



*British Biophysical Society – Building Better Science*

<http://www.britishbiophysics.org.uk/>

Registered Charity No. 25474

**Minutes of the 146th Committee Meeting of the British Biophysical Society  
held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2009 at Birkbeck College**

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**MINUTES**

**Present:** Liz Hounsell (Chair); Guy Grant; Mike Ferenczi; Tony Watts; John Seddon.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Julea Butt, Rob Cooke, Chris Cooper, David Hornby, Alison Rodger, Dave Sheehan, Mark Szczelkun, Tony Wilkinson, David Klenerman, Gordon Roberts, Alison Rodger, Claudia Veigel, Mervyn Miles.

It was noted that there were a large number of Apologies. For the next Committee Meeting we will email round the Committee members with 3 or 4 possible dates in the first half of May (around 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>).

**Action: John S.**

**2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the 145<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved.

**3. Matters Arising:**

**2009 EBSA Congress in Genoa.** This should be advertised on the BBS Website, and a link to it inserted. The Registration Fee is €440 (€250 for students). We will offer up to eight BBS bursaries of £250 to PhD students or post-docs, with a limit of one bursary per lab. To qualify, the person should have an Abstract accepted, and must be a member of BBS. Applications should be made using the form on the BBS website, and sent to Guy (check whether form is available on the website).

The deadline of the EBSA Prize nominations needs to be checked (1<sup>st</sup> April) and the potential candidates contacted for their agreement, and for copies of their cvs. The ones chosen will then need to follow the procedure on the EBSA website.

**Action: Liz H.**

**2008 BBS Medal.** Mark Dillingham was proposed by Paula Booth (Bristol). It was noted that Olwyn Byron (Glasgow) may also have a potential candidate to propose. There were other suggestions from the committee.

**Action: Liz H.**

**BBS Website.** It was agreed that the website is badly in need of attention. Dave Hornby should give Liz H and Mark Szczelkun editing rights. It really needs someone dedicated to maintaining the website. Tony suggested that it might be possible to arrange for his secretary to do it on a part-time basis, if she were paid by the BBS for her time spent on it.

**Changes to BBS Committee membership.** It was suggested that Steve Harding and Mervyn Miles might wish to stand down. It was suggested that Paul O'Shea (Nottingham), Mark Wallace (Oxford), Ehmke Pohl (Durham) and a suitable person from Manchester be invited to join the Committee. Other possibilities mentioned were Paula Booth (Bristol) and Dennis Wray (Leeds).

**BBS Support to UK speakers at the 2007 Lisbon joint meeting:** agreed at £150.

**Action: Liz / Dave**

**BSF 2008 subscription:** payment is in hand.

**Action: Liz / Dave**

**Auditing of BBS accounts.** This cost £900 and may not be necessary.

BBS emailing list is out of date. Mike Ferenczi is going to send his UK email list to Guy. JMS to contact Sarah ([Sarah.clare@btinternet.com](mailto:Sarah.clare@btinternet.com)) to see if she has an up to date list.

**Action: Mike / John**

Mike expressed some concerns with the administration of the BBS, and wondered whether we should pay for central administrative support. He noted the poor attendance at today's meeting and suggested that the Chair should point this out to Committee members and check whether they wish to stay on the Committee. He also expressed some concern as to whether the activities of the IOP Biological Physics group could damage the BBS. It was noted that the BBS is closer to Biology than the IOP group.

### **Subscriptions**

- IUPAB is costing us approx £1,400 per year;
- EBSA is costing us approx £600 per year; (2008 subscription has been paid)

- Auditing cost us £900.

These sums should be seen in the context of our income which is approx £4,000.

A request was made to sponsor a European meeting in September 2009 in honour of Ken Holmes. This was judged not to be appropriate, given that it is external to the UK, and he is not a BBS member.

**Photos from EBSA 2007:** Tony will send CDs to John.

**Action: Tony**

**4. Honorary Secretary's Report** (John Seddon)

- ICSU questionnaire to be completed (John), and Royal Society to be invoiced (Dave) for their 2009 contribution to our IUPAB subscription, by 30<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

**Action: John / Dave**

**5. Honorary Treasurer's Report** (verbal report by Liz Hounsell)

- Liz has taken possession of the BBS chequebooks and statements.
- The Investment account is still in Dave's name.
- Signatories to the Current Account to be changed to: Liz, Dave, and John.
- Dave has agreed to stay on as Treasurer for the time being.
- Dave has done the Charity Commission annual form, and has had an audit carried out.
- Why have the BBS funds declined from over £40k in 2006, to £26k in 2008? Ask Dave to review at our next meeting.
- Guy asked whether we should be trying to reduce the Liability of the Office holders, for example by closing down and reopening as a new charity with a smaller limited liability. Tony will ask some Price Waterhouse contacts informally for advice.

