

**The 168th Committee Meeting of the British Biophysical Society, held from
12.30 pm – 4.30 pm on Monday 9th May 2016 in room SALC8, level 5 of Sherfield
Building, at Imperial College London**

Edited Minutes

Date: 9th May 2016

Present: Anthony Watts (Chair), Tharin Blumenschein (Secretary), Guy Grant (Meetings Secretary), Jeremy Craven (Treasurer), John Sanderson, John Seddon, Tuomas Knowles, Svetlana Antoniuk, Olwyn Byron, and Mark Wallace.

1 **Welcome** to Prof. Olwyn Byron, University of Glasgow, who has joined the committee.

2 **Apologies:** Gordon Roberts, Mark Leake, Rob Cooke, Syma Khalid, Ehmke Pohl, Robin Leatherbarrow and David Scott.

3 **Approval of Minutes of the 167th meeting**

The Minutes were accepted with minor corrections to the dates of a future satellite meeting.

4 **Matters Arising**

Tharin emailed Prof Rob Field, from CBID, who said he would bring the matter up at the next CBID committee meeting.

Action: Tharin to follow up

John Sanderson contacted Steve Lee (Cambridge), Chair of the Biophysical Chemistry Group, and reported that the RSC is planning the Faraday Joint Interest Group Conference, on Physical Chemistry, for April 2017, with a section on Biophysical Chemistry. Steve Lee will talk to Ann Dixon, secretary of the BCG, about the possibility of cross-membership between BCG and BBS committees.

5 Chairman's Report (Anthony Watts)

- January - May 2016 - Chaired IUPAB/EBSA/BBS/IoP 2017 congress planning meeting, Edinburgh. Solicited >70 session chairs (by March 2016) and receiving nominations for invited speakers (by April 31st 2016). Collected sponsorship contacts for congress at American BPS meeting, LAX (Feb 2016).
- 27th January 2016 – Attend EPSRC Physics for Life wind up meeting, London.
- Supplied BBS view of next phase of initiative, chaired by Tom McLeish, Durham. Olwyn Byron now as BBS cross representative.
- March 2016 - Biophysics Week, 7 – 11th March 2016: BBS were acknowledged at events in Oxford, Cambridge, Sheffield, Norwich, Harwell and York.
 - 1) 7 March - Organized seminar from Achilles Kapanedis (Physics Oxford) in Biochemistry for the student biochem soc. (OUBS). BBS Banner present.
 - 2) 8 March – AW Introduced: The Chemical Biology Meeting, Chemistry department, Oxford, which for “Biophysics Week” featured Sergi Garcia-Manyes (King's College, Physics, London) with a talk entitled: "Linking mechanochemistry to protein folding at the single bond level", and Ramin Golestanian (Oxford Physics) with a talk entitled: "Self-organization due to catalytic activity”. Hagen Bayley was host, the BBS banner was present.
 - 3) Asked Richard Henderson to organize a seminar: Dr David Klenerman, FRS, Department of Chemistry, Cambridge University, gave a lecture on "New insights into neurodegenerative disease from single molecule studies of protein aggregates", on Tuesday 8th March in the Max Perutz Lecture Theatre. Hosts were Alan Fersht, FRS & Richard Henderson, FRS.
 - 4) AW Introduced, on behalf of BBS: A mini-symposium on Friday, 11 March 2016 from 10:00 to 12:30 to celebrate “Biophysics Week”, RC@H with speakers: Professor Jeremy Tame, Yokohama City University, Japan, "Artificial symmetrical proteins - their design and uses"; Dr Corinne Smith, University of Warwick, "Analysis of clathrin cages complexes using cryo-electron microscopy and neutron scattering: opportunities to build an interface between techniques", and Professor Jeremy Lakey, University of Newcastle, "Using neutrons to study the structure and dynamics of the bacterial outer membrane". Organized by Dave Scott.
 - 5) The Biological Physical Sciences Institute (BPSI) hosted a talk entitled: "Discrimination of human mesenchymal stromal cell lines using Raman spectroscopy”, by Raquel De Almeida Rocha Ponzoni, Dept of Physics, University of York, and Physics Lecturer at Universidade Tecnológica Federal do Paraná, Campus Dois Vizinhos - Brazil, at Wentworth College, 9 March. Mark Leake was the contact.
- April 2016 - Astbury Conversation (11/12th) – Sheena Radford and Thomas Edwards, organizers. Tony attended the meeting and presented the BBS Bursary Awards on behalf of BBS. BBS Banner was present.
- April 2016 - Written a “what is biophysics” article for PHYSICS TODAY, Susan Curtis editor.
- Other activities on behalf of the chair:
 - Received an invitation from EPSRC to provide input to their “balancing of activities” initiative. Mark Wallace went to see EPSRC to discuss their needs. This is a fact finding exercise, where they are looking for opinions about the balance of their portfolio, using evidence from meeting reports and other documentation. Eventually, this may lead to a policy document for

biophysics. Some suggested recommendations are a possible cross-Research Council committee; on request, ask for success rates for the named people on the BBS membership list; what are the areas of biophysics to watch for the next decade – future areas of growth.

