



British Biophysical Society – Building Better Science

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Registered Charity No. 25474

**Minutes of the 148th Committee Meeting of the British Biophysical Society
held on Monday 5th October 2009 at Imperial College, Chemistry Dept, room 234**

MINUTES

Present: Liz Hounsell (Chair); Julea Butt, Rob Cooke, Chris Cooper, Mike Ferenczi, Guy Grant, Matthew Hicks, Mark Leake, Ehmke Pohl, John Seddon, Mark Wallace, Tony Watts

In Attendance: Althea Hartley-Forbes

1.	Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Sabine Flitsch, David Hornby, Dave Klenerman, Gordon Roberts.
2.	Minutes of the Previous Meeting The Minutes of the 147 th meeting were approved. Chris clarified his comment made in Matters Arising concerning the BBS linking more closely with Biochem. Soc., and the Minutes have been amended.
3.	Matters Arising: Dr. Jeremy Craven (Sheffield) has been nominated by Dave Hornby to take over from him as Treasurer. His CV has been sent to all members. MF questioned why there was no consultation over the choice of proposed Treasurer. MH asked what the usual procedure is. RC highlighted how things are generally done, however in this case to speed up the process, Jeremy was nominated. It was suggested that Dave remain formally as Treasurer for now, with Jeremy co-opted onto the BBS Committee, shadowing him to learn the ropes. His position should then be ratified at the 2009 BBS AGM. It is strongly advised that both Dave and Jeremy attend the next BBS Committee meeting in January.

	<p>The BBS website is now back up and running, and Geoff Ford is responding well to requests to put up items.</p> <p>Trustee Liability Insurance: Tony gave some feedback. EBSA has decided agreed to purchase this for its office bearers. The BBS Committee is happy to do the same.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: DH/JC</p> <p>The Royal Society's Scientific Unions Committee (SUC): Chris will be taking over from John from 2010, to represent the BBS and its relationship to IUPAB. John has informed the Royal Society of the change.</p> <p>Tony questioned the value of the Biosciences Forum. There will be a meeting at the IOP on 3rd December, with representatives from EPSRC and BBSRC. The EPSRC has agreed to extend LSI signposting up to March '10, which is quite important. Liz will attend the IOP December meeting on behalf of the BBS.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: EH</p> <p>IUPAB subscriptions for 2006-2009: it is still unclear what has been paid, and what has been claimed back from the Royal Society. Liz, Guy, and/or John to go up to Sheffield to meet with Dave and Jeremy to try to get to the bottom of it.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: EH</p>
4.	<p>Chairman's Report (Liz Hounsell)</p> <p>Liz gave feedback on the 2009 AGM, held at the Genoa EBSA meeting in July. There were delegates from Newcastle (3), Durham (1), Nottingham (1), Imperial (2) and Warwick (8). John, Paul and Matthew were also in attendance. Gordon, Rob, Tony and Dave sent their apologies. The Warwick team were very enthusiastic and keen to get involved with the BBS.</p> <p>The 2010 AGM was discussed, venue to be confirmed, probably Robinson College, Cambridge.</p> <p>There was a long discussion about the BBS webpage.</p> <p>The nominations of Alan Fersht and Jean Thomas as Honorary Members of BBS were agreed. Liz has subsequently written to them.</p>
5.	<p>Secretary's Report (John Seddon)</p> <p>Matthew Hicks will be replacing Alison Rogers as the RSC Biophysical Chemistry Group representative on the BBS Committee. Matthew will take over the running of the BBS Newsletter. He needs the BBS electronic membership list, but Sarah Clare has not responded to a request from John for a copy of the list. Matthew was informed that Dave Hornby can provide him with this list.</p> <p>John mentioned that a number of Honorary Members (including John Squire, Peter Bailey and Tony North) had contacted him stating that they had not received any</p>

information recently about BBS activities, and asking to be included in any mail shots.

The Scientific Unions Committee of the Royal Society will send Chris the annual questionnaire which has to be filled in before the BBS Treasurer can invoice the RS in January 2010 for its 49% contribution to our subscription to IUPAB. The Royal Society are changing the way it funds scientific business meetings; in future we will need to anticipate any budget required. Two BBS representatives can be funded to attend the IUPAB General Assembly at the 2011 International Biophysics Congress in Beijing. Mike queried the IUPAB subscription costs met by the Royal Society. Originally, the RS paid 100%, it then cut it down to 60%, and it now pays 49%. John advised that the RS has no current plans to cut this any further.

Dave, Liz and John are the current signatories of the BBS bank accounts.

Tony has been advised by Andrew Dilnot (Principal of St Hughes, Oxford) that we should purchase insurance for the Trustees (Office Holders) of the BBS, rather than dissolving the BBS and reforming. Rob had obtained a quote of £8K for annual insurance; however Tony believes a lower quote can be obtained, and will look into it for us.

