

British Biophysical Society

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

Registered Charity No. 25474

The 158th Committee Meeting of the British Biophysical Society held from 12.30 pm – 4.30 pm on Tuesday 29th January 2013 in room F02a, Department of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (MBB), Firth Court, Western Bank, University of Sheffield, Sheffield S10 2TN

Edited Minutes

Date: 29th January 2013

Present: Anthony Watts (Chair), Jeremy Craven (Treasurer), John Seddon (Secretary), Guy Grant (Meetings Secretary), Matt Hicks, Mark Wallace, David Scott, Gordon Roberts, Paul O'Shea, Svetlana Antonyuk, and Tim Dafforn (co-opted).

1 Apologies: Tharin Blumenschein, Rob Cooke, Syma Khalid, Mark Leake, Ehmke Pohl, and Dave Sheehan.

2 **Approval of Minutes of the 157th meeting**
Minor corrections were made to the previous Minutes, which were then accepted.

3 **Matters Arising**
The BBS Chairman, Prof Anthony Watts, first welcomed and introduced the new Committee members, Dr. David Scott, Nottingham, and Dr Svetlana Antonyuk, Liverpool, as well as the co-opted member Prof Tim Dafforn, Birmingham.

The Springer Encyclopaedia of Biophysics has now appeared in print and online versions. The intention is to be able to keep the online version updated.

The most recent BBS Newsletter was circulated to 700 people; Jeremy reported that only 200 of those are paying members.

The BBS finances are looking healthier. The 2010 Cambridge and 2012 Durham meetings both made a healthy profit for the society.

Paul O'Shea is organizing an optics meeting in Ning Bo, China from 10 – 12 June 2014, and is keen to involve the BBS.

4 **Chairman's report** (Anthony Watts)

Marina Kuimova: AW sent congratulations on behalf of BBS to Marina on being appointed a University Lecturer at Imperial College. Marina was our Young Investigator Award Winner 2013, and gave a lecture at the BBS Durham meeting.

EPSRC Grand Challenge: Understanding the Physics of Life is one of the Grand Challenges selected for networking activities to generate grant applications. AW

invited the coordinator, Graham Leggett to the Durham BBS meeting and they have been closely in touch about dates for the launch and then timings of other meetings (eg: one was originally planned during the EBSA congress by Mark Leake – this has now been moved). The dates of the launch were then circulated through the BBS Newsgroup by Tharin. AW will continue to report back to BBS and its members via the Newsgroup.

Joint German-BBS meeting, Hünfeld, DE: A joint German-BBS meeting is being held in Hünfeld, DE, March 21- 23rd:

<http://www.biophysik.uni-konstanz.de/biophysics-meeting/program-british-german-biophysics-meeting-2013/>. AW advised on speakers and some of these have been selected. Paul O'Shea suggested that the BBS should organise a reciprocal meeting with the German Biophysical Society in a couple of years time.

ECNU "Centre for Biophysics": AW was invited, as Chair of the BBS, with Tong Shijun, Vice-President of the Shanghai Academy of Sciences and Chancellor, to open the new "Centre for Biophysics" at the Top Key Laboratory of Eastern Normal University (ECNU) in Shanghai. Nov 14 - 15th 2012. They are keen on strengthening Chinese-UK links in various ways and student/researcher exchange visits are one possibility. AW to look for opportunities and has been asked to organize a joint BBS-Chinese Biophysics symposium in 2015 with Chinese support. It should be noted that Prof Z. Rao (Beijing) will become the next President of IUPAB.

EBSA Congress: AW is on the Scientific Committee for the 9th EBSA Lisbon congress, and has been assisting with the programme, which is almost complete. The UK (with Germany) has a dominance of speakers in the programme, and it is relatively well gender balanced. EBSA has also forwarded names of potential speakers for the IUPAB congress, and a number of UK speakers are amongst the recommendations. It is likely there will be of the order of 1,000 participants.

EBSA Satellite meeting: AW has secured IUPAB and EBSA support for a "Bionanotechnology – recent advances" satellite meeting (10 – 13th July) in Sesimbra, Portugal, 30km south of Lisbon. This is primarily for graduates and post docs, with a major teaching element ahead of the main congress.

The EBSA Congress is in Lisbon this year, in Dresden in 2015, and in Edinburgh in 2017 together with the IUPAB Congress. The IOP conference office (John Brindley and Claire Garland) will do most of the UK-based domestic organizing of the joint 2017 Congress, and the BBS will be closely involved, particularly with the scientific programme (AW chair, Andrew Turberfield, IOP Biol. Physics sub-group, co-chair).

IUPB 2014 Congress

Themes: Membrane Proteins; Neuroscience and channels; Protein Structure; Imaging; Photosynthesis, etc.

Plenaries: Brian Kobilka, Roger Tsien, Ed Puruso, Carol Robinson.

