

British Biophysical Society

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

Registered Charity No. 25474

**The 163rd Committee Meeting of the British Biophysical Society, held from
12.30 pm – 4.30 pm on Tuesday 7th October 2014 at Imperial College London,
Chemistry Department, room 234**

Edited Minutes

Date: 7th October 2014

Present: Anthony Watts (Chair), Tharin Blumenschein (Secretary), Guy Grant (Meetings Secretary), Jeremy Craven (Treasurer), John Seddon, Mark Wallace, Syma Khalid, Ehmke Pohl, Svetlana Antonyuk, Rob Cooke, Mark Leake and David Sheehan.

1 Apologies: Tuomas Knowles, John Sanderson, Tim Dafforn, Gordon Roberts and David Scott.

2 Approval of Minutes of the 162nd meeting
The Minutes were accepted without change.

3 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

4 Chairman's Report (Anthony Watts)

As part of his activities between May and October 2014, the Chairman has:

- Represented the BBS at the IUPAB Council meeting at the congress, Brisbane, August 2014;
- Discussed with the IUPAB congress organizers (Bret Hambly, Glenn King, Jamie Vandenberg), organizational and operational experiences with regard to IUPAB/EBSA/BBS/IoP 2017
- Written to Alan Cooper, Sheena Radford and Robin Leatherbarrow, informing them of their election, *nem com*, to Hon members of BBS at the Warwick BBS biennial meeting;
- In coordination with the Meetings Secretary (Guy Grant), invited speakers for the "Complementary techniques to crystallography" meeting in December 2014;
- Obtained endorsement from UNESCO for the above meeting;
- Got web site established for above meeting;
- Written to Hon members and others, asking for nominations for the BBS nomination for the EBSA Young Investigators' Award, 2015;
- Contributed to list of potential UK speakers for the EBSA Dresden congress,

- July 2015;
- Got medals made for the BBS Young Investigator Award;
 - Agreed to be co-editor, with Gordon Roberts, of the 2nd edition of the Springer Encyclopaedia of Biophysics;
 - Applied for IUPAB support for satellite meeting to the EBSA congress – “Spectroscopies for biology” as a pre-congress “warm up” BBS/EBSA satellite for younger participants.
 - Contacted Syma Khalid and Svetlana Antonyuk informally, and suggest the idea that the 2016 BBS Biennial meeting might be held in Southampton or Liverpool, respectively.
 - Contacted Dave Sheehan about potential speakers for the 2014 Irish Lecture tour;

5 EBSA/IUPAB Activities (John Seddon)

EBSA

- 2015 EBSA Young Investigator’s Medal and prize: nominations to John Seddon, EBS Secretary (2 per society) by 31st Dec 2014. BBS should set up a small group to select the 2 nominations.
- Avanti Polar Lipids / EBSA Award, nominations to Manuel Prieto, EBSA president by 31st Dec 2014.
- Planning is well under way for the 2015 EBSA Congress in Dresden, 8th – 22nd July 2015, with 24 sessions and approximately 5 Satellite meetings.
- The EBSA Course on ‘Membrane and Lipid-Protein Interactions’ was held at La Grande Motte, near Montpellier from 8th – 12th September. There were 50 students and 10 lecturers, with many participants from the UK. The BBS provided a bursary to one attendee.
- 12th Greta Pifat Mrzljak International School of Biophysics in Primosten, Croatia (Tomislav Vuletic, Chair) took place from 27th Sept – 6th Oct 2014, with a few participants from the UK.

IUPAB

- The 18th IUPAB Congress was held in Brisbane from 3rd – 7th August, with some 900 participants.
- At the General Assembly, Tony Watts and Andrew Turberfield were the BBS voting delegates, and John Seddon, Peter Judge (Oxford) and Tommy Nylander (Lund) were the EBSA delegates.
- Marcelo Morales was confirmed as IUPAB President Elect, and Rio de Janiero was selected as the venue for the 2020 IUPAB Congress.
- Professor Zihe Rao (Tsinghua University) took over as IUPAB President.
- Tony Watts made a presentation about the 2017 Congress in Edinburgh. He

has submitted a draft contract to IUPAB, which has still to be signed off.

- BBS, EBSA, and IUPAB Committees will meet in Edinburgh in January 2016 to check out the venues.
- Frances Separovic (Melbourne) has taken over as Secretary of the American Biophysical Society.

Nominations for the EBSA Young Investigator's Medal and Prize were received. A selection committee was formed, composed by Guy Grant, Rob Cooke and David Sheeham, to select two nominations to be sent to the EBSA Secretary.

Action: Tharin Blumenschein to send the nominations paperwork to the selection committee.

6 Secretary's Report (Tharin Blumenschein)

The minutes of the General Assembly of the IUPAB were circulated to the committee members.

In discussion, the Education Task Force activities were highlighted as potentially useful, as there are plans to share teaching resources, which may fit with interests of BBS members.

7 IOP Activities (Mark Leake)

Activities of the IOP Biological Physics Group were reported to the committee. The previous BPG committee chair, Paul O'Shea, has stepped down, and Jamie Hobbs (University of Sheffield) is now the chair of the committee. He will have regular meetings with Andrew Tuberfield about the 2017 meeting.

The next meetings in the Biological Physics Group are "The physics of microorganisms", in March 2015, and "Physics of Emergent Behaviour – II", in July 2015.

Action: John Sanderson to circulate details of those meetings to the newsgroup.

The IOP has published a booklet on UK biological physics research, available from the IOP website.

