

## British Biophysical Society

Minutes of the 109th Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 15th October 1996 at 1.00 pm. at the Biochemical Society, 59, Portland Place, London.

**Present:** P.M. Bayley, R. Cooke, M.A. Ferenczi, S. Harding, E. Hounsell, D.W.L. Hukins, W.N. Hunter, G.G. Kneale, R. Leatherbarrow, J. Molloy, A.R. Rees, J. Murray-Rust (observer), G.C.K. Roberts, W.A. Thomas, J. Thornton (Chair).

**1. Apologies for absence:** L. Fisher, M. Sansom and D. Hulmes.

**Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted without correction.**

**2. Matters Arising.**

**(i) Secretarial Support.**

JT and WNH had decided on the duties involved and how they could best be organised. WAT was proposed as the successor to WNH as hon. sec. WAT and JM-R would divide the secretarial duties in future. JM-R would be responsible for receiving and organising material for the Newsletter and the WEB page (current WEB pages circulated for discussion). She would also organise the photocopying and mailing of the Newsletter. It was agreed that the sum of £1000 pa. would be set aside to cover the costs of this work and JM-R's time. The other secretarial duties (WAT) would carry on as previously. Several suggestions were put forward for inclusion on the WEB page; (a) information on future meetings plus local organisers etc. (b) a page on "how to organise a meeting", (c) the Society Constitution, (d) a short history of the society (ACTN to be asked to prepare), (e) list of past meetings organised by the Society in the past 2 or 3 years, (f) a list of honorary members of the Society and (g) links to other societies such as RSC and journals eg. Eur. Biophys. J.. Jobs could be advertised through JM-R on the WEB. For legal reasons, a full membership list could not be included. All information for the WEB and Newsletter should be siphoned through JM-R.

**(ii)** Geoff Moore still hadn't replied with a proposed candidate as IBG rep.

**3. Honorary Secretary's Report: presented by WNH.**

**(i)** Funding of the Newsletter could be augmented by allowing advertising by various interested journal and book publishers. Science International, Nature New Biology and Sangam Books Ltd. had already approached WNH. The present policy was to ask for twice the usual rate for advertising. ARR suggested a deal whereby our meetings should be advertised in those journals seeking advertising space. JT suggested other journal publishers should be approached. The general preference seemed to be for some money to be provided to pay for the mail shot in return for free advertising.

**(ii)** The AGM will take place on Thursday 16th Dec. immediately after lunch, during the meeting at UCL on "Current Methods to Characterise Biomolecular Interactions"

organised by RL. At the meeting JT would be put forward for re-election (Chair), proposed by WNH and seconded by PB. WAT would be put forward as hon. sec., EH as meetings sec. and RL to continue as treasurer. As WNH and PB were resigning from the committee, 2 replacements were sought. Strong candidates assuming their agreement were Sheena Radford (Leeds), John Helliwell (Manchester) and Tony Wilkinson (York). SH was resigning as meetings secretary but would like to continue as a Committee member. AAR is due to come off the Committee, and is out of the UK during 1997. However he would like to continue if possible (supported by the Committee). The meeting was reminded that, ideally, retiring officers could be co-opted for a year following resignation. PB would like to retire from the Committee and suggested MAF as replacement EBSA rep. David Hukins (IOP rep.) is also due to retire officially. He is willing to be co-opted but concerned about the expense of attending the meetings. ACTN is already a co-opted member and also secretary general of IUPAB. GCKR is co-opted as rep. on the Learned Societies Cooperation Group for Molecular and Cell Life Sciences. Mark Sansom should be contacted by WNH to find out if he wished to continue in the Committee. If he does resign this leaves three slots on the Committee. As well as the three candidates mentioned above (SR, JH and TW), Tony Watts (Oxford) and Andrew Thomson (UEA) were suggested as possible members. JT and WNH will contact these people.

#### **4. Honorary Treasurer's Report**

(i) RL stated that all members will be asked to change their standing orders for the revised subscriptions. He would investigate the alternative of using Direct Debit as a means of collection. It was agreed that at the same time members could be asked for their e-mail addresses, and also to mention their research interests via a keyword document. RL will organise these additional features. WNH will investigate the tax relief status of BBS membership.

(ii) BBS bursaries were discussed with regard to the request by a Spanish member for assistance to attend the Amsterdam meeting. This was turned down, but the member was offered £100 to attend the UCL meeting in December. It was agreed that bursaries should be "from" or "to" the UK. JT suggested a WEB page to advertise the BBS bursaries.

(iii) GCKR raised the idea of students belonging to a group of societies receiving free registration for meetings of other societies. Therefore it would be useful to have information about our student membership.

