

British Biophysical Society

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Minutes of the 154th Committee Meeting of the British Biophysical Society held on Thursday 22nd Sept 2011 at Imperial College London, Chemistry Dept, room 234

MINUTES

Present: Anthony Watts (Chair), Tharin Blumenschein, Jeremy Craven, Mike Ferenczi, Guy Grant, Paul O'Shea, Ehmke Pohl, Gordon Roberts, John Seddon, Mark Wallace.

1.	Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Julea Butt, Chris Cooper (Resigning from BBS Committee), Dave Klenerman, Mark Leake, Matt Hicks, Dave Sheehan.
2.	Minutes of the Previous Meeting The Minutes were approved, and are available on the BBS website.
3.	Matters Arising. Tony brought up the following points: Tim Cross is coming to the UK in Jan / Feb 2012, and will give a 'BBS International Lecture Tour', with lectures in Glasgow, Durham BSI, Oxford, Diamond, Warwick, and Imperial College, and possibly in Liverpool and Southampton. Durham are planning a mini-symposium around his lecture. There have so far been no requests for BBS bursaries for the 2011 IUPAB Congress. The BBS stand-up banner is with Chris Cooper (note added later: now with Mike Ferenczi). Matt Hicks is moving from Warwick partially to Birmingham, and partially to a spin-out company. No plans have been received from Dave Sheehan for a 1 – 2 day meeting connected with the next Irish Lecture Tour.

4. **Chairman's Report (Anthony Watts)**

Hon Members, 2011

Tony has written to Judith Howard and Greg Winter to ask if they are willing to be nominated as Honorary members of BBS. They have accepted, and their names were ratified at the 2011 AGM (Colchester). AW has now written to the new Hon members, informing them of this decision.

Tony suggests that IUPAB matters be added as a regular Agenda item.

BBS/loP/RSC/EBSA/IUPAB Congress, 2017

Several discussions have been held with Andrew Turberfield, and the RSC reps., Matt Hicks and David Klenerman, about holding a joint congress. The proposal has been sent to IUPAB for their agenda papers (Sept 2nd 2011).

EBSA did hear (in Budapest, August 2011) proposals from Turkey and the UK (presentation from the UK not given due to lack of time), for the 2017 congress, and will make a final decision in January 2012. EBSA has expressed a wish to join with IUPAB in bringing the 2017 congress to Europe.

Tony to present the bid for congress to be in the UK (Edinburgh, most likely) in Beijing, at the IUPAB congress (28th Oct – Nov 3rd). A flyer has been produced.

EPSRC

Research Councils engagement: EPSRC have a specific “biophysics” line, and discussions of Tony with Andrew Bourne were focused on raising the profile and awareness of biophysics within EPSRC. (see also Item 10 below)

Durham Annual BBS Conference, 2012

This site is now secured for the 2012 conference, and negotiations have started with the local organizers.

A formal letter from BBS has been sent since to the new director, John Girkin, to congratulate him on his appointment.

Irish Lecture Tour

This was arranged and Judy Armitage from Oxford was the guest lecturer in 2011 (see Agenda Item 14).

EBSA Young Investigators' Award, Budapest, August 2011

Two candidates were chosen to be the BBS nominations for the EBSA Young Investigators' Award.

This was in the end awarded to Kinneret Keren, Haifa, Israel.

Research Councils

Implementation plans are now coming into place, but so there is still some uncertainty about how RCs are going to react jointly to the CSR. One issue is that