A number of activities are also being organised by the EPSRC Physics of Life network.

Mark Leake accepted to be our IOP connection. Tony Watts commented that it will be positive to strengthen our links to the IOP.

8 Treasurer's Report (Jeremy Craven)

1) Current Financial situation

Total reserves are ca. £39k.

9 Meetings Secretary's Report (Guy Grant)

2014

9th - 11th July – BBS Biennial meeting, New Frontiers in Biophysics. University of Warwick. (Tim Dafforn, Alison Rodger)

Report from 2014 BBS Biennial meeting, 9th - 11th July, University of Warwick
It was a really good meeting, but unfortunately Tim Dafforn cannot be present at

this committee meeting to report.

24th September - 1/2 day symposium on 'Frontiers of Biomolecular Simulation', University of Southampton. BBS sponsored a lecture, and it was a very good meeting, with a large number of attendees from outside Southampton, both from companies and universities. The BBS banner was displayed during the drinks reception, providing good publicity for £134. Syma will write up a report for the newsletter.

Action: Syma Khalid

December: Complementary Non-diffraction Techniques, London (GHG, AW)

Complementary Non-diffraction Techniques in Structural Biology

A one-day symposium to celebrate the end of the UN International Year of Crystallography, 11th December, Brunei Gallery, SOAS, London.

Planning is well under way, with a number of speakers and sponsors having agreed, and catering being organised. Student bursaries will be available for members in distant locations, and registration will close 2 weeks before the event, for catering purposes.

Action: All to advertise the meeting

2015

Joint Harden Meeting with the Biochemical Society.

Action: Guy, David Scott

Meeting in Oxford. Perhaps on membrane proteins, around Easter.

Action: Tony Watts to investigate possible venues.

Action: Mark Wallace to check Lady Margaret Hall

Easter: Teaching Biophysics, University of Sheffield.

To focus on teaching kinetics and thermodynamics to Biology students. IOP also has resources around this topic. Small workshop-style meeting, around 16 people. BBS will underwrite the meeting.

Action: Jeremy Craven

17th – 22nd July: EBSA Congress, Dresden.

There will be 24 sessions, and invitations to speakers have been sent.

A satellite meeting is being organised by Tony Watts, who will also chair the New & Notable session.

Action: Tony

Bursaries will be offered, of approximately £250 each, keeping within the BBS's annual budget of £2000 for bursaries in total.

2016

BBS Biennial Meeting, Liverpool. Dates, location, theme, sessions and budget to be prepared for the next committee meeting.

Action: Svetlana

December: London one-day meeting.

Action: Tuomas Knowles? All?

2017

Joint IUPAB / EBSA / BBS / IoP Congress, Edinburgh.

A committee meeting will be held in Edinburgh in January 2016, avoiding the rugby weekend.

Scottish co-opted members will be invited to attend the BBS committee meeting in September 2015.

Claire Garland (IOP) is coordinating a website for the Congress.

Session themes should be in place before January 2016, with planning starting during the EBSA Congress in Dresden (2015).

10 **Newsletter/Publicity Officer (Syma Khalid/John Sanderson)**

A request was made for material to be sent to Syma whenever possible for publicity on Tweeter and Facebook (98 followers). We are currently being followed by the Biophysical Society (USA) and the Biochemical Society on Tweeter, potentially increasing the impact of our tweets.

The next newsletter is currently being prepared, and should come out in early November.

John Sanderson asked the committee for a position on how to send messages from the EBSA mailing list to BBS members. The committee agreed that the current situation of having EBSA messages edited and then sent out as part of the regular newsgroup option was the best solution. It was also suggested that line with a link to join the EBSA newsgroup was added to the bottom of the BBS newsgroup.

Action: John Sanderson

John Sanderson requested that future versions of the newsletter are made available, in PDF format, in the BBS website, so it can be circulated to the BBS newsgroup by sending a link to it. The committee agreed that this was a good idea.

Action: Syma and Mark Wallace

11 **Website (Mark Wallace)**

Our web providers have agreed to us free of charge for the next four months.

A report from the Warwick meeting will be put on the website, including links to YouTube videos of lectures, and photos.

Action: Tony Watts to send material to Mark

London meeting to be added to the website.

Action: Mark Wallace

BBC – The Life Scientific radio programme with Carol Robinson to be linked from BBS website.

Action: Mark Wallace

12 **Membership (Ehmke Pohl)**

New memberships are trickling in, with a large number of new standing order forms.

Corporate membership was discussed, and the committee was generally in favour of the proposal. Some discussion was held about what benefits would be available to corporate members, with suggestions such as a free poster and free registration

for one person at biennial meetings, and link on the website. The detailed proposal of benefits, based on current practice in other societies, will be circulated so the details can be agreed on.

Action: Ehmke Pohl

13 Irish Sub-section (Dave Sheehan)

A speaker was suggested for the Irish Lecture Tour in the Spring (after mid-January).

Action: David Sheeham to contact

14 Honorary Members (Anthony Watts)

All are invited to suggest new names for Honorary Members in 2015.

Action: all

2014 honorary members to be added to the website.

Action: Mark Wallace

15 AOB

Minutes of the AGM need to be written, John Seddon will send older AGM minutes to Tharin Blumenschein

Action: John Seddon

The committee commented on the usefulness of having a slide describing the advantages of BBS membership. Tony Watts has the material and will circulate one.

Action: Tony Watts

16 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday, 13th January 2015. Location to be decided.