

British Biophysical Society

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Registered Charity No. 25474

Minutes of the 156th Committee Meeting of the British Biophysical Society held on Tuesday 8th May '12 at Imperial College London, Sir Alexander Fleming Building, Room 111

MINUTES

Present: Anthony Watts (Chair), Rob Cooke, Jeremy Craven, Mike Ferenczi, Guy Grant, Matt Hicks, John Seddon, Gordon Roberts, Syma Khalid.

1.	Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Julea Butt, Tharin Blumenschein, Dave Klenerman (resigning from Committee), Mark Leake, Paul O'Shea, Ehmke Pohl – (Skype), Mark Wallace, Dave Sheehan
2.	Minutes of the Previous Meeting John informed the Committee that Andrew Turberfield, Chair of the IOP Biological Physics Group would like the wording in item 6, IOP activities regarding the EPSRC proposal (Physics of Life) changed to avoid giving a false impression that this was an IoP initiative. This has now been done. The Minutes of the 155 th meeting were approved with minor corrections, and are available on the BBS website.
3.	Matters Arising. Tony welcomed everyone to the 156 th meeting. Syma Khalid from Southampton was welcomed and introduced to the Committee. She gave a brief overview of her background. She will be taking over the management of the Newsletter from Matt. IUPAB/EBSA/IOP Nothing to report. Bursaries Durham 2012 meeting – BBS to contribute £400 for bursaries. Guy has received 2 applications, one from Germany. Unfortunately we cannot cover the German applicant; they have to be from the UK. There is no deadline, and Guy is dealing with them as they come in.

BBS Committee Members

The Committee will be losing Mike Ferenczi after 25 years of service; his first BBS Committee meeting was in January 1987. Chris Cooper has suggested a possible replacement. Mike has also been EBSA representative for a long time. Tony stated that he will cover EBSA for the time being; however he suggests we find another member of the BBS Committee to represent EBSA. Tony Wilkinson was mentioned as a possible EBSA person who could be invited to join the BBS Committee.

Tony has spoken to Cait McPhee and Malcolm Walkinshaw; both have agreed to join the BBS Committee in time to help with organising the 2017 IUPAB / EBSA/BBS/IoP joint Congress in Edinburgh.

Website

Mark is looking after the BBS website, with AW's secretary dealing with the Durham meeting web site. New Honorary Members are now listed on the website.

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

EPSRC

The EPSRC "Physics for Life" initiative was funded in March to the tune of £250k, mainly for networking activities. Graham Leggett (Sheffield) is chairing the initiative, and has accepted an invitation from AW to present the initiative at the BBS Durham Meeting in July. This will be a 15 minute slot after the BBS medal winner's lecture, before dinner.

Durham Biennial BBS Conference, 2012

AW has been in constant contact with the Durham meeting organizers, and has been managing the web site and securing some sponsors.

Irish Lecture Tour

Hagan Bayley is very keen to do the tour and has been in touch with Dave Sheehan. Dave to follow up.

ACTION: DS

BBS Young Investigator's Medal, 2012

Marina Kuimova (Imperial College London) will be awarded the Medal by Judith Howard at the Durham Meeting, after her lecture.

NMR in the UK

A submission has been made at a meeting (April) at the Wellcome Trust for a national funding programme for NMR, including 5 regional centres, with other research councils (MRC, BBSRC, STFC) being represented. EPSRC has shown an interest but did not attend the meeting. A document has been submitted (May 5th) to RCUK in response to its call for equipment support.

	<p><u>11th Greta Pifat-Mrzljak International School of Biophysics</u> The long-standing Croatian Biophysics School will take place over a 10 day period in Primosten in October 2012 – this School was started by Greta Pifat (died 2010), and is being chaired by Tomislav Vuletic. Tony has been advising them.</p> <p>Tony encouraged the committee to take advantage of any high profile people when they are in the country, to participate in another BBS Int. Lecture Tour. Tony to ask Tharin to publicize. ACTION: AW</p>
5.	<p>EBSA and IUPAB Activities The Croatian Biophysics School in Primosten is being supported by EBSA. Gordon informed us that IUPAB will not give money towards the School, as they applied too late. He highlighted that there will be a problem for the next planned School in 2014 as there is an IUPAB congress, and IUPAB (and EBSA) do not support competing activities in the year of their congresses.. Fortunately there is an endowment left by Greta in Croatia which is being used for scholarships, and it will run again with EBSA & IUPAB involvement when possible.</p> <p>Mike mentioned that the EBSA Lisbon meeting, 13th July – 17th July 2013 is currently looking for speakers. JMS to send them a list of potential speakers – this information is needed before the BBS Biennial meeting. Action: John.</p> <p>Tony will run a Bionanotechnology satellite meeting in July 2013 in Portugal, with Horst Vogel from the Swiss BPS.</p> <p>Membrane School – Bordeaux, end of June 2012. This meeting has drawn a lot of interest judging by the bursary applications. Tharin to advertise.</p> <p>Gordon gave an update of the next IUPAB congress, 3rd – 7th August 2014, in Brisbane. Opportunity for organising independently-funded satellite meetings on one of the Great Barrier Reef islands. JMS to discuss possible ideas for a meeting with Calum Drummond / Charlotte Conn (CSIRO, Melbourne). We need to make sure there is no clash with the 2014 BBS biennial meeting. Gordon informed us that there will be a professional conference team to help organise the logistics.</p> <p>Portuguese will be coming forward with biophysics school in 2 years time, Dec/Jan The IPUPAB Secretary–General (Prof Rao, Beijing) is keen to become involved with running Schools.</p>
6.	<p>IOP Activities (Paul O’Shea/Mark Leake) Nothing new to report</p>
7.	<p>Secretary’s Report (John Seddon)</p> <p>Previous BBS Minutes Already circulated; Edited Minutes put up on BBS Website.</p> <p>Corrections to item 6 from minutes of Jan 2012 BBS Committee meeting were</p>