Gordon Roberts asked for suggestions of UK people as Theme Leaders, Symposium Chairs, Younger Speakers, etc.

Suggestions made were:

Single molecule - Mark Wallace;

Computational - Mark Sansom or Syma Khalid;

Photosynthesis - Richard Cogdell;

Younger speakers:

Andy Turnbull, Tuomas Knowles;

Action: Suggestions to Gordon

AW asked whether BBS should do any more to support the Congress – Gordon is about to communicate with the Australian organisers. Will the IUPAB have funds for young people where none exist from their own country? It will be good if BBS can offer money for young UK scientists to attend.

Satellite meetings are encouraged, and could be held on one of the Barrier Reef islands. The company doing the main Congress organisation can help with organising satellite meetings.

Tony mentioned that we need two voting BBS members at the IUPAB General Assembly. This should be covered by Tony and John attending.

5 EBSA/IUPAB Activities (Anthony Watts)

BBS has nominated two candidates (out of a total of 8 nominations) for the 2013 EBSA Young Investigator's Award: David Rueda (Imperial) and Andrew Carter (LMB, Cambridge).

BBS wanted to nominate Prof Tony Lee, Southampton, for the Avanti EBSA Award, but he declined.

A number of new EBSA officers will be elected in Lisbon in July.

Before Jeremy Craven took over the Treasurer position we failed on a number of occasions to invoice the Royal Society for their contribution to our IUPAB subscription.

6 IOP Activities (Paul O'Shea)

The IOP Biological Physics group have a number of meetings planned: Biomolecular Thermodynamics (Sara Harris), Physics of Behaviour, Transport and Motility (Mark Leake) and Transcription (Pietro Cicuta).

7 Secretary's report (John Seddon)

BBS Minutes

- Previously circulated; Edited Minutes put up on BBS Website.

EBSA

- BBS has nominated Dr David Rueda, Imperial College London, and Dr. Andrew Carter, LMB Cambridge, for the EBSA Young Investigator's Award. EBSA have received 8 nominations in total.
- We offered to nominate Prof. Tony Lee, Southampton for the Avanti-EBSA Award, but he declined to be nominated.
- New officers will be elected to the EBSA Executive Committee at the General Assembly in Lisbon in July 2013.

IUPAB

- IUPAB News No. 59, Dec 2012 has been circulated.

- Jeremy confirmed that the Royal Society has been invoiced for their contribution to the 2013 BBS subscription to IUPAB.

EPSRC Grand Challenge Network

- 'Understanding the Physics of Life'. Launch: IOP, 8th April 2013.

Etouches event management software

- This was felt to be of no interest to the BBS.

Europa world of learning entry

- For info: BBS entry has been checked.

New BBS logo

We have gone back to using the old logo and after looking at suggestions for a new logo, Jeremy suggested we stay with the old logo. Matt noted that there are websites where you can challenge people to come up with ideas, and then pay for the one you want. Guy agreed with keeping the old logo, but suggested with a wider red strip.

BBS Committee membership

- Dr Tuomas Knowles (Cambridge) would like to become involved with BBS. His cv will be circulated.

Query from student about biophysics summer courses

- Has the Croatia Summer School stopped? AW stated that it hasn't, and it took place in September 2012 and will take place again in Sept/Oct 2015. Gordon stated that on average IUPAB support 5-6 schools around the world (details on IUPAB website). EBSA organises Summer schools, and EMBO runs imaging courses. The Portuguese society may run a summer school, but an issue raised by them is that increasingly students need to gain credits, and this can only be obtained from attending a course at a higher education institute. It was also pointed out the Durham have started a Masters course in Biophysics.

Action: John to reply to query

Advertising

- IOP conferences and events. We advertised the IOP Conference on Biomolecular Thermodynamics, 26-27 Nov 2012, and we appeared as a co-sponsor on the Conference website.
- Royal Society book publishing have asked us to advertise Mark Leake's edited book to BBS members. John suggested a donation to BBS.
- Garland Science have asked us to advertise the new edition of Physical Biology of the Cell. A donation to BBS was suggested.
- Biodynamics Workshop, Bristol 11-13 Sept 2013. BBS has agreed to advertise this.

8 Treasurers report (Jeremy Craven)

Charity Commission

We will have to prepare greater detail accounts for 2011-2012 due to extra income. Jeremy has started on this (due by April 2013).

Current Financial situation

There is nothing significant strategic to report compared to our position last September. Current account balance is £6,657. Savings account balance is £38,017.

3) Memberships

The main annual batch of standing order payments are in. We have taken in £3484, in 204 payments. 65 of the payments were at £25.

2008	3272
2009	2919
2010	2848
2011	2926 (200 or so payments; 24@£25)
2012	3459 (204 payments; 65@£25)

So we are absolutely heading in the right direction (over £500 increases in subs received compared to last year), but still need to keep our various actions going that have led to this.