	<p>equipment awards will be severely restricted on grants for the next 4 years, and this impinges significantly on biophysics. Some initiatives are being announced, most notably from Wellcome.</p> <p><u>BBS Young Investigator's Medal, 2012</u> Three nominations were received by 22nd Sept 2011. Gordon Roberts and Paul O'Shea agreed to act as the Selection Panel, the winner to be chosen before the Jan BBS Committee meeting. Tony will source the Medal / Certificate. Action: Tony to forward nominations and documentation to selection committee.</p> <p><u>NMR in the UK</u> A document on the status of NMR in the UK has been compiled by various groups, including Tony's in Oxford, and circulated reasonably widely within the CCPN. This will go to INSTRUCT and then RCs. The suggestion was for a central management group, with regional and national facilities, managed much like other LSFs.</p>
5.	<p>EBSA and IUPAB Activities John has not received the regular 'Letter to National Societies' from EBSA since the last BBS Committee meeting.</p> <p>Mike gave an update on the EBSA Congress in Budapest this summer. Everything went well, with 850 participants (53 from the UK). There were 39 UK presentations (16 Orals and 23 Posters). The financial position is not yet known, but no large deficit is expected. A number of satellites were held (€100 contribution per participant and €2000 to the organizers from EBSA), and these were very successful.</p> <p>At the EBSA General Assembly, Turkey made a bid to host the 2017 EBSA Congress; Tony has not yet presented the bid for it to come to the UK. A final decision will be made by EBSA at the Lisbon 2013 meeting. There is a preference among the EBSA Committee for it to come to northern Europe in 2017.</p> <p>Guy informed us that 3 bursary enquiries had been made, but none have been followed through.</p> <p>Gordon reported that IUPAB 2011 has 1500 registrants (>250 from outside China). The venue is rather expensive. There are quite a few overseas speakers (29 from the UK). There will be 8 parallel sessions (all in the same building), and 3 satellite meetings going on at the same time as the main Congress. (Added later – 2400 participants are now registered – Oct 2011).</p> <p>BBS has had no requests for bursaries yet; IUPAB has had 4 requests from the UK for bursaries (typically in range \$500 - \$1,000).</p> <p>IUPAB 2014 is going to be held in Brisbane. Turkey plans to bid for IUPAB 2017 (IUPAC 2012 will be held in Istanbul), as do Canada and Brazil.</p> <p>Tony outlined plans for BBS / IOP to bid for IUPAB 2017 to combine with EBSA 2017, and be held in the UK (probably Edinburgh). He and Andrew Turberfield will</p>

be the Joint Chairs. IOP will organize the conference for no cost and no profit. Profits to be shared equally with BBS, EBSA and IUPAB when the subvention from EBSA has been repaid. The last time it was held in the UK was in 1984 (Bristol); the last joint IUPAB / EBSA meeting was 2005, Montpellier. The IOP is organising two very large meetings in Edinburgh soon, so they are very familiar with the Conference Centre. Other possible venues could be Brighton, Telford or Manchester, but Edinburgh has many advantages as a location.

Action: Tony

Tony has organised a reception at the British Embassy in Beijing the day before the IUPAB General Assembly, and has invited the 70 voting members, 17 Council members, and the 29 UK speakers. The cost of the reception is being shared between the British Embassy and the IOP.

EBSA may decide to join IUPAB. The BBS may have to consider reducing its category of membership to IUPAB, partly depending on the outcome of the bid for IUPAB 2017 (it is not certain that the Royal Society will continue to pay half of our subscription).

Tony has put in a bid for an American Biophysical Society Thematic Meeting on "Lipids in Membrane Protein Structures: the Evidence", which could be a satellite to EBSA 2013, Lisbon.

6.

BBS AGM

The BBS AGM was held in Colchester on 1st September at the Essex Meeting, and was chaired by Chris Cooper. The nomination of Sir Gregory Winter and Judith Howard as BBS Honorary Members was approved.

7.

Secretary's Report (John Seddon)

Previous BBS Minutes have been circulated; Edited Minutes put up on BBS website.

Previous BBS Minutes

- circulated; Edited Minutes put up on BBS Website.
- John contacted Julia Goodfellow to try to locate some of the missing early BBS Committee Minutes, but she was unable to help.

Chris Cooper has decided to resign from the BBS Committee with immediate effect, although he will continue for the time being to provide the link to the Royal Society Scientific Union's Committee. The BBS Committee would like to record its thanks to Chris for all his hard work and support of the BBS over the last decade.

Action: Tony to thank Chris.

