



British Biophysical Society – Building Better Science

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Registered Charity No. 25474

**Minutes of the 150th Committee Meeting of the British Biophysical Society
held on Thursday 6th May 2010 at Imperial College, Chemistry Dept, room 234**

MINUTES

Present: Anthony Watts (Chair), John Seddon, Mike Ferenczi, Guy Grant, Ehmke Pohl, Gordon Roberts, Julea Butt, Liz Hounsell, Jeremy Craven, Mark Wallace, Paul O'Shea, Dave Klenerman, Matthew Hicks, Dave Sheehan.

In Attendance: Althea Hartley-Forbes

1.	<p>Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from, Rob Cooke, David Hornby, Mark Szczelkun, Sabine Flitsch, Chris Cooper, Mark Leake.</p>
2.	<p>Minutes of the Previous Meeting Tony Watts opened the meeting explaining he will be taking over as chair from Liz Hounsell.</p> <p>The Minutes of the 149th meeting were approved. Amendments were made as follows: Minute 149.1: Paul O'Shea not noted in apologies for absence.</p> <p>Chairman's Report Mark Leake is the 2010 BBS Young Investigator Award winner. He will give a talk at the BBS anniversary conference in July, where the Award will be presented.</p> <p>BBS Newsletter – Tony thanked Matthew for all his hard work.</p> <p>Society of Biology launch – This was held at Fishmonger's Hall, and Liz and John attended. Paul Nurse and David Attenborough gave the opening talks. The BBS Committee are yet to confirm whether to continue BBS membership. Jeremy confirmed that the 2010 subscription of £420 has been paid.</p>

3.	<p>Matters Arising: No new matters.</p>
4.	<p>Chairman's Report (Liz Hounsell / Tony Watts) Liz gave a summary of her last Chairman's report.</p> <p>Julea Butt will be attending Faraday Discussion 148 in Nottingham in early July. She will take along the BBS stand-up banner and BBS postcards, and then bring them to the BBS Cambridge meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Julea</p> <p>A discussion was held about the BBS website, whether to keep it hosted at Sheffield (Jeremy to make a note to pay the £40 annual subscription for hosting it), or move it to Oxford. Tony to discuss further with Mark what needs to be done. Mark has access to all invisible BBS files, 8/9 old Newsletters, and BBS Minutes that are not currently visible.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Tony & Mark Wallace</p> <p>A photograph of the BBS Committee will be taken at the BBS meeting in July.</p> <p>The next BBS Newsletter to be produced just after the Cambridge meeting in July.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Matthew</p> <p>A new BBS contact at the Society of Biology will be needed from the Committee. Tony suggested that Mike Ferenczi would be ideal, if he is willing to take it on.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Tony</p> <p>Young Investigator's Award A medal is being sorted out, and Mark Leake will also be presented with a cheque at the meeting.</p> <p>The next Award will be in 2012, and nominations will be required in autumn 2011.</p> <p>Liz announced that she is standing down from the Committee with immediate effect. Tony thanked her for representing BBS during her time as Chair, and wished her every success in the future on behalf of the BBS Committee.</p>
5.	<p>Secretary's Report (John Seddon)</p> <p>Previous BBS Minutes John has located copies of the following Minutes: 28 – 36; 79 – 91; 97 -100; 103 – 104; 106; 111 – 112; 116 - 149. These will be uploaded to the BBS website.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: John & Mark W</p> <p>IUPAB John informed the Committee that copies of IUPAB News No. 55 have been received. See also Treasurer's report below.</p>

Society of Biology

We have joined the Society of Biology and paid the first year's subscription. They currently have 80K members, but this includes for example all RSC members (46K). When it comes up for renewal we must reassess whether we benefit from this membership. The Biosciences Federation at the start had a good voice; the SoB is much bigger and contains other biological societies. The Institute of Biology did have some status, i.e. when the Government wanted information on biological issues, they consulted it. The BBS will need a representative to attend SoB meetings, that are usually held in London; Mike Ferenczi to be approached.