Action: Tony

Nominations for the 2010 BBS Young Investigator's Award (age limit: under 35 on 1st Jan '10) to be sent to Liz by 31st December '09. Everyone should be encouraged to nominate candidates. Further details will be placed on the website. The candidate should be agreed before the January 2010 meeting. Tony suggested that an email should be sent to the BBS mailing list re: awards. Guy further suggested that all papers should be sent to the committee. Publicity Officer to send out as part of the Newsletter.

Action: Liz / Matthew

BBS members have free access to the European Biophysics Journal (token is available on the EBSA website) and a 30% discount on Springer books.

Details of the IOP 'Photonic Tools in Biology' Meeting on 7th December are being advertised on the BBS website.

Martin Weik contacted Tony to ask whether the BBS would sponsor student bursaries for a workshop on X-ray radiation damage, to be held in Stanford in March 2010. Tony informed him that although we are happy to advertise it on the BBS website, however it is not normal policy to give bursaries to overseas meetings we are not involved with.

The IOP Biological Physics group will hold a meeting on 'The Physical Cell', 28 – 30th June 2010 at UCL. Mark Leake mentioned that the IOP are keen to have a 2-3 day meeting on 'Physics in Biology' - possibly jointly with the BBS – in September 2010 in Oxford. Mark also mentioned a plan for a 'Single Molecule' Meeting for Easter 2011.

EBSA Congress and General Assembly, Genoa July 2009. Feedback from the Warwick Group indicated that the Plenary lectures were mostly very good. Mike gave a verbal report. At the General Assembly, Mike was voted Treasurer of EBSA. It was agreed to purchase Trustee Indemnity Insurance for members of the EBSA Committee. It was also agreed to increase the size of the EBSA Executive Committee by 4 members. Future EBSA Congress organisers will be co-opted onto the committee. Tony commented that these changes were necessary to ensure continuity, now that the EBSA Congresses are held every two years. The next EBSA congresses will be in Budapest (2011), Lisbon (2013) and Dresden (2015).

Mike queried what is planned to follow on from the 2010 BBS Anniversary Meeting? A number of European Biophysics Societies (eg, France, Germany, Italy, Iberia) now run biennial meetings, avoiding clashing with the biennial EBSA Congress. Guy expects that the BBS will also hold biennial general meetings from 2010, some of which could be joint meetings with other European societies (such as previous successful ones with the French, and Portuguese/Spanish Societies). However it was felt that the 2010 Conference should be just for the BBS, as it as an Anniversary meeting.

Mark Leake queried the involvement of national societies with EBSA. Mike explained that this was via appointment to the Congress Organising Committee, and via the EBSA AGM. Mark stated that the IOP Biological Physics Group has much overlap with the BBS and is interested to have some involvement with future EBSA Congresses. The 2017 Congress is open, so there is enough time to plan, if IOP wishes to bid jointly with the BBS to hold this in the UK. Mike mentioned that EBSA will only recognise one national body. For example, Italy has two biophysics societies, but only one is recognised by EBSA. Mike encouraged the IOP group members to participate in the 2010 BBS meeting and to become BBS members. Tony pointed out that Mark is the IOP rep on the BBS committee. Mark mentioned the possibility of an IOP Satellite Meeting at the Budapest 2011 EBSA Congress.

It was suggested that the IOP should sponsor travel bursaries for attendance at BBS 2010 and this will be reciprocated for the IOP meeting in September 2010.

Professor Jim Deuchers, Institute of Membrane and Systems Biology, Leeds informed us of the sudden death of Professor Dennis Wray on 18th August 2009 following a paragliding accident. An obituary should be inserted in the next BBS Newsletter. Peter Henderson, John Findlay or Jim Deuchers could be asked to provide this item.

6. **Treasurer's Report (Dave Hornby)**

Absent from meeting, no report presented.

7. **Meetings Secretary's Report (Guy Grant)**

2009

A report on the Durham Bionanotechnology meeting should be requested from Sarah Wilbourn.

Action: Guy

July: EBSA 2009, Genoa. MF to write something on EBSA 2009 for the BBS Newsletter. It was felt that it didn't work as well as the London 2007 EBSA Congress; it was rather restricted in scope, eg, no NMR. Tony suggests requesting reports from at least 3 students who were awarded travel bursaries.

Action: Liz / Matthew

September 23rd: An NMR Meeting was held in honour of Gordon Roberts, Leicester (Chair: Mark Carr). Gordon should be asked to write a report. BBS support was reduced since the meeting went from 2 days to 1 day. There were 80 – 100 people in attendance, good talks, overall successful.

Action: Gordon

December 16 – 18th: Mark Leake is co-organising a Meeting in Oxford, supported by IOP, on 'Quantitative Imaging in Systems Biology'. BBS to advertise this. BBS to display pull up poster and cards, and meeting details to be put on BBS website.

2010

January 11th – 12th: Joint meeting with Biochemical Society: 'Experimental approaches to protein:protein interactions'; University of Sheffield (Mike Williamson and Mike Sutcliffe). Guy hasn't heard anything, but Chris assumes this is happening. No request to BBS for any funding.