IUPAB

The BBS delegates for the IUPAB Congress in Beijing, 30 Oct – 3 Nov 2011 are:
Professor Sir Tom Blundell, University of Cambridge;
Professor Andrew Turberfield, University of Oxford;
Professor Anthony Watts, University of Oxford.

Louise Matheson has been informed.

Young Investigator Award for 2012

Nominations formally closed on 31st August with 3 nominations.

The Panel to select the winner by the Jan 2012 BBS Committee meeting has been discussed under Item 4. The Award and Lecture will be given at the Durham 2012 BBS Meeting.

BBS membership of the Society of Biology

There is an outstanding invoice for £469. There was a discussion as to whether we wish to continue BBS membership, given our somewhat precarious financial position.

Tony wrapped up a wide-ranging discussion by pointing out that IOP will remain as members of SoB, and suggested that BBS comes out of SoB for this year, assess what benefits IOP have got from their membership, and then reconsider next year.

Action: John to write to SoB, declining to pay this year's invoice, and explaining our position.

Meetings:

A report was received from Stephen Hoare on the Peptide Arrays meeting, London, 15-16 March 2011 which BBS sponsored, and this was circulated to the Committee.

We decided not to sponsor the Manchester Faculty Research Symposium (£400 requested).

Tony has written a two-page article on '50 Years of Biophysics in Britain' for EBSA, which can be put on the BBS website.

Action: Mark W

8. Treasurer's Report (Jeremy Craven)

Jeremy gave a summary of our financial position:
There is a net deficit per annum of £4,000 - £5,000; The final profit from the BBS 2010 Meeting will be approx £4,000; We still owe IUPAB approx £8,000, but we are not in a strong enough position yet to pay this. John reminded Jeremy of the need to invoice the Royal Society in January for their contribution to our 2012

	<p>IUPAB subscription. Mark W commented that if each Committee member could get 16 people to join BBS, we would break even. Jeremy agreed this would be good, but pointed out that we currently only have some 200 paying members in total.</p> <p>The Durham 2012 BBS Meeting has been insured at a cost of £68.</p> <p>A resolution was proposed that we should set up Internet banking, with the Treasurer, Chairman and Secretary as signatories. The resolution was passed by the Committee.</p> <p>Mark W pointed out that our details appear to be already registered with PayPal. Jeremy will check whether this was done by Dave Hornby. Although PayPal charge some 7-8% commission, this is charged to the payee not the recipient. It was felt best that we continue to have the BBS subscriptions paid by Standing Order.</p> <p>Mike commented that it is really good feeling that we are in control of our finances, and Tony thanked Jeremy for all his hard work in bringing the BBS Accounts into good order.</p>
9.	<p>Meetings Secretary's Report (Guy Grant)</p> <p>2011</p> <p>26th June: <i>Workshop on Fluorescent Imaging</i>; University of Cambridge (David Klenerman and Leica. Report still pending</p> <p>Action: David Klenerman</p> <p>23/08 – 27/08: <i>EBSA Congress</i>; Budapest – Discussed earlier on agenda.</p> <p>31/08 – 02/09: "<i>Dynamics within and between proteins</i>"; University of Essex (Chris Cooper). £500 used for two £250 poster prizes. Action: Chris to send report on Meeting.</p> <p>Oct/Nov: <i>IUPAB Congress</i>; Beijing. (Covered elsewhere).</p> <p>December: Biophysics Meeting on Functional Imaging; Ningbo China (Paul O'Shea). Paul offered to badge this as a joint meeting with BBS if BBS send round the leaflet to their members, and give a £100 Poster Prize. This was agreed.</p> <p>2012</p> <p><i>January: Joint Meeting with IBDG. Role of Metals in Neurodegenerative Diseases, Queen Mary's (Julea Butt). Two £100 Poster Prizes from BBS.</i></p>

Calorimetry in Biology Workshop, 26th – 30th March, Oxford (Tony Watts and Dave Staunton).

BBS Biennial Meeting, Durham – July 11th – 13th. (Ehmke Pohl and John Girkin). A summary will be forwarded to the BBS Committee. Plenary 1 on GPCR structures will be given by Brian Kobilka, Stanford. Hermann Gaub has been identified as another Plenary speaker, and Hermann Pfeiffer as another.