**6. Meetings Report** (Guy Grant)

- A request from the German Biophysics Society to hold a joint Meeting in May 2009 was declined, as the time was so short, and May is a very difficult time for most UK academics.
- It was proposed that we should alternate our planned BBS general meetings with the EBSA meetings, from 2010.
- It was noted that Alison Rodger's 2008 Summer Schools were both very successful (approx 40 participants).
- She will run a CD Workshop in December 2009.
- The Durham Biophysics Institute Bio-nanotechnologies Meeting, 26-27 March 2009, (main contact: Sarah Wilbourn) is advertised at:  
<http://www.dur.ac.uk/biophysical.sciences/bio-nanotechnologies meeting/>
- The BBS contribution is agreed at £250. Guy will tell them to invoice us, and ask them to leave a slot for the BBS Prize lecture.
- A Meeting in honour of Gordon Roberts is planned, but will require no sponsorship.

- Registration for EBSA 2009 is now open.
- A meeting on 'Protein Structure and Dynamics' will take place in Essex (Chris Cooper) from 6 – 8<sup>th</sup> September 2009. BBS bursaries to be made available.
- A Meeting on 'Protein-Protein Interactions', jointly with the Biochemical Society, is planned for January 2010 (Organizers: Steve Perkins, David Klenerman and Helen Saibl). BBS bursaries will be made available.

### **BBS 2010 Anniversary meeting plans**

- Date: Mid-July 2010; length: 3 days; venue: Robinson College Cambridge? Lecture theatres hold 270 and 140 people.
- Dual parallel sessions plus Plenaries. The Session Chairs and Plenary lecturers should be chosen by the May 2009 BBS Committee meeting. The Chairs will make up the Scientific Committee, and will select the main topics to be covered. Potential topics include: Motors; Single Molecule Imaging; Ultra-fast Studies of Protein Dynamics; Membrane Protein Structures; Muscle.
- It was suggested that there also should be a historical session: 'Past, Present and Future', involving Honorary Members and BBS Medal winners. Suggestions for Plenary speakers were as follows:  
John Walker; Sydney Brenner; Rod McKinnon; Tim Bliss; Louise Johnson; Iain Campbell; Tom Blundell. Further possibilities mooted were: Aaron Klug; Peter Mansfield; So Iwato; Helen Saibil; Fran Ashcroft; Tom Duke; Jim Barber; Dennis Bray; Roger Tsien; Nigel Unwin.
- The Royal Society is celebrating its 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2010, and we need to check that we will not overlap with any of their activities. The Biochemical Society should also be warned.
- The 2010 BBS Anniversary Meeting should be advertised on the BBS website.

**Action: Liz**

### **7. Irish Sub-section (Dave Sheehan)**

The following names were agreed as possible Irish Tour lecturers:  
David Westhead, Hagen Bailey, and Iain Campbell

**Action: John to forward names to Dave Sheehan.**

A list of previous Irish Tour Lecturers should be put up on the BBS website.

**Action: Liz**

### **8. Biosciences Federation (Liz Hounsell)**

A meeting held at Geological Society on 12<sup>th</sup> Nov 2008, attended by Liz Hounsell and John Seddon. Liz also attended the AGM on December 1<sup>st</sup>. (next meeting in April 2009). It is planned to create a Royal Society of Biology by merging the BSF and the Institute of Biology. We currently pay £446 (£2 per member) to the BSF.

### **9. Honorary Members**

The following names were agreed for 2009: Alan Fersht and Jean Thomas.

Future candidates could include Helen Saibil and Fran Ashcroft.

**Action: Liz**

**10. AOB**

Liz highlighted the changes to BBSRC – loss of BMS – impact on funding biophysics research. There are now only three committees. It would be useful to talk with a BBSRC Panel member (eg, Simon Phillips, ex-Chair) to find out the facts, and then write a letter to BBSRC from the BBS. Tony suggested we should get people onto the Editorial Board of Biophysical Journal and on the Council of the Biophysical Society. It was also suggested that a couple of people should meet with Douglas Kell to complain about BBSRC funding.

**Action: Liz**

**11. Date of the next meeting:** early May 2009 (date to be agreed with Committee members), at Birkbeck College.