

# British Biophysical Society

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

Registered Charity No. 25474

**Minutes of the 152<sup>nd</sup> Committee Meeting of the British Biophysical Society  
held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2011 at Imperial College London, Chemistry Dept.**

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## MINUTES

**Present:** Tony Watts (Chair), John Seddon, Mike Ferenczi, Guy Grant, Rob Cooke, Jeremy Craven, Julea Butt, Chris Cooper, Ehmke Pohl, Tharin Blumenschein

**In Attendance:** Althea Hartley-Forbes

1.	<p><b>Apologies for Absence</b> Apologies received from: Matt Hicks, Mark Leake, Paul O'Shea, Dave Sheehan, Mark Szczelkun, Sabine Flitsch, Mark Wallace, Dave Klenerman, Gordon Roberts</p>
2.	<p><b>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b> Tony welcomed Tharin Blumenschein, UEA as a new Committee member, and introduced the Committee to her. Tharin's research involves NMR of disordered proteins. She was previously involved with the American Biophysical Society, where she held the position of Chair of the "Early Career Committee".</p> <p>The Minutes of the 151<sup>st</sup> BBS Committee meeting were approved. An unedited version was sent to BBS Committee members and an edited version will go on the BBS website.</p> <p>Tony went through the Minutes, leaving out those items that were on the Agenda.</p> <p><b>Young Investigators Award:</b> Tony apologised for not sending details of the 2010 winner, Mark Leake, forward to Nature for potential inclusion as a Q&amp;A.</p> <p>Chris clarified the situation regarding the Royal Society's contribution to our subscription to IUPAB. The RS have not sent out the questionnaire for this year and he is not sure whether payment for our 2010 subscription has been made. He informed the committee that the RS has not yet committed to paying for one delegate to attend the IUPAB AGM in Beijing.</p> <p>Correction made to Secretary's Meeting Report '2012'. IBDG is not a joint meeting; BBS have a sponsored session. Chris has publicised the meeting, but</p>

	<p>the BBS logo is not on the flyer. However, Chris emphasised that the logo should be advertised in conjunction with this meeting.</p> <p>Suggestions were solicited for a meeting in the North of England. <b>Action: Tony</b></p> <p>BBS logo – Designed by Tony North who won the competition at the time. Tony suggests running another competition for the new logo. Ehmke encourages this and suggests all students that enter will receive free membership for 1 year and the winner can be mentioned at the 2012 meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Action: Mike</b></p> <p>Honorary Members – Tony asked the Committee to think of nominations for new Honorary Members, for discussion later in the meeting.</p>
3.	<p><b>Matters Arising:</b> No new matters.</p>
4.	<p><b>Chairman’s Report (Anthony Watts)</b></p> <p>The Irish Lecture Tour will be undertaken by Prof Judith Armitage, Biochemistry, Oxford in late March 2011. Lecture will be about their single molecule studies of flagella motion in bacteria. Dave Sheehan to coordinate.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Action: Dave Sheehan</b></p> <p>The newsletter was sent out with two pieces written by the Chair (a “Welcome” and a report on the July meeting), and announcing the new subscription rates from 2011.</p> <p>A meeting with the new chair (Andrew Turberfield, Oxford) and the BBS/loP rep (Mark Leake, Oxford) of the loP Biological Physics Group was held on November 5<sup>th</sup>. It was agreed to continue lines of communication between BBS and the sub-group, and endeavour to organize some joint events in the future. Subscriptions to EBSA and IUPAB were discussed but without any change in the present situation or a commitment to contribute for any representation at the IUPAB Beijing meeting.</p> <p>The next biennial BBS meeting in 2012 at the BSI, Durham, has been mentioned informally to Judith Howard (acting-Director), but a more formal approach will be made when the new Director is in post. Tony to email Judith Howard with copy to Ehmke to find out further details regarding plans for the 2012 meeting. It is suggested to hold the meeting in the first half of July, ideally early in the week and avoiding the weekend. Ehmke informed the Committee that Sarah Wilbourne, who was heavily involved in running the Durham Nanobiotechnology Meeting, has moved to Biology; however he hopes he will get some secretarial support during the planning of the 2012 Meeting. Ehmke to start the process.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Action: Tony, Ehmke</b></p> <p>Another industrial representative is being sought – more nominations are welcomed.</p>