- Received an invitation from the Biochemical Society for the Biochemical Society Summer Party, but this falls at the same time as the Liverpool meeting, so declined.

Thanks to all committee members who organised events for Biophysics Week.

6 **EBSA/IUPAB Activities** (John Seddon/Gordon Roberts)

EBSA – the committee met on 23rd January. EBSA committee members are acting as chairs for the IUPAB/EBSA/BBS/loP 2017.

The 2019 EBSA Congress will be in Madrid, the EBSA committee will meet there on 20th June to see what Madrid is like in the summer. Tony will take over as EBSA president then.

Nominations are being called for the 2017 Young Investigator's Medal, and for the Avanti Polar Lipid/EBSA Award. The deadline will be 31st December.

EBSA offers support for meetings on even years, when there is no EBSA Congress.

IUPAB – Gordon Roberts was not able to attend this meeting to report, but IUPAB is looking for nominations for a new General Secretary.

IUPAB contributed funding to the EBSA “Membrane and lipid-protein interactions” graduate workshop, to happen in September.

7 **IOP Activities** (Mark Wallace)

There is nothing to report, as the committee meeting will be in 2 weeks.

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

- 1) Attended, with Guy Grant, the EPSRC Learned Societies Workshop, in London, 2nd March, representing the BBS. The goal of the workshop was to gather input from learned societies into priorities for spending in the next few years.
- 2) The EPSRC has launched the *EPSRC Balancing Capability Call for Evidence 2016*, to input into research areas to “grow”, “maintain”, and “reduce”. The BBS has stated we will make a submission, and Mark Wallace has suggested a “Roadmap for British Biophysics” document. The deadline is **3rd June**.
- 3) Biophysics Week went really well, with a number of events in the UK. We should try to find out the date earlier, if there is to be one next year, so we can have a bigger lead time to organise events.
Action: Tharin
- 4) The Royal Society of Biology has offered us a reduced rate at £250, taking into account the size of our society.

Thanks to Mark Wallace for writing the “Roadmap for British Biophysics” document.

9 Treasurer's Report (Jeremy Craven)

Our annual return has been lodged with the Charity Commission and is available via their website. Our total reserves stand at about £36k.

10 Meetings Secretary's Report (Guy Grant)

2016

11th – 12th April: Astbury Conversation. Leeds (Sheena Radford)

Went well, Tony presented the prizes to two student talks.

6th – 8th July: BBS Biennial Meeting, Liverpool.

The programme is almost complete, and was presented to the committee.

12th – 14th September: Physics meets Biology, Cambridge, organised by IoP. We have been invited to co-sponsor.

December: Protein-protein interactions, self-assembly and aggregation, London one-day meeting.

Tuomas and Guy are looking into rooms.

Action: Tuomas Knowles, Guy

2017

16th – 20th July: Joint IUPAB / EBSA / BBS / IoP Congress, Edinburgh.

Plenary speakers are in place, details such as rooms are being firmed. Tony will run a satellite meeting for young scientists to take place before the congress, as in previous years.

Action: all

21st – 23rd July: The Interplay Between Membrane Physics and Cell Biology, Durham.

Action: John Sanderson

December: a one-day meeting to be organised, volunteer required.

2018

July: BBS Biennial Meeting. Looking for a volunteer and location to organise it.

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

Nothing to report.

12 Website (Mark Wallace)

Nothing to report.

13 Membership (Ehmke Pohl)

1. Steady growth, 27 new members since the beginning of the year mainly due to the upcoming Liverpool meeting. Almost all members ticked the box for 'set up standing order', so this is something we need to check in the future.

2. Started to cross-reference the information given by Jeremy on received funds with the membership list so that people can be contacted who do not seem to pay their dues individually.

3. Encourage all committee members to encourage their PhD students and PDRAs to join so that they are eligible for bursaries and other benefits.

14 Irish Sub-section (Dave Sheehan)

Tony has had some email communication from Dave. We need a suggestion for the next Irish Tour speaker.

Action: Tony to contact Richard

Dave will step down from the committee, as he will be away in Abu Dhabi for three years. We need a new committee member, and Guy has a suggestion.

Action: Guy to contact

15 BBS Medal

Adam Perriman was ratified by the BBS committee as the Young Investigator Award winner. The details will be sent to the organisation of the BBS 2016 Biennial meeting for the award lecture. The committee thanks Guy, Ehmke and Tharin for composing the selection committee.

16 Honorary Members (Anthony Watts)

Sir Dennis Noble, FRS (Oxford), Prof Bonnie Wallace (Birkbeck) and Prof John Helliwell (Manchester) were suggested as honorary members for 2016.

17 Membership of the Royal Society of Biology

We will contact the Royal Society of Biology to start out membership.

Action: Tharin to reply to email

18 AOB

1. It would be good to circulate the letterhead to committee members again.
2. Congratulations to Mark Wallace for being appointed to a chair in Chemistry at King's College London, and best wishes for the future.

19 Date of Next Meeting

The AGM will be at the Biennial meeting in Liverpool.

The next committee meeting will be at the end of September, in London, on a date to be confirmed.