

British Biophysical Society

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

Registered Charity No. 25474

The 159th Committee Meeting of the British Biophysical Society held from 12.30 pm – 4.30 pm on Tuesday 14th May 2013 in room WG04, School of Biosciences, University of Birmingham Edgbaston Campus

Minutes

Date: 14th May 2013

Present: Anthony Watts (Chair), Jeremy Craven (Treasurer), John Seddon (Secretary), Guy Grant (Meetings Secretary), Matt Hicks, Mark Wallace, David Scott, Svetlana Antonyuk, Ehmke Pohl, John Sanderson, Tharin Blumenschein, and Tim Dafforn (co-opted).

1 Apologies: Rob Cooke, Syma Khalid, Mark Leake, Paul O'Shea, Gordon Roberts, and Dave Sheehan.

2 Approval of Minutes of the 158th meeting
Minor corrections were made to the previous Minutes, which were then accepted.

3 Matters Arising
The BBS Chairman, Anthony Watts, first welcomed and introduced the new Committee member Dr John Sanderson, Durham.

We should check that the Minutes on the BBS website are the correct (Edited) versions.

Action: Mark W

The next BBS Newsletter will be circulated by June – any material for inclusion should be sent to Syma.

Marina Kuimova (BBS Young Investigator Award, 2012), has been awarded the Chemical Communications Young Investigator Lectureship for 2013.

A meeting on the EPSRC *Physics of Life Grand Challenge* was attended by Guy Grant and David Scott. Some of the talks (eg, Tim Hunt's) were very good and BBS needs to engage more strongly in this initiative. Jeremy will attend the next meeting on *'The Living Cell'*. It was noted that Athene Donald has a blog in the Guardian.

Payments of £250 from the Royal Society and from Garland for advertising seem not to have been received.

Action: John to investigate

We should pay five years subscription to EBSA (2012 – 2016) before July.

Action: Jeremy

We should produce a Google document listing the agreed support for all BBS-supported meetings including bursaries.

Action: Jeremy

Guy suggested that the BBS website could be a good place for advertising jobs, and this could be extended to Twitter, Facebook and/or LinkedIn.

Action: Tony / Syma

It was suggested that a student could be paid to scan in the BBS historical Minutes, which could then be archived.

Action: John

Tony has invited Richard Cogdell to do the BBS Irish Tour this year.

Action; Tony

Ehmke will correct the BBS membership list and send it to Tony and Tharin.

Action: Ehmke

4 Chairman's Report (Anthony Watts)

Honorary Members

Letters were sent to Dame Carol Robinson, FRS (Oxford), Dame Athene Donald, FRS, (Cambridge) and Professor Gerald Elliott (Oxford), asking if they would be willing for their names to go forward as Honorary Members of BBS. All replied positively. A vote will be taken at the next AGM for CR and AD, but sadly, Gerald Elliott died in January. A letter from his widow was received, saying how thrilled he was to have been nominated.

German-British Biophysical Societies Joint Meeting, St. Bonifatius Monastery, Hünfeld, Germany, March 21st – March 23rd

AW co-chaired, with Karin Hauser (President, German Biophysical Society, University of Konstanz, Biophysical Chemistry) the scientific committee for this joint meeting, which was a major success for the host society. Although the German BPS has regular meetings with other BPS's, this meeting had a record attendance (110) and extra accommodation had to be found outside of the monastery. Also a record number of requests for oral presentations (3x those available) were made. The UK speakers were: Frank Gunn-Moore Jane Clarke, FRS, Marina Kuimova (BBS Young Investigator's Medal winner, 2012), David Klug, David Wales, Paola Borri, Richard Cogdell, FRS, Mark Sansom (could not attend), Thomas McLeish, FRS, Anthony Watts, and several UK students participated. A report will appear in the next BBS Newsletter. A number of the UK invited speakers have not yet joined BBS

Action: Tony to chase them.

EBSA

The winner of the 2013 EBSA Young Investigator's Medal is Michael Sixt from Austria (BBS nominated two candidates).

The winner of the 2013 Avanti/EBSA Lipid award is Félix Goñi, Bilbao (BBS did not make a nomination for this award).