5.	<p><b>EBSA Activities (Anthony Watts and John Seddon)</b>          Tony gave an update and referred to a letter he and John have received from EBSA, which John summarised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EBSA request that EBSA activities be a standing Agenda item at BBS Committee meetings and they would like us to discuss EBSA Minutes and Actions.</li> <li>• Budapest EBSA Congress to be advertised, and national societies are asked to make bursaries available. The Registration Fee for the Budapest meeting is 400 Euros, and this includes events. The BBS will provide up to £1000 to cover five bursaries of £200.</li> <li>• EBSA would like to put teaching opportunities on its website, and requests any relevant information. For example, Sheffield has just introduced an MSc in Mechanistic Biology, and the Durham BSI is planning an MSc in Biophysical Sciences.</li> <li>• The 2013 EBSA Congress will be held in Lisbon, and the 2015 one in Dresden. They invite bids to host the 2017 meeting, possibly jointly with IUPAB, with a preference for a northern European site. Mike asked whether Edinburgh was keen on organising the 2017 Congress. Tony explained that the Edinburgh International Conference Centre is very keen on getting the business, but that no local academics had expressed any interest in bidding to organise the Congress.</li> </ul>
6.	<p><b>Secretary's Report (John Seddon)</b>          The previous BBS Minutes have been circulated and the Edited Minutes are to be put up on BBS Website. John is still trying to locate some of the early BBS Minutes; Rob suggested contacting Julie Goodfellow who may be able to help. Rob proposed listing previous Presidents and Secretaries on the BBS website.  <b>Action: John</b></p> <p>Congratulations to Tony on becoming a Fellow of the RSC (FRSC) and of the Institute of Physics (FInstP).</p> <p><b>BBS Committee meetings:</b> John proposed that we reduce the frequency to two per year, in March and September. This was discussed. The consensus of members present was to remain with 3 meetings per year, in January, May and September. Jeremy requested that the January meetings be scheduled a bit later, i.e. mid-month.</p> <p><b>IUPAB:</b> We need to identify the BBS delegates for the IUPAB General assembly at the Congress in Beijing, 30 Oct – 3 Nov 2011. After this Congress, we will probably reduce the category of BBS membership of IUPAB. Tony Watts will be attending, with 2 other delegates yet to be confirmed, but could include Paul O'Shea and Mike Ferenczi. <b>Action: Tony</b></p> <p><b>Newsletter:</b> John expressed a huge thanks to Matt in his absence, Ehmke and Tony for getting out the BBS 2010 Newsletter #2 before Christmas (600 copies posted).</p>