	<p>made as requested by Andrew Turberfield.</p> <p>The previous two sets of Minutes did not note that the Trustees have approved the Annual Report and Accounts – this is now noted here in the Minutes of the May Committee Meeting.</p> <p>IUPAB / EBSA The EBSA 2013 Congress Co-Chairs (Manuel Prieto and Manuela Pereira) have asked the national societies for suggestions of speakers from their own countries for the various Symposia. BBS Committee to send in suggested names, with links to their website/papers. Action: John to co-ordinate the list.</p> <p>BBS Membership of the Society of Biology This has now been terminated.</p> <p>Meetings / Lectures We have received a request from Oxford University Biochemistry Society for sponsorship of their Lecture of the Year, which will be Brian Kobilka in 2012. The BBS Committee is happy to offer £150 towards this event. This is something BBS should try to support more widely.</p> <p>AOB Garland Science has asked if we could email BBS members with details of a forthcoming publication of theirs. They previously sponsored the BBS 2010 meeting. It was agreed that we should ask for a poster prize for the Durham meeting and that we be sent a copy of the book for a prize.</p> <p>Rachel Thompson (RSC) has asked if we would like to co-sponsor Faraday Discussion 160 on ‘Ion-specific Hofmeister Effects’, September 2012. This would only cost us £100 for a Poster prize. Tony suggests we agree to do so if they will sponsor the Durham meeting. Guy has been in contact with Rachel, although he has not yet signed any agreement. <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Guy to follow up.</p> <p>We had a request from a student at Durham to provide support for an Internship in Vienna. After consulting with Guy, John informed the student that we do not provide such support and suggested she contact EBSA.</p> </p>
8.	<p>Treasurer’s Report (Jeremy Craven) 1) Charity Commission</p> <p>The return for 2010-2011 was made (just) within the deadline. It is a very light-touch procedure (for which the CC should be praised). Next year will be more involved because of our greater income.</p> <p>2) Current Financial situation</p>

There is nothing significant to report compared to our position in January, except see (3).

3) IUPAB

I have informed Patrick Cozzone of our decision to change to category 2 membership from January 2012, and I have received a fresh invoice that I still need to pay. Likewise I have contacted the Royal Society to arrange repayment of some of this year's subvention. This change reduces our net outgoings.

I have also arranged for an invoice for our 2007 subscription, and we will pay this year. That will leave just one year (2006) unpaid.

4) Meetings sponsorships

I am currently aware of the following commitments

- i) 2 x £100 poster prizes for IBDG 2012 – were these awarded? It is believed this was Julea Butt's Meeting. Julea to confirm.
- ii) Travel bursaries for July Durham conference (estimate £300-400).
- iii) Nottingham hydrodynamics meeting, 25th Anniversary NCMH – 13th Sept '12, (£200 travel bursaries; £100 poster) – Steve Harding's 1 day meeting.
- iv) RSC meeting (£100 poster) – Faraday Discussion 161, 11th – 13th Sept '12 - JMS

5) Organisation

i) Online banking is in place. It is useful for checking the statement for particular payments, especially with regard to the conference. It is severely limited in the number of transactions that can be viewed on a single day: this limit is exceeded by our influx of standing order memberships on one day. I had a very frustrating set of phone calls trying to find a way round this, until I met a very measured "there is no way round it" from a manager. Likewise BACS payments FROM the account failed to work, and I reverted to cheques out of frustration. I am currently the only registered user. We should ensure either John or Tony also become able to use it.

ii) I still need to look into changing our Savings Account to a National Savings Direct Saver account as attracts a much better rate of interest currently than our "Investment Account" (1.5% vs 0.2%).

