was expressed at the difficulties which younger scientists particularly might have in obtaining expenses to attend this meeting. It was agreed therefore that the registration fee for the meeting should be kept as low as possible, say £2, and that the Treasurer and Secretary should attempt to obtain a grant from the Wellcome Laboratories to provide bursaries to attend the meeting. It was recognised that at a registration fee of £2, the Society may well have to subsidise this meeting by up to £50 or £60.

(iv) Meeting on Muscle to be held in London in December 1974

Dr. Miller reported that the meeting would now be held at Queen Elizabeth College, where a hall which could accommodate about 230 people was available. It was felt that this may not be quite large enough, but there was general agreement that from many other points of view, particularly the provision of overnight accommodation and the low cost of hiring meeting accommodation, Queen Elizabeth College was the best venue in London. Since most of the speakers were expected to come from the United Kingdom, it was not expected that there would be any difficulty in breaking even financially over this meeting. It was agreed that the registration fee should be £3 for members and £5 for non-members.

(v) Meeting on Multi-subunit Proteins in Bristol, Spring 1975

Dr. H.C. Watson reported that since the last committee meeting the Harden Conference had once again changed the emphasis of their 1974 meeting, by broadening it from multi-subunit enzymes to include immuno globulins. Dr. Watson suggested therefore that the Society adopt a more limited subject area for the Easter 1975 meeting to concentrate on multi-subunit proteins. The Committee agreed to this and asked Dr. Watson to go ahead as the meeting organiser and prepare a programme for the next Committee meeting, and also to reserve a hall in Bristol.

(vi) Meeting on Membranes to be held in London, December 1975

It was agreed that the meeting organiser, Dr. J.C. Metcalfe, should attempt to arrange for the meeting to take place at Queen Elizabeth College, London, and that he would invite a member of the Physics Department staff at Queen Elizabeth College to act as local organiser. It was agreed provisionally that the meeting should extend over 2½ days, from after lunch on the Tuesday through Wednesday until mid-afternoon on the Thursday. It was also agreed provisionally that the meeting should also have free communications on the subject of the meeting.

(vii) Society Meeting for Spring 1976

There was a general discussion on possible topics for this and future meetings. These included NMR in biological research, scanning electron microscopy, chromosome structure, protein-nucleic acid interactions including virus assembly, genetic engineering, biophysics of nervous activities and memory, auditory and visual systems and sensory perception in general.

74/18 Physical Biochemistry Group Report

The Secretary of the Group, Dr. S.P. Spragg, reported that the meeting to be organised at King's College London, in September 1974, by Dr. E.G. Richards on the Kinetics of Conformational Change was going ahead. He also reported that he had had a reply from Dr. Dunhill saying that he did not think that the time was appropriate for a meeting on Immobilised Enzymes.

Dr. Spragg reported that he would be approaching Dr. Miller of Loughborough again about the possibility of a meeting on Photoelectron Spectroscopy.

A number of other possible topics for Physical Biochemistry Group meetings were discussed. They included dielectric measurements, excitable membranes and the role of thermodynamics in biology.

74/19 Reports of Representatives on Joint Committees

(i) British National Committee for Biophysics

Nothing to report.

(ii) British National Committee for Biochemistry

Nothing to report.

(iii) Parliamentary and Scientific Committee

Nothing to report.

(iv) Biological Council

The Meetings Secretary reported that the Calendar of Biological Society meetings prepared by the Council each year had recently arrived at the Biochemical Society offices. Sufficient copies of this Calendar had been ordered to circulate to every member of the Society, and these would be circulated with the May-June mailing to members. However the Meetings Secretary stated that he would be taking up with Mrs. Young of the Institute of Biology the late arrival of these Calendars. It was felt that if they were to be of real value to the members of the British Biophysical Society, they should be available for circulation with the January-February mailing to members. It was, however, recognised that with the three-day week, there may well have been special problems this year.

(v) Joint Committee for Electron Microscopy

Nothing to report.

(vi) United Kingdom Crystallographic Council

Nothing to report.

(vii) Biochemical Journal

Nothing to report.

(viii) Harden Conference

The Secretary reported that he had received from the new secretary of the Harden Conference Committee, Professor J.B. Lloyd, a programme for the Harden Conference on Plasma Membranes and Control Systems in Normal and Neoplastic Cells, to be held from 14th to 19th September 1975. The topic of this meeting did not clash with any of the topics chosen for future meetings of the Biophysical Society.

(ix) Computer and Instrumentation Group

The Secretary reported that Dr. S.D. Dover had agreed to act as the Society's representative on this Group's committee from September 1974. He also reported that the new Secretary of this group was Dr. J.M. Wilkinson, Department of Biochemistry, University of Birmingham. A copy of the programme of the next meeting of the Group which was to be held in Cambridge in July 1974 would be circulated by the Meetings Secretary in the next mailing to members.

74/20 Any Other Business(i) Dedicated Storage Ring for Synchrotron Radiation

The Secretary reported that he had received from the S.R.C. a copy of an S.R.C. report entitled "A Plan for Future Research with Synchrotron Radiation based on a Dedicated Storage Ring". The letter invited comments from the Society and the report was passed to Dr. Miller for his comments.

(ii) Supplying of the Society's Membership List to Publishers

The Secretary reported that he had had a letter from Springer-Verlag asking for an up-to-date membership list of the Society. It was agreed that the Treasurer would supply this for a fee of £10.

(iii) Society Membership and Meeting Registration Fees for Younger Members

The Secretary reported a letter from Professor A.C.T. North concerning reduced membership fees of the Society for members under 25, and also reduced registration fees at conferences for such members. Professor North made the point that some years ago such reduced fees were offered, and asked that serious thought be given to re-instating such arrangements because of the very considerable pressure on finance in university departments at the moment, with consequent difficulties for younger staff, postdoctorals and research students in being able to attend scientific conferences. It was recognised that there were a number of important points associated with membership arrangements and registration fees, which it was felt the committee ought to consider in some detail, and it was therefore agreed to include this on the Agenda of the next meeting.

74/21 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on Wednesday, October 2nd 1974, at 2.30p. m. in the Biochemical Society Offices.

G.A.S. Clerk

2 October 1974