

BRITISH BIOPHYSICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the 97th Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 29th September 1992 at 1.00 p.m. at the Biochemical Society, 59 Portland Place.

Present: PB, NB, MAF, KRF, DWLH, GRM, RL, DO, SEVP, GCKR (in the chair), MS, JMT.

92/18 Apologies for absence: WF, SH, ACTN, GT

92/19 The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted

92/20 All matters arising from the previous meeting were dealt with under separate reports

92/21 Honorary Secretary's Report

i) Relations with other societies. The secretary had written to the Physiological Society, the Biochemical Society and the Institute of Physical Sciences in Medicine (formerly the Hospital Physicists Association) concerning our position as the advisory body for biophysics (especially regarding IUPAB) now that the Royal Society had abandoned this role. Each of these organisations had provided names to contact when seeking advice and would also write to us, when necessary, regarding relations with other international unions.

ii) Faraday Society Dr. L. R. Fisher had contacted KRF and MF concerning the relationship between the Royal Society of Chemistry and the BBS. In particular he was keen to increase the biophysical content of the Faraday Transactions. There was also the possibility of establishing a Biophysical Chemistry interest group within the RSC, which could have formal links with the BBS. It was felt that it would be better if such a group did not form, but that those members of the RSC interested in biophysics should be channelled to the BBS. This might be achieved by placing an article in "Chemistry in Britain". It was also noted that the RSC, with its own secretariat, tended to be expensive. Dr. Fisher would be invited to attend the next committee meeting.

iii) Careers in Biophysics ACTN had corresponded with the ABS concerning their brochure, which would cost over £1 a copy. Significant sponsorship would be required to support this venture and a number of possible sources were considered. We would also need current information about Biophysics courses in the UK to include with the brochure. A note asking for information about biophysics courses in the UK would be included in the next newsletter.

iv) IUPAB - Budapest 1993 ACTN had corresponded with the RS regarding the provision of the block grant to support the attendance of UK scientists. It was anticipated that about 50 UK scientists would be likely to attend. The RS needed to know the level of support from the BBS. It was agreed that we would provide £2000 to support attendance of students who are ineligible for RS support. This would be administered by the BBS. It was felt that it was best to spread this support between several students (10x £200) rather than paying the full costs for any one person (which would be at least £500 at student rates). The BBS would therefore contribute towards the expenses of those students who were not eligible for support from other sources such as research councils. A note asking for applications would be placed in the next newsletter; Applications to KRF by the end of January 1993.

- v) AGM would be held during the December meeting in Leicester. KRF would contact Andy Bates to arrange a suitable time.
- vi) New committee members. NB, WF, SEVP and GT had come to the end of their 3 year periods of office. Four new committee members were therefore required, which should probably be filled by crystallographers. Some possible names were considered, committee members would think further and contact KRF or GCKR with suggestions. Further opinion would be canvassed at a later date.
- MAF had completed 3 years as honorary meetings secretary and no longer wished to continue in that position, though he was willing to continue on the committee.
- vii) Directory of Members DWLH still had much work to do on the database, which would not be ready until sometime in the new year.

92/22 Honorary Treasurer's Report

The Society had about £6500 in its current account.

The BBS had donated £400 to the Metalloproteins meeting in July, organised by Dr. Hasnain. This has been given to support the attendance of graduate students with the condition that a report on the meeting and how the money has been spent should be received by 1st Sept. No report had been received. DWLH would therefore invoice the meeting for the return of the £400.

92/23 Honorary Meetings Secretary's Report

Peptide Ligands as Protein Analogues, Mill Hill, 6th November 1992. 19

Registrations to date. 100 are needed to break even. Would be advertised in the next newsletter.

Proteins and DNA Topology, Leicester, 21-22 December 1992. 30 paid registrations so far. 50 are needed to break even. The meeting is going well and no problems are foreseen.

Joint meeting with British Crystallographic Association, Manchester 1-2 April 1993.

The BBS section of the BCA meeting is organised by Mark Carr (NIMR) and Paul Freemont (ICRF). Mark Carr would attend the next committee meeting.

Oligosaccharides Middlesex Hospital, 20-21 December 1993. Organised by Steve Homans (Dundee) and Liz Hounsell (Northwich Park). Accommodation at Astor college and conference hall in Windeyer Building were booked. There had been little work on the programme yet; this would concentrate on NMR and other biophysical techniques. There was a possibility of adding a day in conjunction with the Molecular Graphics Society who would have a one-day meeting on 22 December on "molecular modelling of oligosaccharides". There was discussion as to whether the subject warranted a three day meeting and whether it would be better to have the entire 2-day meeting jointly sponsored by the BBS and MGS.

Ion Channels: Structure and Function, Middlesex Hospital 29-30 March 1994.

Organised by David Ogden (NIMR) and Mark Sansom (Oxford). The ion channel special interest group of the Physiological Society had been approached with a view to making this a joint meeting.

Future plans The possibility of a joint meeting with the Faraday Society and the December 1994 meeting would be considered at the next committee meeting.

Spring 1995 PMB reported that two ESF meetings on Protein folding and on the cytoskeleton were being held in Spring 1993. It was anticipated that these would be repeated after two years and that with one other subject (organised by the BBS) might