

British Biophysical Society

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

Registered Charity No. 25474

The 161th Committee Meeting of the British Biophysical Society, held from 12.30 pm – 4.30 pm on Thursday 30th January 2014 in 2014 in the Castlereagh room in the Fisher Building at St. John's College, Cambridge

Unedited Minutes

Date: 30th January 2014

Present: Anthony Watts (Chair), Tharin Blumenschein (Secretary), Guy Grant (Meetings Secretary), John Seddon, Dave Sheehan, Mark Wallace, Tuomas Knowles and Tim Dafforn (co-opted).

1 Apologies: Jeremy Craven (Treasurer), Ehmke Pohl, Syma Khalid, Svetlana Antonyuk, Rob Cooke, Matt Hicks, Mark Leake, Gordon Roberts, John Sanderson and David Scott.

2 Approval of Minutes of the 160th meeting
The Minutes were accepted without change.

3 Matters Arising

The committee thanks Tuomas Knowles for organising the meeting in Cambridge.

The historic minutes will be stored at the Bodleian Library, Oxford. All that is remaining is to set the date for the delivery of the minutes. We will aim to arrange a future committee meeting in Oxford in which the minutes can be officially delivered.

The historic minutes have been scanned, and will be made available on the BBS website.

Action: Mark Wallace

4 Chairman's Report (Anthony Watts)

Activities between September 2013 and January 2014 have included:

- Emails to honorary members to keep them informed of news, and to ask them for nominations for the BBS medal, for suggestions for speakers for the BBS meeting in July, in Warwick, and for suggestions for new honorary members.
- Arranging lecture venues for Prof Christopher Miller (Brandeis University) and Prof Lukas Tamm (University of Virginia), who are currently on sabbaticals in Oxford. They will present BBS lectures at different locations.
- The conference centre in Edinburgh has contacted Tony and would like him to visit Edinburgh to discuss details. A future committee meeting will be arranged in Edinburgh.

5 **EBSA/IUPAB Activities (John Seddon)**

The EBSA Congress in Lisbon in July 2013 went well. The next EBSA Congress will be in Dresden, in 2015.

We need to advertise the 2015 EBSA Congress in our webpage and email list.

Action: John Seddon to send PDF to Mark Wallace and John Sanderson

Action: Mark Wallace and John Sanderson to advertise.

Nominations are being sought for the Avanti Polar Lipids/EBSA Award (for established investigators – this award went to Prof Felix Goni, University of the Basque Country, in 2013) and for the EBSA Young Investigator's Medal and Prize. Nominations should come to the BBS committee for the Young Investigator's Medal, who will then forward nominations to John Seddon, as EBSA Secretary. Nominations for the Avanti/EBSA Award can be either individual, self- or society nominations.

At the 2014 IUPAB Congress (Brisbane, 3 – 7 August 2014), the BBS will have two votes. Tony Watts and John Seddon will be representing EBSA (which has 3 votes), but there will be other British biophysicists attending who will be able to represent the BBS.

Action: John Seddon and Tony Watts to organize in Brisbane.

John Seddon and Calum Drummond (CSIRO) are organising a meeting on 'Lipidic Cubic Phases' from 31st July – 2nd August as a satellite to the 2014 IUPAB Congress. The BBS is providing £100 for a poster prize, the certificate proforma needs to be sent to John.

Action: Tony Watts

6 **IOP Activities**

Nothing reported. We are still looking at recruiting a new Committee member to represent IOP.

7 **Secretary's Report (Tharin Blumenschein)**

There were no items to report.

The committee approved a vote of thanks to John Seddon for his 6 years as BBS secretary.

8 **Treasurer's Report (Jeremy Craven)**

Current Financial situation

Total reserves are ca. £42500. Uncertainty of approximately £2K due to possible outstanding bill from Durham for 2012 conference.

Memberships

The main annual batch of standing order payments are in.

2008 £3272

2009 £2919

2010 £2848

2011 £2799
2012 £2926 (200 or so payments; 24@£25)
2013 £3484 (204 payments; 65@£25)
2014 £3694 (208 payments; 77@£25) [at 27th Jan 14]
So we continue to head in the right direction, if a little slowly

To encourage the increase in memberships, there will be a membership drive at the registration desk at the BBS meeting in Warwick, with committee members at the registration desk to encourage new members. Registration will also include BBS membership as an option.

We should also set up a system to send an annual membership renewal reminder to members who do not have a standing order.

Action: Ehmke and Jeremy to investigate.

9 Meetings Secretary's Report (Guy Grant)

2014

A One-day Workshop on Teaching Biophysics with £150 agreed support from BBS, should be organised around September.

Action: Jeremy

The BBS Biennial meeting will happen on 9th - 11th July at the University of Warwick. More details below.

Bursaries are available for early career BBS members to attend the IUPAB Congress. The committee agreed to increase the total budget for IUPAB bursaries to £1600, for two bursaries of £800.