Will continue as we are and then check we are not sending newsletters out to people not paying.

IUPAB + EBSA

Our 2013 IUPAB subscription needs to be paid. Also the Royal Society subvention needs to be claimed. Likewise we still need to pay EBSA for 2012 and to pay for a few years ahead as we agreed last meeting.

Note added: The contribution from the Royal Society towards our IUPAB subscription for 2013 has now been received.

Fraud

We suffered another fraud on the bank account. The Bank of Scotland phoned Jeremy as we had gone overdrawn due to them paying out on a fraudulent cheque for ~£7500. They immediately repaid us in full. They have sent Jeremy a copy of the cheque. The signature does not match any of the current signatories. Their only advice has been to open a new account. This is not possible due to the large number of standing orders which are set up at the payer's end and not at our end. For now Jeremy will maintain vigilance.

Commitments

Jeremy suggests that we should make sure that the "future meetings" are, in the future, minuted in a more tabular form with amounts agreed next to them.

Paypal

Jeremy finally had access to the old account that Dave Hornby and his former secretary set up, but it has gone into a frozen status which is hard to undo. Having got the full access to the old account he has now talked to Paypal about transferring the bank account to the NEW Paypal account that he prepared last year. Tony has offered a fall back payment method via a credit card account in his department but Jeremy would prefer to work through a more systematic solution if possible.

Direct Debit

Jeremy has made an enquiry to a company that will administer Direct Debits. It would cost us about £2 per member to administer our memberships in this way (i.e. ~£400 per annum). A lot of that price is fixed (i.e. independent of number of payers). It would remove the fixed link to a specific bank account that standing orders create. On the other hand it would take many years for a lot of legacy standing orders to stop. We are in a tricky situation. We could move new members to a Direct Debit system but at a huge cost per person. Alternatively we could again pester people to change their subs to a DD system but I suspect we might shed a lot of people that way and we would have the usual recidivism problem.

AW thanked Jeremy for all his hard work.

9 Meetings Secretary's Report (Guy Grant)

11/9 - 13/9 2012: Faraday Discussion on *Lipids and Membrane Biophysics*. John has written a report for the BBS Newsletter. Volume 161 of Faraday Discussions will be published within the next month. The meeting went very well, and the BBS sponsored a £100 Poster prize.

21/3 – 23/3 2013: German/British Biophysical Societies joint Meeting is being paid for by the German Society. It was agreed that the BBS would provide two poster prizes of £100 each as well as Travel bursaries. Organise 200 BBS postcards to Tony to take to the Meeting.

Action: John

25/3 2013: NMR Workshop, Oxford (Tony). No support required from BBS.

15/4 – 17/4 2013: Durham Protein Dynamics Workshop. BBS will provide two poster prizes of £100 each as well as Travel bursaries up to £200.

13/7 – 17/7 2013: EBSA Congress, Lisbon. Tony is organising a Bionanotechnology Satellite.

July 2014: BBS Biennial Conference. Matt Hicks is looking into the costings and venue – Birmingham or Warwick? If not too expensive, Warwick would probably be preferable. A tentative start date is 14th July 2014; (note that the IUPAB Congress in Brisbane will run from 3 - 9 August and the IUCr Conference in Montreal in 2014 will run from 5 - 12 August). Matt will check with Warwick regarding Graduation dates and with Alison Rodger, whether it would be possible to use her facilities (lecture halls etc) and for her to arrange some administrative support. Guy suggested Matt fixes the location and budget within the next two months, and brings the information to the next BBS committee meeting. Jeremy asked about the themes of the meeting. One possibility mentioned was 'Soft Matter Physics'. Guy would like any views from the committee regarding the themes and the different sessions. He also noted that the Plenaries need to be chosen and invited soon. Jeremy commented that the rooms at Durham were only just big enough (170 participants).

Action: Matt

It may be a better idea to ask the IOP Secretariat (John Brindley) to look after much of the administrative aspects of the organisation, as offered by them.

Action: Tony

Tim Dafforn suggested that the Biochemical Society would be happy to be part of the Meeting. Guy stated that joining up with the Biochemical Society would be good, but that we should run the BBS Biennial meetings on our own.

Tim informed the Committee that the Biochemical Society is planning a Harden Conference in late 2014 on Crystallography, and that it would be good to have the BBS involved. This was favourably received by the Committee. Gordon suggested a multidisciplinary approach rather than straight crystallography. Themes suggested included:

'Emerging Themes in Biophysics';
'Complementary Methods to Crystallography';
'Future of Structural Biology';
'Flexible and Disordered Systems'.

2015-2016 are currently empty: we should perhaps plan to organise a couple of smaller meetings, as well as the biennial BBS meeting in 2016.

