

**The 177th Committee Meeting of the British Biophysical Society, held from
12.30 pm – 4.30 pm on Thursday 2nd May 2019 in the Trent Building, room LG14, at
the University of Nottingham**

Edited Minutes

Date: 2nd May 2019

Present: Olwyn Byron (Chair), Tharin Blumenschein (Secretary), Guy Grant (Meetings Secretary), Ehmke Pohl, Tony Watts, Mark Leake, Robin Leatherbarrow, John Seddon, Dave Scott and Claire Friel.

1 **Tour of the facilities for the 2020 Biennial Meeting**
Overall, there are multiple suitable spaces at Nottingham.

2 **Apologies:** Ann Dixon (Treasurer), Tuomas Knowles, Svetlana Antonyuk, Syma Khalid, Mark Wallace, Peter Crowley and John Sanderson.

3 **Approval of Minutes of the 176th meeting**
The Minutes were accepted with minor corrections.

4 **Actions and Matters Arising**
Our rules determine that the AGM has to take place at a scientific meeting, so we'll consider what meeting would be most appropriate.

We are all in agreement about creating a new Doctoral Prize. We should name it after someone influential in the BBS.

Olwyn will draft a set of criteria for the Young Investigator Award and for the new Doctoral Prize in line with the existing criteria for the Sosei-Heptares Prize.

Action: Olwyn

Actions table was updated with other actions that were completed.

5 **Chair's Report** (Olwyn Byron)

Jeremy Lakey gave a talk in Glasgow for Biophysics week. We should all organise activities for Biophysics Week 2020. One possibility would

be to arrange a Biophysics-themed slot in Jim Al-Khalili. Jim could also be a speaker at the Biennial Meeting.

Action: Tony to contact Jim Al-Khalili

Action: all to organise Biophysics week events

The Biophysicist, a new publication for scientists, was launched by the Biophysical Society. There is a survey about the journal, recruiting potential writers and reviewers.

Action: all to complete the survey

The committee discussed if we should be embracing new, “risky” subject frontiers. Is this part of our role as a Society?

The consensus was that we should bring new communities forming around emerging areas into our meetings, so we become their natural home.

Action: all to keep this in mind when seeing new areas

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Treasurer’s Report (Ann Dixon)

1. **Balances:** The Society’s accounts look healthy.

2. **Gift Aid:** Ann has now been added as an official for our organization to the HMRC records, and has drafted a letter to ask whether Gift Aid can still be received from the donations made last year, and whether we can claim Gift Aid from membership payments.

3. **Payments:** We are up-to-date on all claims and payments. We will have to pay trustees’ insurance in the coming months.

4. **Charity Commission:** Ann has submitted our annual report and Independent Examiners report to the Charity Commission on time. Preparing and scanning documents and summaries to send to the Examiner for this report has taken up the majority of her time and is the main project she has been working on for the BBS.

5. **Independent examiner:** Ann used an independent examiner (Karen Hanlan ACA, ACIE) for this year’s HMRC report because our income was so high. The independent examiner completed her report on time and her fee is a very reasonable £425.

6. IUPAB Congress:

We are still owed funds from the IoP.

Action: Ann and Tony

The Sosei-Heptares Award fund should also cover the dinner in Southampton and Elspeth’s travel expenses.

Action: Ann to check

Mark Wallace has looked into electronic means of payment and asked how important it is for the committee. Our response is that direct debit is key for membership, as it’d then allow us to sort out an online membership form. The committee wasn’t aware of any VAT issues.

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

EBSA – The EBSA Executive Committee on 19th January 2019, in Göttingen, had the awards as the main focus.

- A panel to select the winner was set up from countries with no conflict of interest (because of no nominations).
- There are 700 registrations already for the 12th EBSA Congress, in Madrid from 20-24 July 2019 (Chair: Jesus Perez-Gil).
- Early bird registration has been extended to 7th May.
- A satellite workshop for young investigators, to take place just before the meeting, is being organised by Tony.
- The 2021 EBSA Congress will be held in Vienna. The Chair, Elena Pohl, has joined the EBSA Committee.
- Tony will step down as president and become past president.
- We need to nominate our representatives for the 2020 EBSA meetings.

Action: Tharin to email the committee and check

IUPAB –IUPAB has been very active recently, with the newsletter coming out regularly. Manuel Prieto will be the next president.

8 **IOP Activities** (Mark Wallace)

Nothing to report.

9 **Physics of Life Network** (Olwyn Byron/Mark Leake)

The EPSRC call for the building of collaborations at the Physics of Life interface was deluged with applications, with 86 full proposals from over 120 outline proposals. Only 6 or 7 applications were funded, with the names still embargoed at this stage. The Physics of Life network will use the huge response as an argument in favour of further funding in this area.

PoLNET2 finishes in December 2019/January 2020. There are ongoing discussions on sustainability. The next steering meeting for PoLNET will be in the week following this committee meeting, and there is a discussion on the possible format for PoLNET3. The most important thing is to have actual funding for research in this area, but there is also a shortage of good PhD programmes.