6) Paypal

In January I reported that there was a snag with detaching our bank account from an old Paypal account. This snag turned out to be more serious and I am still trying to sort it: it requires Dave Hornby's retired secretary visiting our department and us helping her phone Paypal ...

9. Meetings Secretary's Report (Guy Grant)

2012

Jan: *Joint meeting with IMDG: Role of Metals in Neurodegenerative Diseases*; Queen Mary, London (Julea Butt). Still waiting feedback – haven't asked for any money to date.

Biothermodynamics Today; University of Oxford (Tony Watts and David Staunton). This meeting is now happening in the autumn.

11/7 – 13/7: *BBS Biennial Meeting*; University of Durham (Ehmke Pohl, John Girkin)

22/8 – 23/8: *IOP/BPG Meeting - Biomolecular Motility*; Heythrop Park House. (Co-

organised by Mark Leake and Richard Berry).

3/9 – 5/9: IOP/BPG - *Physics meets Biology 2012*; St. Anne's College Oxford. (Andrew Turberfield, Mark Leake and others)

3/9 – 5/9: *Faraday Discussion Meeting: Ion Specific Hofmeister Effects*; Queen's College, Oxford, London, Paul Madden - organiser (Guy Grant). Guy to write to RSC regarding free registration.

11/9 – 13/9: *Faraday Discussion Meeting: Lipids and Membrane Biophysics*; Burlington House, London (John Seddon - Chair). 10 Invited Lectures, plus 15 talks selected from 108 submitted Abstracts.

2013

March, (date to be confirmed): *Molecular Biophysics*; Joint meeting with the German BPS (Tony Watts, Karin Hauser (Konstanz) - decision pending). If we contribute, this will enhance the BBS's profile. They want the BBS to select some of the speakers, but with no need to contribute financially. This Joint Meeting is the same year as the EBSA Congress.

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

July: *Bionanotechnology Satellite*; Portugal (Tony Watts)

NMR Workshop (Tony Watts) Dates? This is on hold.

Protein Dynamics Workshop, 2 days, Autumn, Durham (Ehmke Pohl) LMS & Microscopy meeting (is this the same meeting)?

2014

BBS Biennial Meeting, University of Warwick or Birmingham? This should be in early July. Matt is keen to hold this meeting at Warwick. He has spoken to Alison Rogers who is happy to help with admin support. Syma has a lot of contacts at Warwick. It was noted that Warwick is very expensive as a venue. There may be the possibility to use student rooms. Matt to make further enquiries so they can make the booking asap. Overall number focussing on for meeting 150 - 200.

IUPAB Congress, Brisbane, 3rd – 7th August.

2015

EBSA Biennial Meeting, Dresden

- We need to think about BBS meetings for this year.

2017

Joint IUPAB/EBSA Congress, Edinburgh.

Guy highlighted how much we are doing to raise the profile of BBS internationally;

	<p>however, we are still looking for a UK-based event in the Autumn of 2013. Rob mentioned his recent visit to Diamond where he sensed that they are looking to host something. Rob to follow up this opportunity.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Rob</p>
10.	<p>2012 BBS Meeting in Durham (Ehmke Pohl) Ehmke gave an update via Skype and referred to the Budget Summary.</p> <p>Currently we have 74 registrations, with the expectation of another 30 before the deadline. Travel expenses will be paid for the Plenary speakers, 1 per session. One speaker from USA has yet to confirm his expenses (unfortunately he wasn't offered a flat figure). The travel budget will need to be carefully monitored. Tony suggests a cap on European speakers' expenses of 300 Euros.</p> <p>JMS mentioned that the Meeting poster currently doesn't mention the BBS Prize winner, who is a Plenary speaker. Guy questioned when the programme will be ready with the Abstracts? This point needs to be clarified. The deadline is one month from the time of printing, the end of May to be safe. Ehmke is awaiting a response from the RSC regarding sponsoring a poster; Matt confirmed that the RSC Biophysical Chemistry Group will be sponsoring a poster. Ehmke questioned the number of bursaries we should give out - Guy to confirm this. Decision to be made by the 15th, at the Abstract deadline. Jeremy has a note to allow £300 - £400 for travel bursaries, which the BBS will be providing separately from the Durham budget. German Institutes will often pay fees for conferences, but not travel. Non UK people are covered by EBSA – BBS won't pay a travel contribution.</p> <p>Tony noted that many people signing up for the Meeting are not BBS members. Out of the last 10, 6 are members and out of the last 20, only 8. Ehmke thinks that people didn't know that the Registration Fee includes one year's free membership of BBS. This will be mentioned at the Meeting. Tony showed the current registration list with names and affiliations. Mike questioned whether people seeking help with visas are all genuine registrations?</p> <p>It is believed we are already at breakeven level; however, we may need to use some of the sponsorship funds to cover travel costs. We hope to have 150 registrations by the end of May.</p> <p>Further costings were questioned: no costs have been allowed for printing as this is currently being done through the university, who is also covering postage. Jeremy to chase payments of all registered participants. Syma noted that attendance is going to be dominated by Durham and Oxford. Syma to publicize the meeting as much as possible, including via Twitter and Facebook.</p> <p>Ehmke's only concern regarding the meeting is the travel budget. Alex, who is assisting Ehmke with the administration of the meeting, explained that a number of people are concerned as to whether their registrations have gone through successfully. Tony explained that he is the person to check with; he will update</p>