2015: EBSA Congress will be held in Dresden.

We should plan to hold the Jan 2015 BBS Committee meeting in Edinburgh, with Cait Macphee and Malcolm Walkinshaw attending to start discussing the structure of the programme for the 2017 Congress.

BBS will need to meet with EBSA and IUPAB in Edinburgh in January 2016 to inspect the 2017 Congress venue (Edinburgh International Conference Centre).

Guy asked for ideas for 2016 for biannual meeting. One possible venue identified is Liverpool.

10 Newsletter/Publicity Officer

A draft of the Newsletter has been circulated to the Committee, with a request for any comments.

The next Newsletter should go out in May/June 2013, and should contain information about Prize winners, the Lisbon EBSA Congress, the Springer Encyclopaedia of Biophysics, and obituaries for Guy Dodson and Roger Fourmé.

Paul – China information for May meeting.

The Autumn issue should contain a report on the Lisbon Congress.

Matt asked whether it should also contain job adverts; Tony felt that the Newsgroup email was the correct place for these and had been successful in the past.

The Committee wishes to report back to Syma that we are happy with the Newsletter.

Action: Tony

11 Website (Mark Wallace)

Mark encouraged the Committee to send him material to update the website.

Tony queried whether it is possible to set up a password protected part of the website, for storage of Unedited BBS Minutes or any other confidential material.

The historical BBS Minutes need to be scanned and then uploaded. Tony has copies of many of the more recent Minutes on a DVD

Action: John

12 Membership

Ehmke Pohl did not attend.

13 Irish Sub-section (Dave Sheehan)

The Irish Tour Lecturer for 2012 was Hagan Bayley. His lectures were well attended and the tour was well organised.

Report on British Biophysical Society Irish Lecture Tour 30th Oct-1st Nov 2012

For much of the last decade, the BBS has funded a lecture tour of three Irish centres; University College Cork, University College Dublin and Queen's University Belfast. This year, Prof Hagan Bayley, University of Oxford, undertook the 2012 tour from the 30th Oct. to 1st Nov. Hagan's talk was entitled *Droplet Networks Containing Engineered Protein Pores*. The lecture focused on how hydrogel shapes, when coated with lipid monolayers, can be used to generate scalable electrical circuits and mechanical devices on the nanoscale. The tour began in University College Cork and attracted a diverse audience of undergraduates, graduate students, postdocs and PIs. As with previous BBS talks, staff and students from other disciplines such as Microbiology, Chemistry, Pharmacy and the Tyndall National Research Institute were attracted to this lecture which was followed by discussion. The attendance at this talk was around 90. Hagan travelled on to Dublin by train next day and gave his talk at 4PM in the afternoon which was attended by approximately 40 staff and students. This part of the tour was organised by Dr Chandralal Hewage, Conway Institute, UCD. Hagan also got to meet the Head of School and met with Prof Gil Lee, Chemistry Dept Nanoscience Professor before his talk. On the last day of the tour Hagan travelled to Queen's University Belfast (organised locally by Dr David Timson) and spoke near lunchtime. Attendance was around 30 with staff and students from the Schools of Biological Sciences, Pharmacy and Medicine in attendance. As tour organiser I would like to thank Hagan for being willing to devote so much time from his busy schedule to such an onerous tour. All centres agreed the talk was intellectually stimulating, visually interesting and delivered with great clarity and succinctness. Hagan is a truly inspiration speaker and manages to simplify complex concepts and, in particular, to highlight how his research can have practical outcomes. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to the local organisers Drs Hewage and Timson for helping with local arrangements. Lastly, I would like to thank the BBS for continuing to support this tour. *Prof. David Sheehan, Cork.*

The BBS Chairman will write to thank the organisers.

Action: Tony

Guy urged that the Tour take place during term time to maximise the audience.

Richard Cogdell was suggested as a possible lecturer for 2013, and it was agreed that he should be invited.

Action: Tony

14 Honorary Members (Anthony Watts)

It was agreed that Prof Athene Donald, Prof Carol Robison, and Dr Gerald Elliott would be invited to be nominated as Honorary BBS members for 2013, to be ratified at the BBS AGM in Lisbon in July 2013.

Action: Tony

Note added: Sadly, Gerald Elliott died suddenly on 6th March 2013.

15 AOB

John has been nominated to become the next EBSA Secretary, and this will be voted upon at the General Assembly in Lisbon in July 2013. If he is elected, we will need to identify a new BBS Secretary, although John can carry on for the rest of the year, and would stay on the BBS Committee for the time being.

We currently have 18 BBS Committee members, and we can co-opt up to a further 4 members. Guy would like someone from the South West on the Committee.

The BBS website stipulates how long people can remain as BBS Office Bearers and Committee members.

Action: Mark to check and Tony to confirm

16 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 14th May, Birmingham. MH to organize.