

**The 184th Committee Meeting of the British Biophysical Society, held from
12.00 – 3.00 pm on Monday 27th September 2021 online via Zoom**

Edited Minutes

Date: 27th September 2021

Present: Olwyn Byron (Chair), Tharin Blumenschein (Secretary), Ann Dixon (Treasurer), Guy Grant (Education Secretary), John Sanderson (Meetings Secretary), Svetlana Antonyuk, Dave Scott, Jayne Wallace, Mark Wallace, Ehmke Pohl, Syma Khalid, Tony Watts, Peter Crowley (for part of the meeting), Mark Leake (for part of the meeting).

1 Apologies: Alice Pyne, John Seddon, Matt Horrocks

2 Approval of Minutes of the 183rd meetings

Approved with minor corrections.

3 Actions and Matters Arising

Actions are now kept in a live document.

4 Chair's Report (Olwyn Byron)

Congratulations

Congratulations to Syma who was elected to BPS Council by its members. Syma will serve a three-year term, beginning in February 2022.

Honorary Members

The following nominations for honorary members were approved at the AGM: Tony Lee (University of Southampton), Julia Goodfellow (University of Kent) and Elspeth Garman (University of Oxford). The website needs to be updated accordingly.

Action: Mark Wallace to update the website

Website refresh

Olwyn sent a table of roles to everyone and the committee agreed on everyone's role(s). The website needs to be updated with everyone's roles and mugshots, and the new Rules.

Action: Mark Wallace to update the website

Student Committee Member

It is really time we had a student on the committee. The BPS is always looking for new Student Chapters. We will advertise for a student to submit an application for a BPS student chapter and to join the committee (if successful). We will support them to apply for other funds, in addition to some direct support.

Action: Send out a call for a student chapter

Biophysics Week 2022

This will be 21-25 March 2022. What can we plan / encourage?

Perhaps events with local Royal Society of Biology sections, or with the Royal Society of Chemistry. Maybe we could get something out on the media.

Action: all to plan events

The BBS Elspeth Garman Prize for Public Engagement

Tony has managed to secure an anonymous donation to BBS of sufficient funds to award at least the next two (maybe 4) prizes, over the next 4 - 8 years. The donation will be made before the end of the year.

Women Plus in Biophysics

There are only 14 women (up from 9 last time) from the UK listed on this website (a Resource for Scientists, Educators, Journalists and Policy Makers), all of whom were in my suggested list of 24 UK women. The US has 84. Olwyn encouraged the committee to suggest female colleagues for inclusion.

Action: all to plan events

MS Teams

Olwyn asked if we should start using MS Teams for sharing documents etc. The committee's feeling was that it wouldn't be helpful at this stage.

5 Treasurer's Report (Ann Dixon)

1. **Balances:** The BBS accounts are healthy.
2. **Payments:** Up-to-date on all submitted claims and payments, including IUPAB, EBSA and RSB subs, Trustee Insurance, and fees for accountant.

3. **Application for Royal Society contribution to IUPAB Subs:**
Completed and submitted on time.
4. ***Membership:** New bank account for membership fees has been opened and Mandate variation request has been filled in, signed and approved to get Mark Wallace access. We also have applied for online banking access for Mark, but the approval for that is yet to be confirmed. The next step is linking the online membership payment form to the account, which can be done anytime as all account information has been communicated.
(*carried over from last meeting)
This account will not be used for conferences, just membership payments and direct debit.
Action: Mark to set up online payments and direct debit
5. **Indemnity insurance** was also paid.

6 **EBSA/IUPAB Activities** (John Seddon/Tony Watts)

EBSA – The EBSA Congress, 24th-28th July 2021, in Vienna, went very well. There were approximately 450 delegates in-person, and approximately 250 online participants.

The next EBSA Congress will be held in Stockholm, 30th July – 4th Aug 2023. The organizers for the 2023 EBSA congress in Stockholm are now seeking suggestions for speakers and sessions for the congress. BBS will be approached.

Action: Olwyn to ask around for speaker suggestions for EBSA 2023

The 2025 EBSA Congress will be in Rome (dates to be confirmed).

Tony is staying on the EBSA committee as International Relations.

IUPAB – The IUPAB congress will take place virtually from 4th – 8th October, hosted by Brazil. (15 UK participants are registered, out of a total so far of just over 1000 – as of 29th July)

A number of free registrations have been given to students from less well developed countries, including Africa and SE Asia, where there are few BPSs.

Richard Henderson will give the opening Plenary Lecture and there are 9 invited UK speakers.

New for this year are the Young Investigator Award (Yoav Schechtman, Israel). BBS should nominate for future congresses.

Leading up to the congress, there has been a very successful Young Scientists' virtual seminar programme since June, with a senior invited speaker and two or three younger scientists with short talks. Some UK speakers have been involved and this has gained a big following. Lectures are now on YouTube (search "iupab sbbf").

The 12 Councillors have now been elected (Gabriella Viero, Italy; Gabriela Amodeo, Argentina; Matthew Baker, Australia; K V R Chary, India; Anastasia A. Anashkina, Russia; Ana Denicola, Uruguay; David Crossman, New Zealand; Hans-Joachim Galla, Germany; Takayuki Nishizaka, Japan; Angela M. Gronenborn, USA; John Baenziger, Canada.) Only 3 were already in post.

The IUPAB General Assembly is on Wednesday, October 6th, 2021 at 14:30 hours (São Paulo time). BBS has two nominated voting delegates (Dave and Guy; if they're not available, Syma and Tharin will be attending the online Congress) and they should log on as a registered participant to take part. There are no issues to be voted on (this happened earlier in the year, and online), and this will be more of a "for information" meeting. The agenda was provided to the committee.