	<b>Young Investigator Award for 2012</b> – nominations not due until late 2011.
7.	<p><b>Treasurer's Report (Jeremy Craven)</b></p> <p>Jeremy gave an overview of his report as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have not received information about final surplus from BBS 50<sup>th</sup> symposium.</li> <li>- Need to sort out payment of 2009 and 2010 EBSA subscriptions.</li> <li>- In next few weeks expect main batch of membership subs to come through (at old rate). Ideally would like to get membership up by at least 100.</li> <li>- For 2010 our net contribution to membership subs of IUPAB, EBSA and SoB (Society of Biology) will be £2800 net contribution (assuming we maintain SoB membership).</li> </ul>
8.	<p><b>Meetings Secretary's Report (Guy Grant)</b></p> <p><b>2011</b></p> <p>March: European Peptide Society / RSC Peptide and Science Group 'Peptide Arrays' Meeting, London, 15 – 16 March 2011. It was agreed to contribute £300, in return for badging, and for displaying the BBS banner.</p> <p>April: RSC Annual ESR Meeting, York, 3 – 7 April 2011. BBS will sponsor two £100 poster prizes.</p> <p>April: John Seddon is co-organising a one-day 'Soft Matter / High Pressure X-ray Scattering' Workshop at Diamond Light Source from 27 – 28 April 2011; this will be in association with BBS, but no funding is requested.  <a href="http://www.diamond.ac.uk/Home/Events/Pressure_Workshop.html">http://www.diamond.ac.uk/Home/Events/Pressure_Workshop.html</a></p> <p>June: Workshop on Fluorescent Imaging; University of Cambridge (David Klenerman and Leica).</p> <p>23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> August: EBSA Congress, Budapest. Mike confirmed that everything is going ahead; the program is currently in progress. It was agreed that BBS will fund five £200 bursaries. Students must submit a poster to be eligible.</p> <p>31<sup>st</sup> August – 2<sup>nd</sup> September: "Dynamics within and between proteins"; University of Essex (Chris Cooper).  <a href="http://www.biochemistry.org/MeetingNo/SA118/view/Conference/">www.biochemistry.org/MeetingNo/SA118/view/Conference/</a></p> <p>Guy would like BBS badging at the meeting and proposed that BBS should sponsor a poster prize and a session to the amount of £500. This was agreed - Chris to relay back to Biochemical Society. It was suggested that the BBS AGM could be held at this Meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Action: Chris</b></p>

EPR meeting in Oxford? (Tony Watts). This meeting to be put off until 2012.

Lipid Rafts One Day Meeting at Imperial College (Rob Law, Justin Molloy, Harvey McMahon)? John has spoken to Rob Law – may go ahead, possibly moved into 2012.

30<sup>th</sup> Oct – 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov: IUPAB Congress; Beijing. Chinese postgraduate students within the UK can apply for bursaries to attend (deadline 11<sup>th</sup> April 2011) to:  
<http://www.gbcc.org.uk/chinese-student-awards.aspx>

## 2012

**January:** Joint meeting with IBDG: Role of Metals in Neurodegenerative Diseases: Queen Mary, London (Julea Butt). Guy suggests full partnership with this meeting. Julea explained that RSC doesn't provide any underwriting. A suggestion from Chris was for BBS to link with Parkinson Society and MS Society for support. Julea was encouraged to go ahead with planning this meeting and to put together a proposed budget for the next BBS committee meeting, and a firm idea of the shape this meeting will have.

**Action: Julea**

**July:** BBS Meeting, Durham. Ehmke gave update and explains this is currently on hold, however assumes this meeting is taking place. Suggestion was made that Ehmke should be Chair and co-organiser. Ehmke informed the Committee that the new Chair for BSI will be joining in Summer 2011. Guy suggests that Tony should write to Judith Howard officially asking that BBS would like to have their next BBS General meeting at Durham and Ehmke who is part of this committee has volunteered to organise it. The meeting will include 3 keynote speakers and sessions. Guy further went through the process of the last BBS General Meeting with Ehmke, as to what it entailed, and reminded him of sponsors to be contacted. John can forward details of sponsors he sought for the last BBS General Meeting.

**Action: Tony**

**September:** Faraday Discussion #161 on Lipids and Membrane Biophysics, 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> September, Burlington House, London (John Seddon). All 10 invited lectures are now confirmed and will be advertised soon on the RSC website. Tony suggested sponsoring a European Speaker, as this would raise more publicity than just sponsoring a bursary. However, in the end it was agreed that BBS will sponsor a £100 poster prize.

CCPN Meeting, Scarborough late summer 2011 BBS will be sponsoring a poster prize @ £100.