July 16th – 18th, BBS 50th Anniversary Meeting, Robinson College Cambridge.

2011

Sept 7th – 9th: 'Protein Structure and Dynamics', Essex (Chris Cooper). Proposal has been approved by Biochem Soc. BBS support requested - Chris wants to badge it as a joint meeting with BBS. Chris also suggested that the IOP could be involved. Suggestion to Mark to have Easter 2010 as a day as part of this meeting. Guy Suggests Mark to bring his proposal to the next BBS Committee meeting in Jan 2010. Chris suggests the BBS sponsor a speaker; Guy proposed BBS sponsorship of £500, and this was agreed.

2012

A Faraday Discussion on 'Lipids and Membrane Biophysics' has been approved by the Faraday Division of the RSC. The Chairman is John Seddon, and a venue has yet to be confirmed. We need a 150 seat lecture theatre with a small area for posters. The Royal Society and the RI are both rather expensive; Royal College of Physicians is one possibility; Guy suggested the Brunei Gallery of SOAS, which is rather cheap. John to keep Guy posted.

Guy asked whether Durham would be interested in organising the 2012 BBS biennial General meeting, and linking it to the opening of the Biophysical Sciences Institute? Ehmke responded positively to this suggestion.

8. **‘BBS 2010’ Meeting Plans (Guy Grant)**

Organising committee: Guy (Chairman), Liz and John. We need someone to look after the Website / Publicity. Guy and Matthew to discuss how to set up and then filter through to David Klenerman’s secretary who is the conference administrator. The website should be continuously updated with information on the conference.

Action: Mark Wallace

John has offered to look after Sponsorship. The BBS letterhead, including the charity number, should be used when writing to sponsors.

Action: John

Rob, Ehmke and Mike to send John lists of names of potential sponsors.

Action: Rob, Ehmke, Mike

It was suggested that we take secure payments using PayPal, which is completely international; the exchange rate is also good. A supplement should be charged to cover charges, if participants pay by bank transfer. David Klenerman’s secretary and Guy to sort out setting up PayPal.

Action: Guy / David K

Chairs, Co-chairs and Sessions are now in place. The Plenary speakers are about to be invited.

Action: Guy to invite Plenary speakers

Mike commented that the structure of the Conference is looking very promising.

Budget

This will be based on the following:

Registration fee of £150; Accommodation £100 per day. 150 delegates paying full registration. Overall meeting will cost £350.

Membership, registration is £150, non members registration is £165.

Honorary Members and Emeritus scientists will have free Registration, however they will pay the other costs.

Plenary speakers: BBS will pay Reg. Fee and Travel costs up to a specified amount. Chairs and invited speakers: Registration fee covered. Guy wants to make this conference attractive to students. Tony suggests they pay £5 registration, with automatic membership of BBS. Cheap accommodation will be available.

Conference dinner – after dinner speaker needed.

For the ‘Past, Present and Future’ session (2.5 hours), Tony suggests something in

	<p>the line of: Past: History of the Society (Tony North); Present: BBS Medal Lecture; Future: visionary lecture (Chris Dobson, Alan Fersht, Justin Molloy, Tim Richmond, Andrew Thomson). Any further suggestions to be sent to Tony.</p> <p>Honorary Member's should be contacted to inform them about the Conference. Action: personal letters from Liz</p> <p>Will we organise a BBS Committee & Honorary Member's dinner?</p>
9.	<p>Publicity Officer / Website Matthew Hicks will check with Alison Rogers who maintained the website in the past. The aim is to maintain continuity in terms of layout. Matthew to work on existing format. Matthew to ask Sarah re: email contacts to website. Geoff.Forbes@Sheffield.ac.uk is currently looking after the BBS website. The website set up by commercial company, Dave and Geoff are currently paying for any web work. Liz will contact Matthew to bring him up to speed with things. Sarah can be contacted via Birkbeck College.</p>
10.	<p>Irish Sub-section (Dave Sheehan) Absent from meeting. Helen Saibil has been invited for the 2009 Irish lecture tour.</p>
11.	<p>Biosciences Federation (Liz Hounsell) No report. The BSF will become part of the new Society for Biology, which is trying to get a Royal Charter. They have not yet appointed a Chair. Liz has asked Dave to send a cheque for £380 as the BBS subscription up to the end of 2009. We will need to make a decision as to what we want to do beyond then in terms of membership.</p>
12.	<p>Honorary Members (Liz Hounsell)</p> <p>The nominations of Alan Fersht and Jean Thomas for 2009 have been ratified.</p> <p>Suggestions for 2010:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chris Dobson; 2. Janet Thornton; 3. Fran Ashcroft; <p>Dave Stuart and Helen Saibil were also named as possibilities for the future.</p> <p>Note added later: Professor Venkatraman Ramakrishnan (Cambridge) has been added to the list.</p>
13.	<p>AOB None</p>
14.	<p>Date of the next meeting: 12.30, Monday 11th January 2010, in room 234, Chemistry Department, Imperial College.</p>