

BRITISH BIOPHYSICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the 92nd Committee Meeting held on Thursday 3rd January 1991 at 1.00 p.m. at Birkbeck College.

Present: PB, MAF, KRF, SEH, GM, ACTN, DO, SEVP, HEWR, GCKR.  
Apologies for absence: GRB, WF, DWLH, GT.

The chairman welcomed SEH and DO as new committee members.

91/05 Meeting Secretary's Report

December 1991 Prof. David Blow attended this part of the meeting to discuss the scientific programme of the December 1991 meeting. Protein Engineering: Structure Prediction and Ligand Interactions. Venue: Middlesex Hospital, 16-17 December 1991.

The meeting would be divided into four half days with distinct topics; modification of enzyme activity by protein engineering, redesign of antibodies, alteration of thermal stability, bespoke tailoring (designer proteins).

The meeting would overlap with two others in April 1992 (an Exeter symposium and the Faraday Society).

Various speakers were considered for each session, with an expectation that there would be 4 from U.S. and 6 from overseas. The possibility of a Keynote speaker was discussed.

It was felt that a poster session was desirable.

December 1990 KRF reported that the meeting had gone well with about 70 participants. It was expected to break even or make a small profit. A report would be included in the next Newsletter.

April 1991. Biophysics of Membrane Receptors and Ion Channels, Leeds 3-5th April. This is in the final stages of organisation. Sponsorship has been obtained from Biochemical Society (the meeting is joint with the molecular enzymology group) and various companies. A £5000 budget would break even with 40-50 participants. No registrations had been received so far, though no deadline had been set. Further publicity would be in the next BBS newsletter and the Biochemist. A poster has been prepared, HWER to provide the BBS poster address list.

SEH asked whether the membranes group of the Biochemical Society had been asked to cosponsor the meeting.

March 1992. Calcium Binding Proteins, join with the French Biophysical Society in Marseille, organised by Jacques Haiech and Ian Trayer. The first 3 days (March 2-4) are the 2nd European Meeting on Calcium Binding Proteins in Normal and Transformed Cells. The last 2 days (March 5-6) are the BBS meeting.

MAF had not yet located the money left over from the last Anglo-French meeting.

There was some concern about the small number of U.K. speakers.

December 1992 Proteins and DNA Structure, Leicester, 21-22 Dec. organised by Tony Maxwell and Andy Bates. The plans were already in an advanced stage of preparation.

Further meetings. The meetings secretary had been contacted by the British Crystallographic Association, Biological Structures group about the possibility of a joint meeting on "Structural Insights from NMR and crystallography- similarities and differences". This could be in Leicester (December 1993) or Manchester (part of the BCA meeting in March/April 1993).

The next IUPAB congress would be in Budapest in 1993.

There was some concern that there were no BBS meetings planned on cellular or physiological aspects of Biophysics.

Notes for meetings organisers. MAF presented notes to assist organisers in planning and budgeting. Comments to be passed to MAF.

91/01 The minutes of the 91st committee meeting were accepted.

91/02 Matters Arising

Royal Society ACTN had received had no communication from the RS. The secretary had been asked by the RS whether the BBS committee would be involved in consultation over various IRC issues (copy had been sent to Prof. Fuller). The secretary had written confirming that we wished to be consulted, notifying them of the approximate times of our committee meetings. KRF would write to the RS about ACTN's representation on the IRC.

KRF

Questionnaire. 258 replies had been received. An analysis of the responses would be prepared for the next Newsletter.

HR

Why Biophysics? No further action had been taken. PB had obtained copies of American Biophysical Society's brochure "Careers in Biophysics". This was felt to be excellent and could easily be adapted for U.K. HWER would write to ask for further copies.

HR

Talking point A leaflet concerning scientific talks to schools (organised by the RDS) had gone out with the last Newsletter.

91/04 Secretary's report

Representation on the Techniques group of the Biochemical Society.

Alan Clark, who was no longer on the BBS committee, no longer wished to be the BBS rep. SEH would be our new representative.

Institute of Electrical Engineers asked if the BBS would co-sponsor a colloquium on "Biosensors: a viable monitoring technology!" to be held in Manchester in May/Sept. 1991. This would involve no financial commitment from the BBS. We would publicise the meeting; BBS members would qualify for reduced registration. We were pleased to cooperate and would include material in the next newsletter.

AGM had been held in Southampton on Dec. 19th. This had been inquorate and so had only conducted essential business. New committee members elected were S.E. Harding (Nottingham), D. Ogden (NIMR) and G.R. Bedford (ICI Pharmaceuticals).

91/05 Treasurers Report - DWLH sent a written report

The Society has about £1700 in the current account.

£750 has been donated to the symposium in honour of David Phillips, this was intended to help young scientists to attend. £670 has been received from the Anglo-French meeting (April 1989). Our contribution to the loss incurred by the protein folding meeting has yet to be determined.

Honorary membership DWLH proposed Dr. J.A. Chapman as an honorary member following his retirement as Reader in Biophysics in Manchester. It was agreed to hold this over to the next meeting when we could review our current list of honorary members.

91/06 AOB

PB reported that the EBSA Biophysics Congress was now provisionally scheduled for April 1992.

A list of EBSA member Societies and executive committee would be placed in the next newsletter.

91/07 Date of the next meeting: 1.00 p.m. Thursday 9th May 1991, Birkbeck College.