

BRITISH BIOPHYSICAL SOCIETY  
Minutes of the 94th Committee Meeting held on Thursday 3rd  
October 1991 at 1.00 p.m. at Birkbeck College

Present: PMB, GRB, MAF, KRF, DWLH, ACTN, SEVP, HEWR, GCKR, GT  
Apologies for absence: GM, NB, WF, SEH,  
91/16 The minutes of the 93rd committee meeting were accepted.

91/17 Matters arising

Opportunities and careers in Biophysics (91/09). The  
brochure from the American Biophysical Society would not  
be reprinted before the end of 1991 at the earliest. It  
was again felt that this was a worthy investment. HWER  
to investigate further.

Directory of members (91/14) We should go ahead with  
compiling a directory of members. It was agreed to send  
out the existing list, asking for amendments and  
additions (fax, telephone, Email). This could be  
enclosed with the next newsletter.

Emeritus/Honorary Members. The secretary had searched

through minutes of previous meetings (which were  
incomplete) and discovered that honorary members

included Prof. R.D. Preston, Prof. J. Randall

(deceased), (elected 1981) Professors J. Kendrew, M.

Perutz, & D.D. Eley (elected 1982) and Prof Keynes

(1988). (88/23). This list was probably complete but

would be checked against the remainder of the minutes

which were held by S. Neidle. There was some discussion

about the different between Emeritus and Honorary

members and whether they should have free registration

at meetings and reduced subscriptions. It was decided to

consider the matter further when a full list was

available.  
IRC (Royal Society). ACTN had been appointed to succeed

WF on the IRC from January 1992.

91/18 Honorary Secretary's report

Talking point 10 BBS members had registered with the  
"Talking Point" scheme. This should be publicised in a  
Newsletter.

Royal Society The Royal Society had written concerning

the willingness of the BBS to advise on issues related

to IUPAB. They requested a meeting to discuss possible

mechanisms for transmission of advice and information on

ICSU affairs. It was decided to invite T. Garret, Miss

de Vere and Ruth Cooper to meet the officers and ACTN on

the morning of the next committee meeting.

Current Biology Ltd. Had written asking if we could in

include a review of "Macromolecular Structures 1991" in

the newsletter. It was felt that this should be

considered if they were also prepared to pay for the

inclusion of a flier at the usual rate.

91/19 Honorary Treasurer's report

The current account contained about £4000, representing  
a sensible, healthy reserve.

The Bank of Scotland were no longer returning cheques,

unless specifically requested. It was felt that this was unnecessary, (especially since most members paid by standing order), but DWLH would check with the accountants.

The British Joint Committee for Electron Microscopy were intending to offering travel bursaries (£300) to the European conference on E.M. to be held in Grenada in 1991. It was agreed that we should finance two such bursaries and that the scheme should be publicised in the next newsletter. It would be administered by the BJCEM. In the event of the bursaries not being taken up we would ask for the money back.

91/20

Honorary Meeting's Secretary's report

The final accounts for the Leeds meeting had been received.

December 1991. (Protein Engineering and Design) £1700 industrial sponsorship had been received. To date there were 18 paid up registrants; £3700 in the bank. 70 more registrants were needed to break even.

There was some concern that the publicity had not included the start and finish times of the meeting (important for those travelling long distances), or the programme of speakers. MF would send out a programme on the poster mailing list together with sets of application forms and a call for posters.

March 1992 (Marseille). No money for this had been raised from the UK; it was generally difficult to raise funds for meetings abroad. There were some UK speakers, though there was some question about who had sent out the invitations and what our total liability might be (no more than £2000). The French were trying to raise money from the EEC. The British council might be provide travel money for UK speakers.

Dr. Levine would attend the next committee meeting. Study weekend on Metalloproteins. Dr Hasnain had offered to organise this at Daresbury, 16-18 Oct 1992. The rooms had been provisionally reserved and a list of potential speakers had been prepared. The financial implications of such a meeting were unclear (BBS or SERC). The proposed programme seemed diverse with too wide a theme for a small meeting. In addition GM had written concerning the possibility of such a meeting pointing out that there were already several others planned, in particular ECBICI in Newcastle (July 1992). It was agreed that MF would contact Dr. Hasnain and GM to consider further the need for such a meeting. Would it be a workshop or conference? It was felt best to concentrate on recent advances in technology rather than focus on particular systems.

One day Discussion - Conformation of peptides and

protein binding. This had been put forward by David

Trentham on the occasion of Dr. Michael Green's

retirement. This would be held at NIMR in collaboration

with the Molecular Enzymology Group of the Biochemical

Society. This would qualify for £200 available for one day discussion meetings. Registration would be about £25.

Proteins & DNA Topology (Dec. 1992 - Leicester) Speakers had been invited. An early advertisement in the next newsletter would be circulated showing the names of invited speakers. Andy Bates or Tony Maxwell would attend the next committee meeting to present a draft budget.

Joint meeting with the BCA (March 1993) After some conflict between the Biological structures group of the BCA and the BCA it looks as though this meeting could now go ahead. The BSG part of the meeting would start Wed. afternoon and run to Thurs. evening! the BBS would take over for Friday. The most promising topic is the correspondence (or lack of) between structure determination by NMR and x-ray crystallography. Mark Carr (NIMR) would take care of the NMR side; he suggested Paul Freemont (ICRF) for the x-ray side. The programme would need careful organisation so as not to become just another batch of structures. It was suggested that GCKR should be on the programme committee.

December 1993 onwards. Various topics were discussed including oligosaccharides and recognition, photosynthesis, electrical properties of membrane channels, the cytoskeleton. Preliminary enquiries would be made and considered at the next committee meeting.

91/21 EBSA congress PB explained the proposal for a European biophysical congress. This could be between Budapest (1993) and Amsterdam (1996). 1994 would be the earliest date. It should not attempt to be a mini IUPAB. The driving force for such a congress mainly came from other societies with fewer meetings. There was some discussion of how it might be financed.

The BBS had last contributed to EBSA in 1984 (£100). A similar sum would be given in 1991.

91/22 New committee members and chairman HWER had come to the end of his term as chairman. GCKR was elected as chairman from January 1992. Various names were considered. HWER would approach them to see who would be willing to stand. In addition it was agreed to co-opt Robin Leatherbarrow for the period of his membership of the Molecular Enzymology group.

91/23 The AGM. To be held during the December meeting. MF to arrange the time. To be publicised in the November newsletter.

91/24 AOB. ACTN gave out documents concerning the Budapest congress, asking for comments by 17th Oct. HWER was thanked his work as chairman over the past 3 years.

91/25 Date of the next meeting Thursday 9th January 1992, Birkbeck.