

BRITISH BIOPHYSICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the 93rd Committee Meeting held on Thursday 9th May 1991 at 1.00 p.m. at Birkbeck College.

Present: GRB, PB, KRF, DWLH, ACTN, DO, HWER, GCKR, MAF.  
Apologies for absence: WF, SH, SEVP.

The chairman welcomed GRB as a new committee member.

91/08 The minutes of the 92nd committee meeting were accepted.

91/09 Matters Arising

Royal Society (91/02). KRF and ACTN had received correspondence from the Royal Society regarding ACTN's position on the IRC (in view of his election to the IUPAB council). The Royal Society acknowledged that membership of the IRC was more ambiguous than intended, but clarified that only senior office holders in an ICSU union would be ex officio members of the IRC.

KRF The Royal Society had since requested suggestions for candidates to the IRC to succeed Prof. Fuller, from January 1992 to December 1995. It was unanimously agreed to nominate ACTN.

HWER Careers in Biophysics. (91/02) HWER had contacted the American Biophysical Society' about their brochure "Careers in Biophysics". These cost \$3.25 to print and they would sell to the BBS at cost price. It would be reprinted at the end of 1991 and would then be charged at a run on cost of \$2.00. It was felt that it was worthwhile pursuing the matter further. There was some discussion concerning the emphasis on American biophysics - we would need to include a flier (or alter the back page) to give data on British biophysics and where to go to study the subject. The possibility of obtaining funds for producing the brochure, from government or educational bodies, was also considered.

KRF "Talking Point" (91/02) No information had been received from the RDS concerning BBS members that had responded.

91/10 Questionnaire.

HWER reported the findings of the questionnaire. 258 members had responded (about half the membership). Fluorescence was the most common technique. In general there was more interest in proteins, structure and function rather than whole cells and organisms. Some suggestions for future meetings had been received: S. Hasnian (Daresbury) offered to organise a meeting on metalloproteins. Barber (Imperial) suggested photosynthesis, Machlahlan (MRC Cambridge) suggested sequence analysis and databases.

91/11 Secretary's report

The Royal Society had notified the BBS that the International Union of Biochemistry wished to change its title to the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

91/12 Treasurers Report £4,500 in the current account. £10,500 invested in Bristol Bonds, £8400 in National Savings. Current expenditure was about £400 per newsletter (3 times per year) as well as financing meetings etc. The BBS was to pay £1000 towards the

£2500 deficit from the protein folding meeting. £750 had been contributed to the symposia in honour of David Phillips (to support young scientists).

The database of members was now complete

91/13 Meeting Secretary's Report

April 1991 - Biophysics of membrane channels and receptors. This had been well attended (approx. 90). There was a possible deficit of £190, which would be made up by the BBS.

The flavour of the meeting had been very biochemical; there was some concern that there was little BBS presence and that it was indistinguishable from a biochemical society group meeting.

December 1991 - Protein Engineering and Design.

The programme is nearly complete, provisional accounts were distributed and discussed. Some sponsorship had been received. More could be obtained; some graphics companies were mentioned. There was some discussion about the registration fee. It was decided that this should be separated from the cost of meals and should be £40 for members, £50 for non members and an additional £10 for late registration. Early registration would be recommended since the refectory could only seat 150. Advertising of the meeting should start immediately ensuring that the BBS was prominent on all posters etc.

March 1992 - Calcium Binding Proteins

A draft programme had been produced, the speakers had been invited and replied. No money was available from the previous joint meeting with the French Biophysical Society. The Royal Society might be approached to provide funds for travel to the meeting. There was some question of what the registration fee would include, and its relationship to the rest of the meeting.

December 1992 - DNA Topology .

No further details were available. Speakers had been invited. Seems to be proceeding OK.

Spring 1993 - Possible joint meeting with the British Crystallographic Association. Further correspondence had been received from Anne Bloomer (BCA) suggesting the Manchester meeting of the BCA in Spring 1993 as a suitable occasion for a joint meeting. This would have a high biological content. Local organisation would be done by the BCA Manchester organisers, the scientific content would be the responsibility of the BBS. Possible topics discussed included muscle and fibrous proteins. DWLH would form a programme committee, although it was realised that in general the BCA were not thinking that far ahead for detailed planning. Another possibility would be metalloproteins (see 91/10). There was concern over the profile of the BBS in the meeting.

KRF July 1993 - IUPAB congress

The Royal Society had written asking for suggestions for the symposia. Possible topics included: New (atomic resolution) techniques (Henderson, Cambridge), Membrane bound proteins (Findlay, Leeds), Antibody engineering and structures. In addition we would make a plea that the organising committee avoid unnecessary clashes between parallel sessions of overlapping interest, and provide opportunity for oral presentations by young scientists.

One day meetings. None organised. Something would be placed in the next newsletter reminding members of the possibility and that

the BBS would contribute £200. Possibly Hasnian could be approached to organise one on a topic related to 'metalloproteins'

91/14 AOB

The Italian Biophysical Society had written to ask for possible cooperation in their Sept. 1992 meeting in Parma. It was felt that our programme was already committed and that these joint meetings could be somewhat contrived. We would be happy to publicise the meeting but did not wish to be involved.

PB showed the French Biophysical Society's directory of members and their interests. Could the BBS produce something similar? It was agreed to go ahead; each member should be contacted to obtain phone number, fax, Email.

Honorary and Emeritus members - KRF would search through previous minutes and report to the next meeting.

91/15 Date of the next meeting: 1.00 p.m. Thursday 3rd October 1991, Birkbeck College.