	Ehmke and Alex regularly, as the registrations are being done through Oxford.
11.	<p>Newsletter /Publicity officer</p> <p>Syma gave an overview of where she was with the Newsletter and to find out what the committee wanted. She is well versed with Wikipedia - she has set up a BBS Wiki page, which includes a photo of the committee. Syma presented the different possible formats for the Newsletter i.e. Facebook and Twitter, which appear to be the way forward for effective communication. Tony encouraged this. It was agreed that the distribution of the Newsletter will be done electronically. However, if there are members who prefer a hard copy this will be arranged. Gordon emphasised the importance of having an electronic Newsletter, as well as having a copy on the website. Syma explained more about the facilities Facebook has available, different groups, option for dialogue, photos etc, and that this is very much a growing entity. Rob believes it will be useful for younger members. Jeremy was concerned with Syma overstretching herself. Tony suggests we use Facebook for one year and then take it from there. The option will be given at Durham meeting to others with Wikipedia reference. The Young Investigators Medal winner should be profiled in the next Newsletter and disseminated to the Biophysical community.</p> <p>Gordon asked whether we should we accept adverts from publishers, instrument manufacturers, etc in the Newsletter. Rob suggests circulating flyers with the Newsletter i.e. inserting a Garland flyer with the next Newsletter. Jeremy believes the Newsletter should be a consolidation of what Tharin sends out. There should be a Facebook link to Meetings. Guy asked whether we should get the Newsletter incorporated into the Abstracts booklet? Syma replied that this can be done. Tony to speak to Ehmke to try to move the Abstract deadline forward. Syma set up a Twitter account (handle: @BritBiophysSoc) during the meeting; she explained that this is a great means of communication for conferences as it can highlight meetings within the 100 character limit. Syma to manage these for meetings, conferences and bursaries and bring feedback to the next BBS Committee meeting of how things have gone.</p>
12.	<p>Website (Mark Wallace)</p> <p>The BBS website is looking good. It appears that the new redesigned website has led to an increase in BBS membership.</p>
13.	<p>Membership (Ehmke Pohl)</p> <p>14 members have recently joined; until recently we were losing up to 7% of members per year. We have grown by 10% since the start of the year. The paying membership is approximately 214.</p> <p>Mike asked whether the BBS is aiming for a particular target, being systematic to get in touch with every department in country to encourage them to join a dynamic society. Tim Cross has raised the profile of BBS. Mike believes what's missing is going to all universities especially the smaller ones. Leeds University has close historical links BBS. Guy asked whether there is anyone in Leeds whom the committee could approach regarding joining the committee. Tony to speak to Sheena Radford.</p>

14.	<p>Irish Sub-section (Dave Sheehan) Suggestions needed for the 2013 speaker. One possibility is Mark Leake. Hagan Bayley's 2012 Lecture tour is scheduled for Mar/Apr. The BBS will continue to support the Irish Lecture Tour, with the revised budget.</p>
15.	<p>Honorary Members (Tony Watts) Nominations for 2012 are Hagan Bayley and Mike Ferenczi. Tony to write to them both, formally inviting them to become Honorary Members. The nominations need to be ratified at the BBS AGM in Durham.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Tony</p>
16.	<p>AOB Tony has been approached by Austrian Institute to support the Institute of Bio Physics & Nano Research (IBNR). Tony will write letter of support.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Tony</p> <p>This was Mike Ferenczi's last BBS Committee meeting. Mike has worked tirelessly for the BBS for the last 25 years, his first meeting being in January 1987. Tony thanked Mike for all his hard work and contributions over the years and presented him with a gift of silver-plated mussel eaters on behalf of the Committee. Tony wished Mike every success in Singapore, and hopes he will continue to have close links with the BBS.</p>
17.	<p>Date of the next meeting Tuesday 4th September 2012, 12.30 – 3.30, IC, HOD room 234, Dept of Chemistry.</p>