

**Minutes of the 116<sup>th</sup> Committee Meeting of the British Biophysical Society  
held on 19 January 1999 at the Biochemical Society**

**Present:** R Cooke, M Ferenczi, G Grant, J Helliwell, D Hornby, E Hounsell, A Lane, M Miles, J Molloy, J Murray-Rust, A North, S Radford, M Sansom, M Sternberg, A Thomson, J Thornton, A Wilkinson

**1. Election of new chair**

Andrew Thomson was proposed by Janet Thornton, seconded by Rob Cooke and elected unopposed.

**2. Apologies for absence**

R Leatherbarrow, A Rees, G Roberts, A Watts

**3. Minutes of previous meeting**

Item 7(b) should read: "Computers in Structural Chemistry and Molecular Biology", June 16/17<sup>th</sup> 1998, Manchester. 2 bursaries @ £100 taken up. Due to flight problems Axel Brunger could not attend. Overall there was a deficit of £1400. This was not a BBS problem (cf. email JH to EH).

With this correction the minutes were approved.

**4. Matters arising**

**Item 4 (ii)** Resignations from the committee had been received from Janet Thornton, Tony Thomas, Geoff Kneale and Steve Harding. Steve will continue as a co-opted BBS representative on the Techniques Group of the Biochemical Society. Robin Leatherbarrow resigned as Honorary Treasurer but would continue to serve on the committee. Janet Thornton expressed her thanks to all the retiring members and will write to each of them.

At the AGM in Leeds on January 6 Tony Wilkinson and Rob Cooke had been elected Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary respectively, and Mike Sternberg, David Hornby and Mervyn Miles were elected as new members of the BBS committee.

**Item 5 (ii)** Liz Hounsell has produced new guidelines for meetings organisers.

Judith Murray-Rust has produced a draft list of possible ways for people wishing to advertise through the BBS, and agreed to take on the role of publicity officer.

Judith has also produced a draft letter to be sent to groups throughout the UK with the intention of recruiting new members. Comments on the letter and suggestions for recipients should be sent to Judith. **(Action All)**

A number of potential schemes to attract new members will be presented to the

next meeting.  
**Murray-Rust)**

**(Action J)**

Suggestions as to how members could be retained included having reduced meeting subscriptions accompanied by a direct debit for the following year, and having generally higher registration fees with bigger discounts for membership. The Honorary Treasurer will consider proposals for collecting outstanding membership dues.  
**(Action A Wilkinson)**

**Item 9** Tony Rees would be approached to nominate a replacement for himself on this committee.  
**(Action R Cooke)**

5. **Honorary Secretary's report** (presented by Rob Cooke)

The possibility of the BBS supplying posters for careers conferences would be considered.  
**(Action J Murray-Rust)**

It may also be appropriate to include the text of a recent Nature editorial on the BBS website.  
**(Action J Murray-Rust)**

The possibility of targeting physicists by including a BBS poster with the physics newsletter would be investigated with the IOP.  
**(Action J Helliwell)**

It was decided not to circulate the university teaching questionnaire more widely amongst BBS members.

The suggestion by Gordon Roberts to attempt to have Biophysics represented on an Foresight Associate panel was supported by the committee.

The request from the Alternative Muscle Club for sponsorship of a forthcoming meeting was received favourably. It was decided to offer £250 in bursaries on condition that BBS promotional material be distributed by the Club. A letter would be sent advising the AMC of this.  
**(Action E Hounsell)**

The proposal from Andrew Gibson to host a biophysical meeting at Unilever was greeted with enthusiasm and possibilities will be explored with him.  
**(Action A Thomson and Mark Sansom)**

A delegate should be appointed to represent the BBS at the forthcoming IUPAB congress.  
**(Action A North and A Thomson)**

6. **Adherence to IUPAB**

The committee strongly felt that the BBS should take on adherence to IUPAB from the Royal Society. It was considered that the adherence should be at the top level, and be re-assessed later if necessary. It was proposed by Janet Thornton and

seconded by John Helliwell that the Royal Society be asked to phase in our financial commitment to adherence over three years.

Clarification would also be sought from the Royal Society as to who would pay for the BBS delegate trip to the IUPAB congress.

**7. Honorary Treasurer's report was held over until the next meeting**

**8. Irish sub-section**

Guy Grant raised the idea of a visiting lecturer of Biophysics, speaking at a number of venues, particularly outside Dublin and Belfast. It was nominated by Sheena Radford and seconded by Janet Thornton that Andrew Thompson should represent the BBS in this respect.

**9. Honorary Meetings Secretary's Report** (presented by Liz Hounsell)

"Biophysics Past and Future" December 20-21 1999 will now be held at Birkbeck College. It was agreed that the BBS should guarantee funds of £2000 if required. The organisers were encouraged to adopt a pricing structure with a strong incentive to join the BBS.

A conference on "Emerging techniques" will be held in Norwich on April 16-19 2000, organised by Andrew Thomson and Malcolm Weir.

Onkar Singh has decided not to continue with a proposed meeting on Protein Crystallisation.

A request for the BBS to fund a lecturer at a Biochemical Society meeting in April 2000 on Folding and Design was discussed. It was agreed to support this to a maximum sum of £500, leaving details of the arrangements to the Biochemical Society.

Once the draft versions had been amended the guidelines for meetings organisers will be available for distribution.

**10. Any other business**

Mike Ferenczi reminded the committee that EBSA will become full owner of the European Biophysics Journal in December. EBSA may be able to support speakers at the "Biophysics Past and Future" meeting in December.

**11. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday May 11th**