#### **Honorary Meetings Secretary's Report**

A busy year was reported for 1996, with three main meetings and three discussion meetings.

(i) "Membrane Structure and Function". Tony Watts reported that the meeting was good with 99 participants and 17 invited speakers. The BBS poster prize went to Carlos Baker (Trinity College, Dublin). Though the venue was not ideal, the content was good.

**(ii)** BBS Discussion Meeting "Current Methods to Characterise Biomolecular Interactions" organised by Robin Leatherbarrow to be held at University College, London on Dec. 16th 1996. Self-financing without requiring a registration fee. All speakers confirmed. Details in the imminent Newsletter, flagged on a WEB page and advertised in Nature. Venue UCL, maximum in lecture theatre 100 participants.

**(iii)** BBS Discussion Meeting with the British Mass Spectrometry Association "From Proteome to Function: The Application of Modern Mass Spectrometry to Biology" April 8th and 9th 1997, at Glaxo Wellcome Medicines Research Centre, Stevenage. Local Organizer Dr Walter Blackstock. This should be classed as a main meeting of BBS. RC will provide a WEB page.

**(iv)** BBS Discussion Meeting "Biophysics Driven by Microscopy" July 11th 1997 (1 day) at NIMR, Mill Hill. Local Organizer MAF. The provisional programme was discussed. Extra topics and speakers were suggested, together with a proposed registration fee of £30 (£15 for students).

**(v)** "Theoretical Basis of Biological Assembly and Organisation" Sept. 14-17th 1997, organised by D. Hulmes and A. Brass, venue, Hulme Hall, Manchester. Accommodation and speakers have been arranged. A budget and program to be tabled at the next meeting. BBs to provide £1000.

**(vi)** "Nucleic Acid Biophysics" Dec. 1997 or Jan. 1998, organized by A. Lane (Mill Hill) and K. Fox (Southampton).

**(vii)** "Joint Meeting with the Biochemical Society (Nucleic Acids Group) Dec. 1998, organized by K. Fox, G.M. Blackburn and G. Kneale.

Following discussion of these meetings (vi) and (vii) Andrew Lane will be asked to attend the next Committee meeting. Regarding (vi) a one day meeting would be better away from Southampton, eg. Mill Hill. JT suggested either a 1 day meeting in Mill Hill or a 2 day meeting in Southampton. Although Dec. 1997 is preferred (to coincide with the AGM) it may have to be in Jan. 1998. Perhaps the joint meeting (vii) could be moved to Spring 1999. GGK to investigate.

**(viii)** EBSA Meeting, Orleans, France, July 13-17th 1997. Organised by the French Biophysical Society. PB (UK rep.) reported progress. This was intended to be a low cost meeting to attract young people.

**(ix)** "Thermostability of Proteins" joint meeting with the RSC in Spring, 1988. Organizer Len Fisher. This was strongly supported by the Committee.

**(x)** The Faraday Soc. would like a joint meeting with BBS on "Interactions at the Cell Surface". Mark Sansom to organize. Doubts were expressed about the Faraday Soc.'s ability to raise matching funds. They should be told that if they can raise matching funds BBS will be interested.

- (xi) Other possibilities for 1998:- (a) A proposed meeting on "Fluorescence Correlation Spectroscopy" mentioned in a Zeiss flyer in the Newsletter (Eddy Goodall). Doubts were expressed about the commercial aspects of this. It could possibly be combined with a meeting on "Light Scattering Spectroscopy" in 1998. SH to investigate.
- (b) "Molecular Motors", a possible 1 day meeting in York in 1998. Justin Molloy to report to the next meeting.

## **AOB**

1. JT announced that there will be a BBS Logo competition with a £50 prize. This should be stated in the next Newsletter, with a closing date Jan. 1997. Decision to be made by the Officers of the Committee.
2. EH tabled a report on the EBSA General Assembly 1996 meeting, Amsterdam. Details to be discussed at the next Committee meeting.
3. GCKR reported from the Learned Societies Cooperation Group preliminary communications. 1st meeting to be held on 2nd Dec. 1996. No information on subscriptions yet, though expected to be <£200. Not all eligible Societies will want to join, therefore a liaison group will have to be formed. A document on "Quality Assurance in Higher Education" was tabled for discussion. The Committee was happy with the basic sentiments presented in the document, but felt GCKR should be empowered to veto any other proposals with which the BBS were in disagreement.
4. RL pointed out that he is retiring as rep. on the Molec. Enzymology Committee. As replacement, Tony Wilkinson would be a possibility.
5. The date of the next Committee meeting is Tuesday 21st Jan. 1997 at 1.0 pm. at the Biochemical Society, 59, Portland Pl., London.