Action: Tony

Trustee Liability Insurance

This needs to be actioned via Jeremy. Liability Insurance is an issue that faces all societies. Two insurance companies have been suggested. Mike is currently dealing with similar insurance for EBSA. The premium is approximately £200 and this covers legal costs. Jeremy to try to get in place by the July conference.

Action: Jeremy

Sponsorship for BBS Anniversary Meeting

John has so far raised £10K in sponsorship money from IUPAB, EBSA, Agilent, Asylum Research, Avanti, CUP, Garland Science, Molecular Dimensions, Newport, PCCP, Science, Springer, and Varian. Elsevier were not interested in sponsoring but offered a collaboration whereby they would develop new services for our membership. Committee response after discussion was not to pursue such a collaboration.

Proposal for a 'British Biophysics Association'

Judith Howard (BCA and Durham BSI) put together a one page paper with her suggestions for increasing the cohesion between the various biophysics communities in the UK. Judith's idea was for all UK groups with an interest in biophysics to come together under a common umbrella association. Judith, Athene Donald, Tony, John and Matt met at the Royal Society on 26th March to discuss this proposal further. Athene will be attending the BBS meeting in Cambridge in July, so we can explore further the possibilities for joint activities. A joint IOP / BBS meeting should be planned for the coming year, organised by Mark Leake.

BBS outreach to wider community

Julea Butt commented that there is a large ESR community is large and it would be good if the BBS engaged more with them. Tony suggested that Julea speak to contacts in the East Anglia area, and possibly arrange a Meeting. Julea to prepare a short report and send to John.

Action: Julea Butt

Mike suggested that perhaps EBSA would sponsor a UK speaker to go on a European Lecture Tour. This can be discussed further at the July Meeting.

IOP Biological Physics Group Minutes

Tony summarized the Minutes of the last IOP Committee, which Athene has supplied to him. The Minutes can be circulated to the BBS Committee.

Action: Tony / John

L'Oreal Unesco Women in Science award (senior).

Alicia Alonso asked for suggestions for candidates. The Deadline has already passed but nominations have been slow so the deadline has been extended. Some possible UK nominations were proposed.

John to forward names to Alicia.

IUPAB

BBS should decide to reduce its category of IUPAB membership, as it is too expensive for us (approx 60% of our annual income from subscriptions). If we went down from category 1 to 2, the fees would go down from 4500 euros to 2250 euros, with 49% paid by the Royal Society. If a 'British Biophysics Association' were set up, would it join IUPAB and pay the Category 1 subscription currently paid by the BBS?

The Honorary members will need to be consulted before the BBS Committee goes ahead with any move to reduce our Category of IUPAB membership. Tony suggested we should anyway wait till after the Beijing Congress, so that we still have 3 delegates at the IUPAB General Assembly.

Paul commented that **IUPAB** is planning to set up a Biological Physics group.

6. Treasurer's Report (Jeremy Craven)

Jeremy was welcomed by the Committee. He gave an overview of the accounts and went through the spreadsheets covering the last 3 years. He explained that the accounts are a bit awkward because a large fraction of the payments that pertain to a particular year's activity may be made in another financial year. The Financial year ends on 30th June '10. The accounts for end of June 2008 and 2009 are ready to be signed off, and then put on the BBS website. The accounts met the deadline for 2009 of the Charity Commission. The 2010 spreadsheet is work in progress. Year-end deficits: 2007/08 - £11K, 2008-09 - £4.5K and estimated for 2009-10 - £3K.

Jeremy presented a brief overview of the accounts over the last 7 months. He stated that we only need to produce a statement of receipts and payments to the Charity Commission as our income is under £10K. Dave K informed us of the template used by the RSC to run their accounts. Dave has sent template to John who will forward it to Jeremy.

