

British Biophysical Society

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

Registered Charity No. 25474

The 164th Committee Meeting of the British Biophysical Society, held from 12.00 pm – 4.00 pm on Tuesday 13th January 2015 at Imperial College London, Chemistry Department, room 259

Edited Minutes

Date: 13th January 2015

Present: Anthony Watts (Chair), Tharin Blumenschein (Secretary), Guy Grant (Meetings Secretary), John Seddon, Rob Cooke, David Scott and Tuomas Knowles.

1 Apologies: Jeremy Craven (Treasurer), John Sanderson, Mark Leake, Ehmke Pohl, Gordon Roberts, Matt Hicks, Tim Dafforn, Svetlana Antoniuk, David Sheeham, Syma Khalid and Mark Wallace.

2 Approval of Minutes of the 163rd meeting

The Minutes were accepted without change.

3 Matters Arising

The Chairman has commented that the contract for the 2017 meeting is still work in progress.

4 Chairman's Report (Anthony Watts)

As part of his activities between September 2014 and January 2015, the Chairman has:

- Contacted various senior people in the UK, including BBS Hon. Members, soliciting nomination for the EBSA 2015 Young Investigator's Award and Medal – *ad hoc* BBS committee for short listing selected has been selected and 2 nominations submitted to EBSA;
- Organised the scientific programme, web pages and registration for the BBS December London meeting, "Complementary non-diffraction techniques in structural biology" – non-members who attended were all contacted and asked if they would like to join (see treasurer's and membership items);
- All speakers at the meeting were written to individually and thanks for their participation;
- Met with Bodleian Library archive staff [Wilma Minty (Special Events and Public Programmes at The Bodleian Library) wilma.minty@bodleian.ox.ac.uk; Catherine Parker (Archivist) catherine.parker@bodleian.ox.ac.uk and Susan Thomas (Head of Digital Collections at Bodleian Libraries),

susan.thomas@bodleian.ox.ac.uk] and Mark Wallace, to discuss handing over the BBS minutes to the Bodleian Archives and join the Kendrew Archives, on 13th April 2015 in an event in the newly refurbished Weston Library. Richard Ovenden (Keeper) confirmed attendance. (Note added: Date change to May 20th and now the Vice Chancellor will be able to attend).

- Organising a satellite meeting, on “Spectroscopies for Biology”, just before the EBSA Congress in Dresden in July 2015.

5 EBSA/IUPAB Activities (John Seddon)

EBSA

- The Executive Committee has not met since October.
- Sixteen nominations were received for the EBSA Young Investigator’s Medal and Prize, which will be evaluated by an independent panel.
- Four nominations were received for the Avanti Polar Lipids / EBSA Award, and a selection committee has been set up.

IUPAB

- The IUPAB newsletter was circulated to member societies.

6 IOP Activities (Mark Leake)

There were no reports from the IoP at this meeting.

7 Secretary’s Report (Tharin Blumenschein)

The committee thanks Rob Cooke, Guy Grant and David Sheeham for evaluating the candidates and selecting the two nominations to be sent as the BBS nominations for the EBSA Young Investigator’s Medal and Prize.

8 Treasurer’s Report (Jeremy Craven)

1) Memberships

The main annual batch of standing order payments were received at the beginning of January. An analysis of membership income over the last 8 years shows that income from membership is increasing again, after a decrease between 2008 and 2011. These positive news signal that we continue to progress in the right direction for a financially sustainable future.

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 27 th Jan 14]
2015	£4319 (223 payments; 99@£25) [at 12 Jan 15]

This is a preliminary analysis; a few more membership payments come in later in the year.

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)

There was a profit of about £2300 to the BBS.

With the meeting and reporting complete, Tim Dafforn has now formally left the committee.

This committee thanks Tim Dafforn and Alison Rodger for their efforts in organising an excellent meeting.

11th December – Complementary Non-diffraction Techniques in Structural Biology
A one-day symposium to celebrate the end of the UN International Year of Crystallography, Brunei Gallery, SOAS, London.

118 delegates were registered for the symposium, of which 41 BBS non-members, 14 honorary members or speakers, and 63 BBS members. About 10-15% of delegates were from industry.

Several new membership applications resulted from this meeting.

The meeting generated £2260 from registrations (costing £10 for members and £40 for non-members), and £750 from sponsorship (from New England BioLabs, Rigaku and Biosilta), and cost £1390 for room hire, ~£2400 for catering, and £691.42 for speakers' travel costs. The total net cost to the BBS was about £1500.

This committee thanks Tony Watts for organising an excellent meeting.

As the meeting was a great event for members, and generated a sizeable number of new membership applications, we will aim to organise more one-day meetings like this, as long as we have a good theme and volunteers to organise the meetings.

2015

April: Meeting in Oxford, including hand-over of BBS papers to the Bodleian library. The meeting could include a public lecture at lunchtime, the official hand-over, and scientific lectures in the afternoon, with a dinner with Honorary Members in the evening. The date may be changed so the Vice-Chancellor for the University of Oxford can attend.

Archives of the Society will need to be collected from John Seddon and delivered to the Bodleian Library.