## 2013

**Spring:** BBS Meeting. There is a need for at least one 2-day BBS meeting (but smaller scale than 2012 Durham meeting). Volunteers needed to organise this, possibly a recent BBS Committee member.

**Summer:** EBSA Congress, Lisbon.

	<b>2015:</b> EBSA Congress, Dresden.
9.	<p><b>2010 BBS Anniversary Meeting (Guy Grant)</b>  Guy gave an update on the accounts from the Meeting. It was confirmed that all external bills have now been paid. There is a possibility of more funds to come i.e. VAT that shouldn't have been paid. Tony thanked Guy once again for his work and efforts in organising this successful meeting.</p>
10.	<p><b>Newsletter (Matthew Hicks); Publicity Officer / Website</b>  Matt invited contributions for the Newsletter. He has written to people inviting them to write 'A day in the life of', along with a half page biography. The next Newsletter will include the Young Investigator medal winner, and highlights from the 2010 Cambridge meeting. The Newsletter will also be available on the web. Matt to send it to the RSC Biophysical Chemistry Group and Mark Leake can distribute it to the IOP group.</p> <p>A photo of some of the BBS Committee was taken at the Cambridge Meeting.</p> <p>The Midlands group Biophysics meeting had some 120 attendees, and the BBS publicity banner was put up.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Matt to email/liaise with Mark W to have the BBS Newsletter uploaded onto the BBS website.</p>
11.	<p><b>New Website (Mark Wallace)</b>  John asked why, if you go into the Meetings part of the BBS website, you don't see anything from the 2010 BBS Cambridge meeting, apart from Tony North's lecture? Mark explained that the reason for this is because only the five most recent items are displayed. Mark is correcting this so that the BBS Meeting will have its own page.</p> <p>Tony thanked Mark again for all his hard work, and Guy also thanked Mark for his work for the Cambridge meeting.</p> <p>Mike F asked whether the current BBS logo could be changed, by taking out 'Building Better Science' and having the wording 'British Biophysical Society'? This was agreed and Mark will make the changes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Action: Mark</b></p>
12.	<p><b>Membership</b>  Ehmke suggests sending a letter every 6 months to prompt membership. Poster prizes incentive to students who signed standing orders early as currently only 4 today has signed. This will target the young people. Tharin asked whether BBS sends a reminder re membership expiring. She was informed that unfortunately, BBS doesn't have the capacity at present to do this. Tony is currently looking how to run the news group through Oxford. Someone is needed to run the news group</p>

	<p>as Tony's PA will be retiring shortly so will no longer be able to do this job. Tharin has agreed to take this responsibility on. Tony to send along with mini newsletter a reminder to those people who haven't set up the standing order. This to be done monthly along with poster prizes and bursary information.</p> <p>Tony confirmed the cost of the last newsletter printing as approx £400, with £150 postage. Jeremy asked about getting sponsorship for the newsletter? John responded that it is difficult it is to get such sponsorship; however this should be pursued for the next newsletter.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Action: Tony, Tharin</b></p>
13.	<p><b>Irish Sub-section (Dave Sheehan)</b> The 20101 Tour will be undertaken by Prof. Judith Armitage (see item 4) . John to send list of previous Irish Tour Lecturers to Mike, and cc to Tony and to Mark W who will put it on the BBS website.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Action: Mike, John</b></p>
14.	<p><b>Honorary Members (Tony Watts)</b> A number of suitable candidates were suggested</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Action: All</b></p>
15.	<p><b>AOB</b> – 2017 IUPAB Congress. There was not much enthusiasm for the BBS to bid to host the 2017 International Biophysics Congress. However, it is possible that EBSA will put in a bid to hold a joint EBSA / IUPAB Congress. Grateful thanks were conveyed to Mrs. Althea Hartley-Forbes for her hard work in taking the Committee meeting Minutes.</p>
16.	<p><b>Date of the next BBS Committee meeting</b> Tuesday May 10<sup>th</sup> 2011 at Imperial College London</p>