AW will be chairing a meeting of ~15 Presidents of European BPSs at the 9th EBSA congress, Lisbon in July, to discuss EBSA's activities and how they can help adherent

BPSs more.

IUPAB

AW and Andrew Turberfield (Oxford), Chair, IoP Biol. Physics sub-group, will attend the IUPAB 2014 congress in Brisbane in preparation for the IUPAB/EBSA/BBS/IOP Biophysics Congress in Edinburgh in July 2017. They will visit Edinburgh in July 2013; 3,000 rooms are already booked. The IOP will run the 2017 Congress.

In March 2013 in response to a request from the President and Secretary-General of IUPAB, AW made several suggestions of possible candidates for the L'Oréal-UNESCO Women in Science Award in Life Sciences, 2014. The outcome is not yet known.

Bionanotechnology – recent advances, a workshop

Jointly with the Horst Vogel (Lausanne, CH), President of the Swiss BPS, AW is organizing a workshop in Sesimbra, PT with keynote speakers to prepare younger participants for the main EBSA congress in Lisbon (13-17 July). EBSA is supporting this workshop and registration is free for any young scientist attending the main congress. ~60 people have registered so far (9 May 2013).

5 EBSA/IUPAB Activities (Anthony Watts)

John Seddon has been nominated as Secretary of EBSA, and the election will be held in Lisbon in July.

No applications have so far been received for EBSA bursaries to attend the EBSA Congress in Lisbon. There are more than 800 registrants so far. BBS members pay a reduced registration fee.

BBS will offer up to £800 in total for student bursaries to attend IUPAB 2014, and these will be advertised. IUPAB will give up to 50 bursaries, but only for people from developing countries. EBSA will decide in Lisbon what policy to adopt on bursaries for IUPAB 2014.

6 IOP Activities (Paul O'Shea)

Nothing reported

7 Secretary's Report (John Seddon)

Previous BBS Minutes

Previously circulated; Edited Minutes put up on BBS Website.

Meetings / Lectures

The EPSRC 'Capitals' Programme grant team are organizing a one-day meeting at the IOP in November on: 'Towards Artificial Cells: Novel Advances in Bottom-up Cell Design and Construction'. Would the BBS like to Co-badge the Meeting and provide a £100 Poster prize?

Action: BBS will sponsor a £100 Poster prize.

BBS Committee

Dr Tuomas Knowles (Cambridge) to be invited to join the BBS Committee.

Action: Tony.

EBSA

New officers will be elected to the EBSA Executive Committee at the General Assembly in Lisbon in July 2013.

International Year of Crystallography 2014

Informal update on plans by BCA / Biochemical Society (Dave/Svetlana/Ehmke).

Durham are planning a One-Day meeting on 'small molecule crystallography' (Judith Howard). Newcastle are planning a One-Day meeting on 'protein crystallography' (Ehmke Pohl). IUCr plan to hold a meeting in Chester or Liverpool in 2014 in honour of Barkla. The BCA have nothing planned as yet. The Biochem Soc would like to hold a 'biophysics techniques' meeting (Dave Scot / Tim Dafforn), and a Harden conference on 'Proteins in 1-D (fibres) and 2-D (membrane proteins) in December 2014. The BBS would like to be involved with this.

IUPAB

Request for suggested speakers for 2014 IUPAB Congress (Brisbane, 3 – 7 August). Suggestions to: brett.hambly@sydney.edu.au.

8 Treasurers Report (Jeremy Craven)

Charity Commission and accounts (year end 30 June 2012)

The draft accounts are now available and are essentially ready for signing and submitting.

Current Financial situation

There is nothing significant strategic to report compared to at the last meeting.

IUPAB + EBSA

Royal Society subvention for IUPAB 2013 has been claimed. 2013 IUPAB subs still need to be paid. Still need to pay EBSA for 2012 and to pay for a few years ahead as we agreed last meeting.

Payments

Since last meeting, the following has been paid out (in addition to regular committee expenses):

Irish Tour expenses - £321.75 + £46.28;

Travel bursaries for Durham Protein Dynamics meeting in April £2013: £108 and £56.