PoLNET has so far effectively organised networks. We should now capitalise on them, for instance with network-enabled Doctoral Training Centres. The PoLNET3 proposal should not overlap with the Building

collaborations at the Physics of Life interface. In the area of education, it could include technique-centred workshops. These facilities workshops could be linked with CDTs by providing 50% funds for PhD students' training, which the CDTs would match. iCase can also be exploited by having a strong industrial strand in PoLNET3.

PoLNET is organising a final Town Hall meeting for December, to take place at the Royal Society on 2nd/3rd December. The meeting is being organised by Karis Baker They would like to involve the BBS and the IoP Biophysics group. We should bring the BBS banner, and nominate speakers from the BBS community who are in the Physics/Life Sciences interface. "Bio and Physics of Biophysics".

Action: Tharin to email the committee and locate banner.

Action: all to think of suitable speakers.

10 RSC Biophysical Chemistry Group Activities

Mark Wallace was not able to attend, action points to be kept in actions table.

Action: Mark Wallace

11 Royal Society of Biology Activities (Tharin Blumenschein)

1) *Newsletters continue to be circulated to the committee.*

2) The AGM is on 15th May. Olwyn or Tharin should attend.

3) *Member Organisations Twilight Event – Keeping Societies Relevant to Industry* – Tony will attend representing the BBS.

4) *Royal Society of Biology Diversity and Inclusion group* – there have been regular meetings, but Tharin hasn't been able to take part.

12 Secretary's Report (Tharin Blumenschein)

1) *EBSA Award and Medal* – The winner of the 2019 Award is Pere Roca-Cusachs (Spain) and not, unfortunately, the BBS-nominated candidate. Tharin has contacted our candidate and nominators, and has received replies thanking for the submission.

2) *Biophysical Society Ambassador* – applications are now open, is anyone planning to apply? Tharin has drafted some text to email the Biophysical Society.

Action: Tharin to email the Biophysical Society, and to email the committee asking if anyone is intending to apply.

3) *Biochemical Society has a Biophysics special in their last issue.*

4) *AGM* – our constitution says it should be at a scientific meeting,

so the AGM will be held at the Physics Meets Biology meeting in Oxford, in September.

- 5) *EBSA meeting* – Not clear who is planning to attend beyond Tony and John Seddon.

Action: Tharin to email the committee

- 6) *Email problems* – former email account, bbs@britishbiophysics.org.uk, has stopped working. Emails have not been forwarded to Tharin, not sure why. We lost a few months of email before we realised. Now Mark Wallace has created a new email, bbs@britishbiophysics.org, and updated the website. Tharin was away for the last 2 weeks in April, so wasn't able to reply to emails sent them, but the situation should be normalised soon.

- 7) *Biophysics Week 2020* – 23-27 March

Action: all to plan events

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Meetings Secretary's Report (Guy Grant)

2019

10-11 April – Joint meeting with NMRDG, 'NMR in Molecular Biology and Biophysics', Leeds. Went really well.

20-24 July – *EBSA Congress*, Madrid.

December meeting – Joint meeting with PoLNET workshop which is being organised for December.

Action: Olwyn to coordinate with PoLNET

2020

July Biennial Meeting, Nottingham – 1st to 3rd July 2020.

Title: "*Biophysics through time and space*". The title mirrors an article by Ewa Paluch in Nature Physics. Invited speakers in general were discussed.

We should organise a dinner for honorary members on the 1st evening, and the conference dinner on the 2nd evening.

The website could be done by Mark Wallace if he's willing and available.

Action: Tharin to ask

We should include an outreach event. There is infrastructure from the University of Nottingham that could help us with that.

8-10 September – *Faraday Discussion on Membrane-peptide interaction*, Burlington House, organised by John Seddon and Paul O'Shea.

December – allosteric meeting, possibly in Scotland, organised by Guy.

We need more smaller meetings in the pipeline, organised by members. Perhaps we could organise a publicity drive calling for meetings.

Action: Guy to craft a text for the newsletter, Twitter etc.

2021

Joint BBS/Irish Biophysical Society meeting, organised by Guy and Peter. However, EBSA funds are not available for 2021. We should consider having it in 2022, jointly with our Biennial Meeting.

14 Newsgroup/Publicity Officer (Syma Khalid/John Sanderson)

We are doing well on social media. Syma could do with some help with the facebook pages - other people should send her stuff to post.

Action: All to send items to Syma

Action: Syma to recover the Twitter password so a future student committee member can help her.

15 Website (Mark Wallace)

Nothing to report.

16 Membership (Ehmke Pohl)

We should all encourage our students to join the BBS.

17 Irish Sub-section (Peter Crowley)

Peter would like to continue representing the Irish sub-section in the committee. Stephen Mann was suggested as a speaker for an Irish tour in the autumn.

18 Honorary members

Chris Tate (LMB), Malcolm Weir (Heptares) and Cait MacPhee (Edinburgh) suggested as honorary members for 2019.

Action: Olwyn to contact them and ask if they're willing to be nominated

Action: all to think of nominations for 2020, keeping in mind the gender balance

19 AOB

There were no other businesses.

20 Date of Next Meeting

The next committee meeting will be in September 2019, in York. The date will be decided after a Doodle poll.