Action: Tony to approach Gaub.

It was noted that 'Muscle' does not explicitly appear as a topic.

The Reg fee will be £275 (Full), £170 (student) and £120 (reduced). The maximum number for the Conference Dinner is 170. There is room for 60 in the Parallel sessions. The total cost is estimated at £21,000, with break even at 128 attendees. This is without sponsorship taken into account.

John suggested they look into the vat situation and try to get it vat-exempt.

Biomolecular Mobility: 22nd – 23rd August: Heythrop Park House (Mark Leake and Richard Berry).

Physics meets Biology 2012: 3rd – 5th September: St Anne's College, Oxford (Andrew Turberfield, Mark Leake and others).

Faraday Discussion 161: Lipids and Membrane Biophysics, Burlington House, London, 11th – 13th September. The closing date for Abstracts for Oral contributions is 18th November 2011. Tony will take leaflets to IUPAB Congress in Beijing (John Seddon).

2013

Thematic Workshop on "Lipids in Membrane Protein Structures: the Evidence" sponsored by the American Biophysical Society (Tony Watts - decision pending).

2013 EBSA Congress, 13th – 17th July (Lisbon).

NMR Workshop (Tony Watts) Dates?

Protein Dynamics Workshop, 2 days, Autumn, Durham (Ehmke Pohl)

2014

BBS Biennial meeting, July?, Warwick or Birmingham (Matt and Alison Rodger).

Action: Matt

2015

EBSA Congress, Dresden

10.	<p>EPSRC – Biological Physics (Paul) There is a new EPSRC scheme entitled Networks Plus, part of the Physics Grand Challenges. IOP suggest that only one coordinated bid goes in from the UK Biological Physics community. There will be a Town meeting at 2pm on 4th October at the IOP, chaired by Andrew Bourne, to discuss this (Peter Weightman, Andrew Turberfield and Athene Donald). Tony will attend this, but Paul and John are away; it would be good if other from the BBS Committee could attend.</p>
11.	<p>Newsletter - Matthew Hicks not present It will be useful to include details of the EPSRC – Biological Physics scheme, as well as details of the new Honorary Members. Action: Tharin.</p>
12.	<p>Website (Mark Wallace) Mark has redesigned the Website to make it cleaner and clearer. Mark asked for people to send in photos of events. The Durham 2012 BBS Meeting will be hosted on the BBS website. Mark asked whether it would be desirable to have an electronic form which sends details to our Membership Secretary, and it was agreed to do 3-4 times a year.</p>
13.	<p>Membership (Ehmke Pohl) Ehmke commented that he cannot check whether Standing Orders have been set up correctly. The start date will be 1st Jan 2012 for any new ones.</p>
14.	<p>Irish Sub-section - Dave Sheehan not present</p> <p>Irish Lecture Tour Dave has asked for suggestions for the next Tour lecturer.</p> <p>The Tour should take place between Nov 2011 and Easter 2012. Action: Mark to invite Hagan Bayley.</p> <p>Dave will present plans to the BBS committee in January for a 1.5 – 2 day Meeting in 2012. Action: Dave</p>
15.	<p>Honorary Members (Tony Watts) The nominations of Sir Gregory Winter and Judith Howard were ratified at the 2011 BBS AGM at the Essex Meeting, and they have both been informed. They should be put on the BBS Website. Action: Mark</p> <p>Nominations for 2012 should be agreed at the Jan 20102 Committee meeting. Action: All</p>
16.	<p>AOB It was noted that Sabine Flitsch has seldom been able to attend and that she</p>

	<p>should be asked if she wishes to leave the Committee.</p> <p>Action: Tony Watts</p> <p>It was also suggested that Mark Leake could share responsibility for providing our link to IOP with Paul.</p> <p>Action: Tony Watts</p> <p>It was proposed that IOP activities be added as a regular Agenda item.</p> <p>Action: John</p>
17.	<p>Date of the next meeting Tuesday 31st January 2012 at Imperial College London.</p>