Action: Tony Watts to organise.

September: Teaching Biophysics, University of Sheffield.

As there is a Biochemical Society teaching meeting around Easter, this meeting was moved to September.

Action: Jeremy Craven, Guy Grant and Ehmke Pohl

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

A satellite meeting is being organised by Tony Watts, who will also chair the New & Notable session. Tony Watts (as managing editor of EBJ) and John Seddon (as Secretary to EBSA) are on the Scientific committee and will chair sessions at the congress.

December: As 2015 is the "UN International Year of Light and light-based

technologies”, this would provide a natural fit for a meeting around high-resolution microscopy, perhaps in Manchester, as the last one-day meeting was in London.

Action: David Scott to contact people in Manchester.

2016

BBS Biennial Meeting, Liverpool.

The meeting is proposed to be hosted at Life Sciences building, with the reception in the Victoria Gallery Museum. Two dates were proposed to the committee, and 6-8 July was preferred by the committee.

The next committee meeting will be in Liverpool, with a more detailed proposal to be discussed.

Action: Guy to discuss with Svetlana

December: London one-day meeting. Tuomas will organise. The committee will generate ideas for possible themes.

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, and running from a Friday evening to a Sunday afternoon. The scientific committee will convene. Claire Garland (IoP) will organise the venue for that.

Plenary speakers should be invited during 2015, initial suggestions of names for next meeting.

Action: all to think of possible plenary speakers

Action: Mark Leake to gather suggestions from IoP

There will also be IUPAB named lectures, for which IUPAB covers speakers' expenses.

We will invite co-opted members from Scotland to join the BBS committee to take part in the organisation, to get involved by May in the discussion of possible plenary speakers.

Action: all

The programme outline should be circulated in January 2016, ready for the meeting in Edinburgh. IoP representatives will be invited to the BBS committee meeting in September. The webpage for the meeting is up and running. Sponsorships will be coordinated by the IoP. Decisions need to be made as to how many plenary sessions we should have. Plenary and keynote speakers will be decided by the scientific committee, session chairs will have some flexibility to suggest speakers. Session chairs can be drawn from BBS and IoP committee members. There will not be much time to discuss proposals with EBSA at the meeting in Dresden, we will need something to show to them there. We could also co-opt someone from Scotland to the EBSA committee in preparation for the 2017 Congress.

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

The newsletter is almost ready to be circulated.

Action: Syma Khalid

11 Website (Mark Wallace)

Mark Wallace has redesigned the logo and a new website, and asked committee members for feedback on the beta version. Overall, the new website looks great, with a few minor tweaks. A list of suggestions was prepared to be sent to Mark.

Action: Mark Wallace to implement the new website

12 Membership (Ehmke Pohl)

Overall 2014 was a very good year, 50 new members, almost all have submitted standing order forms or ticked the box (however, we need to check that the ones that simply ticked the box, really paid in January).

The December meeting has been the best membership drive – 25 of the new members can be directly attributed to the one-day symposium. Perhaps this could be repeated in 2015 and 2016.

All members of the committee should encourage their students and PDRA to join (and apply for bursaries).

It is important that the differential between member and non-member rates for the 2016 meeting is bigger than the annual membership fee, to encourage new members to join.

Corporate membership 2015

As discussed, a number of company representatives inquired about the possibility of corporate membership. This may be advantageous not only for the company but also for the BBS because this would increase our revenue stream as well as our visibility to the community. Based on the benefits offered by similar societies, Ehmke prepared a list of suggested benefits (with costs) and annual fee.

Corporate membership is targeted at vendors, rather than large companies employing biophysicists, and the benefits should reflect that. We should keep in mind that large companies may be interested in co-organising scientific meetings, under the goals of OpenScience and engaging the community.

After discussion, it was agreed that the fee should be **£500** per year, and benefits should include:

- Free non-residential registration for up to 5 employees at meetings organised exclusively by the BBS;
- Free commercial stands at meetings organised exclusively by the BBS;
- Clickable links on the BBS webpage of corporate members.
- Advertisement on the BBS newsletter

The creation of the category of corporate membership will require changes to our constitution, which will need to be approved at the next AGM.

Action: Tharin Blumenschein to prepare

We need to check that there are no objections from the charity commission to corporate membership.

Action: Jeremy Craven

- 13 Irish Sub-section (Dave Sheehan)**
Paula Booth will present the Irish Lecture Tour in the Spring (late February-early March). Awaiting confirmation of specific dates.
Action: David Sheeham
- 14 Honorary Members (Anthony Watts)**
A number of names of possible Honorary Members was discussed.
Action: Tony Watts
- 15 AOB**
Mark Leake emailed a request of financial support from the organisers of the workshop “Information Flow in Biological Systems”. The committee suggested that we sponsor a lecture, for £100.

Prof Robin Leatherbarrow would like get involved and join the BBS committee. It was agreed that he will be invited to the next committee meeting.
Action: Tony Watts
- 16 Date of Next Meeting**
Between 27 and 30th April 2015, in Liverpool. Final date to be decided based on a Doodle poll.
Action: Tharin Blumenschein