Action: John

Mike asked about the possibility of using Cloud-based spreadsheets, which would give the Committee access to the financial information eg, via Google Cloud. There are online accounting packages such as software Clearbooks and WinWeb. The suggestion is to have a confidential part of the BBS website for the

	<p>BBS accounts. Jeremy to look into the option of Cloud-based spreadsheets so accounts can also be available to trustees. Jeremy also suggests that the Minutes should contain an overview of the Accounts.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Jeremy / John</p> <p>Jeremy received a big thank you from Tony and all around the table for his hard work in producing a very good set of accounts.</p> <p>IUPAB</p> <p>It appears that we haven't paid IUPAB for 2006 or 2007 (4,500 euros each), although we have paid for 2008 and 2009, and the bill for 2010 has arrived. Jeremy confirmed that the 49% IUPAB contributions have been received from the Royal Society for the last 5 years (2005 – 2010). The spreadsheet of our current balance doesn't include the outstanding £8K for IUPAB 2006 and 2007.</p> <p>The BBS subscription to EBSA is acceptable, and is scaled to our size.</p> <p>If we want to stay within IUPAB, then BBS needs to increase its membership, and/or share the cost.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Tony</p> <p>Guy is hoping that the July meeting will have two positive effects: publicity for BBS that will increase membership, and direct generation of funds.</p> <p>Membership Secretary</p> <p>Jeremy suggested that someone is needed to work solely on membership, and look after the administrative side of things pertaining to the membership list. Ehmke Pohl agreed to take on the role of BBS Membership Secretary.</p> <p>Everyone who attends the July Meeting will be given BBS membership, and direct debits will be set up.</p> <p>After the July meeting we need to collate and merge the various BBS membership lists. Guy sent Dave Hornby a list of 75 people who were signed up at the Durham meeting in Mar 2009. It would be helpful if Matt, Liz and Jeremy can send their most recent membership lists to Tony for merging into a single master list.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Matt, Liz and Jeremy</p>
7.	<p>Meetings Secretary's Report (Guy Grant) 2010</p> <p>Jane Grasby from Sheffield contacted Guy, requesting a donation of £3K towards the NACON V111 Meeting, 12th – 16th September 2010. It was agreed that the BBS is not in a financial position to offer any support.</p> <p>Workshop on Hydrodynamic and Thermodynamic Analysis of Macromolecules, 20 – 24th September 2010 (Tony Watts) is 2/3 full. They will display the BBS logo as an endorsement of the Meeting. No support requested.</p>

2011

Julea to speak to the ESR Group for a possible meeting in early spring 2011. She is attending the IBDG (Inorganic Biochemistry Group) Committee meeting in the near future and will discuss a possible meeting there.

Action: Julea

Protein Structure and Dynamics, 7th – 11th September 2011 (Chris Cooper). £500 contribution from BBS requested.

A Biophysics meeting on Functional Optical Imaging is planned for December in Ningbo, near Shanghai, China (Paul O'Shea, BIOS, Nottingham). The 2013 meeting will be in Kuala Lumpur.

IUPAB Congress, Beijing, Oct/Nov 2011.

Guy highlighted the gap between the 2011 and 2012 meetings, and the need to keep momentum if we are to raise our profile, and be able to raise our membership fee. We need to demonstrate to our members that the Society is active. Ideally we need a meeting in Spring 2011.

Tony spoke about the possibility of an AFM workshop. Workshops can be heavily over-subscribed and a great gain for BBS without treading on other Societies' toes. Workshops and specialist meetings would work in between biennial conferences.

Tony suggested that BBS should offer administrative costs to meeting organisers from meeting revenues.

Paul has raised significant sponsorship for meetings in the past. Paul to send John names of Bioimaging contacts as potential sponsors for the Cambridge Meeting.

Action: Paul O'Shea

Paul strongly advises the BBS to take the opportunity to make stronger connections with China, Japan and Australia. Paul to inform John of potential contacts in Kuala Lumpur for John when he's there in April 2011 as a Visiting Professor at the University of Malaya.

Action: Paul O'Shea

2012

A Faraday Discussion on *Lipids and Membrane Biophysics* (John Seddon) will be held 2nd – 4th April 2012 at Burlington House, London. [Now moved to 11th – 13th September 2012].

The next biennial general BBS meeting in 2012 might be held in Durham at the Biophysical Sciences Institute.