Action: Guy

The bursaries will be advertised on the BBS website and mailing list.

Action: Mark Wallace, John Sanderson

The International Year of Crystallography is being marked by the British Crystallographic Association in their meeting (Loughborough, 7 – 10 April), which will include sessions on “Complementary non-diffraction techniques”.

The possibility of a one-day meeting in London in December to mark the International Year of Crystallography was discussed. The topic could be “The relationship between crystallography and biophysics”, and we would invite our honorary members as speakers. Possible organisers for the meeting were discussed. Tony and Guy will approach people for their availability.

Action: Tony, Guy

2015

EBSA Congress, Dresden, 18th – 22nd July. Organizer: Helmut Grübmueller, Göttingen. The EBSA Exec Committee will be meeting in Dresden on 1st February, and will visit the planned conference venue.

A satellite (title TBD) to engage and introduce younger participants to each other ahead of EBSA 2015 is planned.

Action: Tony

Possible joint meeting with the Biochemical Society, approaching them as a Society with a well developed proposal for a Harden Conference. David Scott is

the theme panel chair, and suggested we approach the new meetings secretary.

Action: Guy

Possible short BBS meeting in Oxford, perhaps focusing around the new EM, or on optics / imaging. This could be 1.5 day spread over two days, and would also be an opportunity to have our AGM and hand in the historical minutes to the Bodleian Library. Perhaps in the first week of July.

A future committee meeting could be organised in Oxford, in the new Bodleian Library.

Action: Mark Wallace, Tony

2016

BBS Biennial Meeting locations were discussed. Southampton was considered a possibility.

Action: Tony to contact Svetlana and Syma

2017

IUPAB / EBSA Congress, Edinburgh. Cait McPhee and another local person should be brought onto the BBS Committee by the end of 2014 to help with the planning and organization. We will need to have an organising committee in place in time for a meeting in Edinburgh, in January 2016. Tony will check with Gordon Roberts the planning timeline.

Action: Tony

BBS Biennial meeting, 9th - 11th July, University of Warwick

Matt Hicks has stepped down from organising the conference.

The venue is booked. Tim Dafforn presented the programme, which is 75% complete, to the committee. Three plenaries are confirmed, and a slot will be found for a fourth (Ernst Bamberg). Probe microscopy and EM sessions are progressing, while simulation (which began to be organised late) and light microscopy are lagging. The aim is for the programme to be complete by end of February.

A draft website is complete, but still needs the financial part finalised, and to be linked to the BBS site. The final website should be launched in the beginning of February.

Registration costs have been set at £300 for BBS members, increasing to £350 after 1st May. Student member rates are £250, increasing to £300. Non-member rates are an extra £25.

A list of sponsors has been compiled, and they will begin to be contacted.

An email banner and a PowerPoint slide will be circulated to the committee for advertising.

Action: committee

CD satellite meeting waiting for programme; MBN 1-day meeting also possible.

Bursaries will be available for BBS student members to cover travel only to the meeting, up to a value of £80. Given that the abstract deadline is 1st May, the bursary deadline will be set for late May.

- 10 Newsletter/Publicity Officer (Syma Khalid)**
No items were reported.
- 11 Website (Mark Wallace)**
No items were reported.
- 12 Membership**
A discussion on corporate membership was postponed to the next committee meeting and will be added to the agenda then.
Action: Ehmke
- 13 Irish Sub-section (Dave Sheehan)**
Prof Richard Cogdell FRS, University of Glasgow, undertook the 2013 Irish Lecture Tour (11th – 13th November), visiting Queen's University Belfast, the Conway Institute of University College Dublin, then the School of Biochemistry and Cell Biology in Cork. Richard's talk was entitled *How purple photosynthetic bacteria harvest light*. The lectures were very well attended, attracting undergraduate and graduate students, postdocs and PIs from multiple departments in every location.
- 14 Honorary Members (Anthony Watts)**
A number of new Honorary members were suggested, and Tony will approach them and see if they would be happy to be put forward.
Action: Tony
- 15 BBS 2014 Young Investigator's Award (Anthony Watts)**
Nominations were received for Dr Sjors Scheres, Dr John Burke, Dr Sergi Garcia-Manyes, Dr Adam Perriman, Dr Anastasia Zhuravleva, Dr Tuomas Knowles, and Dr Justin Benesch.

A committee was formed to judge the award, composed by John Seddon, Guy Grant, Tim Dafforn and David Sheehan. Once the committee has reached a conclusion, Tony will email the awardee, and Tim Dafforn will include them in the final programme for the BBS Biennial meeting.
Action: John Seddon, Guy, Tim and David
Action: Tharin to circulate nominations to the committee
Action: Tony to order the medal
- 16 AOB**
No other items were raised.
- 17 Date of Next Meeting**
Early May, Warwick (to be organized by Tim Dafforn).