

British Biophysical Society

Minutes of the 115th Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 29th September, 1998 at 1.00 pm. at the Biochemical Society, 59, Portland Place, London.

Present: , M. Ferenczi, G. Grant, S. Harding, E. Hounsell, A. Lane, R. Leatherbarrow, J. Molloy, A.R. Rees, J. Murray-Rust, G.C.K. Roberts, M. Sansom, A.J. Thomson, W.A. Thomas, J. Thornton (Chair), A. Watts.

1. Apologies for absence: Rob Cooke, John Helliwell, Geoff Kneale, Tony North, Tony Wilkinson and Sheena Radford.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting. Corrections included "Sheena" for "Sheila" in Apologies for absence, and the inclusion of Tony Watts under those present at the meeting.

3. Matters Arising.

Under **3 (h)**, the drive for new members, JM-R tabled a list of Institutions which don't have signed up members of BBS. She asked for names from Committee members of people in these Institutions who could be contacted. Ideally the society should have representatives in each of these establishments plus all the pharmaceutical companies. **(Action All Committee members)**

Several examples of headed notepaper with the new BBS logo were circulated and one preferred by the majority was chosen to be reproduced for future use. **(Action JM-R)**

4. Honorary Secretary's Report: presented by WAT.

(i) The question of future adherence to IUPAB was raised and discussed at length. A visit to the Royal Society (WAT) to discuss the problem and subsequent circulation of information by ACTN indicated that BBS and the BCA were the two societies way out of line in having to provide large proportions of their income for future adherence (starting in the year 2000). Several solutions were considered by the committee, the least popular being the raising of BBS subscriptions to counteract loss of income. The following plan of action was agreed:- (a) JT to write to the executive secretary of the RS (copied to Aaron Klug) to see if special treatment could be arranged. A joint letter with the BCA Chairman might be more effective. (b) If unsuccessful, BBS should go down to category 2 in the IUPAB hierarchy for a cheaper adherence subscription. (c) In the long term we should investigate adherence through EBSA, though this might mean less say for the UK in IUPAB matters. **(Action - JT)**

(ii) The committee was alerted to pending resignations at the end of 1998 of three officers (JT, WAT, RL) and the need to find substitutes. SH also informed the committee of his intention to retire from the committee. Possible replacements were briefly discussed **(Action - JT)**

- (e) "New Techniques in Protein Crystallisation" Meeting postponed to later date. Onkar Singh to be invited to next BBS meeting (19th Jan.) **(Action RC)**
- (f) "Molecular Interactions in Complex Assemblies of Proteins and Nucleic Acids", 7-9th April, 1999, Glasgow, organised by GK and Bernard Connolly. Again, advertising material from BBS should be available to the organisers. Preliminary programme presented. £500 plus Bursaries available from BBS. **(Action-GK, JM-R)**
- (g) "Biomolecular Folding and Assembly", 12-14th April 1999, Salford, organised by Paul Higgs. Sponsored by the Inst. of Physics Polymer Physics group, the RSC Thermodynamics group and Unilever Research. Part of the IOP annual congress. EH's lecture to be sponsored by BBS for £100. **(Action - EH)**
- (h) "The Quality of Life" IoB Congress 99. Suggestions for speakers tabled in memo from JH, SH and ACTN. Meeting moved from March '99 to 1-3rd Sept. 1999 at Olympia. There should be a BBS sponsored lecture (£100) **Action, JH, SH, ACTN)**
- (i) "Millenium Meeting" organised by JT. Venue either the Wellcome Trust (they won't commit themselves yet) or UCL. If the latter, the date would be 20/21st Dec. 1999 possibly in the Darwin Lecture Theatre. Much discussion about the possible programme followed with various suggestions for speakers on the key topics. The Committee favoured a broad meeting with one speaker on each topic. **(Action-JT to report at next meeting)**
- (j) "Solvation/Hydration Problem in Biophysics" Organiser SH, to be held possibly in Oxford in Sept., 2000. SH to gather the experts together and produce a programme. BBS to offer £750 hopefully matched by the Biochem. Soc Techniques group **(Action-SH)**
- (k) "Emerging Techniques, Bioimaging, Biosensing and Biodetection", Organiser AJT, venue UEA at Easter 2000. A possible 3 day meeting was envisaged, held in the John Innes LT which holds 320 people. Accomodation for 260 people available. It was agreed that this looked an excellent programme. **(Action-AJT)**
- (l) EBSA Meeting in the UK10. MF has no details yet.
- (m) 2 day Meeting on Membranes in late Dec. 2000, organised by MS (or AW?). This will be the BBS Christmas meeting in 2000. **(Action-MS or AW)**
- (n) Bioredox Activity, organised by GG, to be held in Dublin, Easter, 2001. Theory, analytical aspects and applications would be included. **(Action-GG)**
- (o) Solid State NMR Meeting to be organised. **(Action AW)**

8. UKLSC Matters

GCKR raised three points for consideration :- (1) The need for a 1+3 year structure for Ph.D training. (2) A questionnaire for Committee members. (3) A paper from the UKLSC should be in the Newsletter. **(Action-GCKR, JM-R)**

9. AOB

Since he will not be available for some time AAR should think about a replacement for himself on the committee preferably from Bath. **(Action -AAR)**

(10) Date of next Committee meeting - Tuesday 19th January, 1999.