<p>8.</p>	<p>2010 BBS Meeting Plans (Guy Grant) Guy gave an update following on from a planning meeting held with Tony and John. Currently we are one speaker down in the Motors section. Guy has asked Mark Szczelkun to find another speaker.</p> <p>Committee members will not be charged a fee for the Meeting. Currently to date we have only 12 full registrations, and Early Bird registration ends on 31st May. Before the end of the Early Bird period a reminder email will be sent to all mailing lists and institutions (on Monday 24th May).</p> <p>Expenditure so far is estimated at approximately £9K. We need 60 registrations to break even.</p> <p>Pauline Harrison is working on a history of BBS, which needs updating by Dave Hornby (needs to be personalised). This could be bound in the printed Meeting Programme.</p> <p>Paul suggested getting in touch with the main funding councils; he currently has a dialogue with BBSRC for support. John has already contacted EPSRC, BBSRC, and MRC for sponsorship, however to date there has been no response. Tony to invite the Research Council Heads (also STFC) to attend or send a nominee.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Tony</p> <p>Dave Klenerman and Liz Hounsell cannot make the BBS Dinner. All Committee members except Liz will be attending the July meeting. Invitations also to be sent to Athene Donald and Judith Howard.</p> <p>We have currently received requests for 1 EBSA and 1 IUPAB bursary.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Newsletter (Matthew Hicks); Publicity Officer / Website Matt welcomed contributions for the BBS Newsletter. He has written to people inviting them to contribute 'a day in the life' half page biographical articles. The next Newsletter will be directly after the Cambridge meeting. It will include the Young Investigator Award winner's lecture, as well as highlights from the Cambridge meeting. Tony suggested that Matt take a dictaphone to the Cambridge Meeting to record the Plenary speakers and to conduct short interviews, eg, with Chris Dobson. The Newsletter will be put up on the website. Matt to send to RSC; Mark Leake can distribute to IOP.</p> <p>Matt to email/liaise with Mark W to upload the BBS Newsletter onto the website.</p> <p>BBS Website Mark Wallace has agreed to look after the BBS website.</p> <p>A photo of the BBS Committee should be taken at the Cambridge meeting for the BBS website.</p>

	<p>The Midlands Biophysics Network held a Symposium at The University of Leicester on 21st April 2010, <i>From Single Molecules to Complex Assemblies</i>. There were 120 attendees, and the BBS banner was displayed. Paul O'Shea gave positive feedback on the speakers.</p>
10.	<p>Irish Sub-section (Dave Sheehan) An overview of the Irish Sub-section was given; the BBS Committee member from Ireland coordinates activities such as the Irish Lecture Tour, to promote biophysics links with mainland UK.</p> <p>Suggestions of possible Irish Tour Lecturers for 2010 were given.</p> <p>A very positive report was received on the 2009 Tour of Helen Saibil (Birkbeck). She gave lectures in Cork, Dublin and Belfast. Dave suggests that John writes to the two other local organizers to thank them. Dave is putting together a list of previous Irish Lecture Tours, dating back to 2003. John to check BBS Minutes for any details of a 2006 Lecture Tour, which seems to be missing from Dave's list. Action: John</p>
11.	<p>Honorary Members (Liz Hounsell) New Honorary Members are to be ratified at the next BBS AGM:</p> <p>Fran Ashcroft; Chris Dobson; Janet Thornton; Venki Ramakrishnan</p> <p>Mike asked whether the list of Honorary Members on the BBS website can be updated so as to have the most recent listed first. Action: Mark</p>
	<p>AOB Liz asked Gordon and Mike how things are going with the Encyclopaedia of Biophysics; Gordon replied that things are going well.</p> <p>Paul suggested we should engage more strongly with BBSRC on interdisciplinary research.</p> <p>The 2010 BBS AGM will be held at the BBS Anniversary Meeting in Cambridge at 12 noon on 16th July 2010, in the Auditorium.</p>
13.	<p>Date of the next meeting Thursday Sept 23rd 2010 – next BBS Committee meeting at Imperial College.</p>