Fraud

This is still happening. We had three attempts to set up Standing Orders (sent to branches in the far North of Scotland!), which the Bank stopped in each case. We also have had two Direct Debits setup up. One of these paid out for £114. I am contacting the bank about this to get it refunded and the DDs cancelled. We have taken all of our bank details down off the website, and will email them to people wishing to set up a standing order.

Paypal

The Paypal account is (finally) operational. JC made a credit card payment to it and it worked. The charge is 20p + 3.4% if we have a low volume of transactions. For international payments there seems to be approximately another 4-5% charge.

9 Meetings Secretary's Report (Guy Grant)

Tony will write a report on the 2013 BBS / German Biophysics meeting. We should consider organising a reciprocal meeting. Other possibilities are a UK/Brazilian or a UK/Italian meeting in 2015.

Action: Tony to investigate

2013

March: NMR workshop (30 people);

April: Protein Dynamics Workshop (Durham, 60-70 people);

June: Guy Dodson Meeting, York. BBS to offer £100 towards Tom Blundell's lecture;

Action: Tony

July: EBSA Congress, plus Bionanotechnology Workshop;

2014

9th - 11th July: BBS Biennial meeting, University of Warwick (Matt Hicks and Tim Dafforn). To include 'quickfire presentations' from PDRAs/PhDs. The IOP Biological Physics group can help to advertise the meeting. The organisers should aim to make a small profit including any sponsorship; this means planning to break even with around 120 participants. The Biochem Soc will probably sponsor a lecture. We expect around 180 participants, so we need a lecture theatre that can hold around 200. Guy suggested finalising the Co-Chairs and Plenary Speakers as soon as possible, and then putting this info up on the Meeting website (Alison Rodger will look after the website).

Biochem Soc Harden Conference. BBS will sponsor a £100 Poster prize.

2015

EBSA Congress, Dresden, 18th – 22nd July.

Joint meeting with Brazilian or Italian Societies?

One-Day meeting associated with the Biochem Soc Training Day?

BBS One-Day Meeting jointly with Diamond Light Source?

21st June, Wellcome Trust Centre: 'Instruct' Structural Biology Roadmap Meeting on X-ray crystallography, NMR, EM and Mass Spec.

2016

BBS Biennial Meeting will provisionally be held in Liverpool, organized by Svetlana Antonyuk.

2017

IUPAB / EBSA Congress, Edinburgh. Cait McPhee and another local person should be brought onto the BBS Committee in advance to help with the planning and organization.

10 Newsletter/Publicity Officer

Obituary for Guy Dodson should be put up on the BBS website. Tony Wilkenson to be approached

Action: Tony

11 Website (Mark Wallace)

Rules of the BBS are being edited to bring them up to date. These changes should be ratified at the BBS AGM in Lisbon.

Action: Mark W

It was suggested that the BBS website should have a button which someone wishing to join clicks. This would then send a message to Ehmke, who would then send them a Welcome Pack and a Standing Order form with a self-addressed envelope.

12 Membership

Currently we are gaining around 50 new members per year.

We need to chase those members who are not paying. Jeremy to send the list of names to Ehmke, who will send the BBS Committee 10 names each to chase.

Action: Jeremy and Ehmke

13 Irish Sub-section (Dave Sheehan)

Nothing reported.

[Richard Cogdell will be doing the 2013 Irish Lecture Tour.]

14 Honorary Members (Anthony Watts)

Athene Donald's and Carol Robinson's nominations should be ratified at the BBS AGM in Lisbon.

15 AOB

Durham Biophysics MSc course has 10 students signed up already for October 2013. Advertise in the BBS Newsletter.

Action: Ehmke and Tharin

Jeremy is interested in teaching concepts in Biophysics / Biochemistry. He could for example give a one-day presentation at the Durham launch in 2014 and the EBSA congress (session 21) July 2013.

Action: Tony

Tony gave congratulations to Matt and Tim for being Runners-Up in the BBSC Innovator of the Year competition.

16 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 12th September, Diamond Light source (organize via Dave Scott)