Action: Tharin to confirm that Dave and Guy can attend the online Assembly

The next IUPAB congresses will be in June 2024 in Kyoto, and June 2027 Berlin, possibly joined with ESBA since they happen in the same year (the past joint congresses were 2005 Montpellier and 2017 Edinburgh).

7 IOP Activities (Mark Leake)

Not much of their funds have been spent.

There haven't been many nominations of biophysicists for the eligible prizes from the IOP.

Major achievements of the Biological Physics group in the period are:

- Article in preparation for Physics World or equivalent publication to raise the profile of Biological Physics;
- Single Molecule Bacteriology online meeting on 22nd July, organised with Biochemical Society.

8 Physics of Life Network (Olwyn Byron)

Upcoming events

- (1-2 Nov 2021, Zoom) Rosetrees Interdisciplinary workshop: Metastasis.
- (18-19 Nov 2021, Zoom) Periodic patterns in environmental light, physiology and behaviour: Measurement, modelling and evaluation of diurnal and circadian phenomena in biology.

- (25-29 Apr 2022, U. Edinburgh) Physics of Life Summer School 2022: Interdisciplinary Challenges: from Non-equilibrium Physics to Life Sciences – an ECR workshop.
- (27-30 Mar 2023, Harrogate) Physics of Life 2023

Once again, Olwyn strongly encourages BBS committee members to consider organising a workshop or sandpit.

Other events

There has not been a PoLNET steering group meeting since 19th Apr; there has not been a Physics of Medicine steering group meeting since 15th Dec.

Building Collaboration at the Physics of Life Interface: Strategic Priority Fund Programme

UKRI/EPSRC invited 171 collaborative consortia to submit detailed proposals to the PoL SPF of which 33 have been shortlisted. The review process is ongoing.

Biological Physics “go to” meeting

The most recent meeting for this event was held on 16 July. PoLNET3 have committed £20k (in return for which, PoLNET3 will hold a roadmap session) to support the meeting, and EPSRC has committed £5k.

The committee has agreed that we want to organise a session at the meeting.

Action: Mark Wallace to bring this information to the Physics of Life meeting organisers.

Physics of Life Student Summer Bursaries 2021

The next call for this will open in February 2022 for June/July 2022 start dates.

9 **RSC Biophysical Chemistry Group Activities** (Mark Wallace/Matthew Horrocks)

Mark Walalce had nothing to report, Matthew Horrocks was not present.

10 **Royal Society of Biology Activities** (Tharin Blumenschein/Jayne Wallace)

Nothing to report from Tharin.

Jayne attended a meeting of the Diversity and Inclusion Working Group (DIWG). There was an interesting discussion about the societies collecting data about diversity within the membership. Some other societies have hired consultants to help them deal with it.

Action: Ann to send the standing order list to Ehmke

Action: Ehmke to curate an accurate membership list

Action: Jayne to ask for suggestions from members of the DIWG

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

Routine activity continues, with membership requests and other emails.

Tharin attended a meeting organised by the Royal Society, of stakeholders for the International Science Council (ISC). The ISC is developing an action plan, and the Royal Society put together a document with input to the plan from the UK stakeholders.

Tony mentioned that the IUPAB is also involved with the ISC, and currently there isn't much UK participation. We should have more, as there are funding opportunities and possibilities.

Action: Tharin to circulate the document to the committee

12 **Meetings Secretary's Report** (Guy Grant)

a. Joint Ireland-BBS Biennial Meeting, 29th June- 1st July 2022, Galway (Peter Crowley)

The dates are fixed, lecture theatres are booked. The programme needs further work.

The local support seems reasonable. Peter is looking at support for registrations, payments, abstract submissions.

Accommodation is not available in student accommodation, we will need local alternatives.

It will be a hybrid meeting.

The Royal Society of Chemistry has agreed to contribute a poster prize.

Action: Peter to look for funding deadlines from EBSA and IUPAB
To obtain sponsorship, we need to write to companies, targeting the ones we have contacts with.

Action: Peter to create a Teams or Google folder to share with the committee

The whole committee needs to pitch in and help Peter, as it's a lot of work to organise a meeting.

Action: all to send speaker and sponsor suggestions to Peter
Rules for sponsorship by IUPAB can be found at iupab.org/sponsorship-policy

We need to be able to contact people to advertise future meetings.

Action: Peter to include an opt-in box for future communication in the registration form

2021

Online meeting on condensates – 152 people registered for the meeting on 7th October.

2022

17th March, Structural basis of muscular contraction: A memorial meeting to celebrate the life and work of Professor John Squire 1945-2021, Imperial College London – we are supporting this meeting by sponsoring a talk.

Action: Olwyn to send information to John Sanderson

2023

22nd-27th March, Physics of Life UK meeting, Harrogate

30th July-4th August, EBSA Congress, Stockholm

2024

BBS Biennial Meeting – we should start thinking of potential venues

Allostery meeting – to celebrate the 40th anniversary of seminal paper.

Action: Guy to organise.

13 Newsgroup/Publicity Officer (Syma Khalid/Alice Pyne)

Twitter works well for disseminating information. We have 629 followers, we probably could grow more.

We should circulate a newsgroup post advertising the biennial meeting and the John Squire memorial meeting.

Action: John Sanderson to create and circulate a post

14 Website (Mark Wallace)

Mark has updated the website.

Action: all to send any corrections to Mark

Mark is renewing the domain registration, we should be able to get free hosting again.

15 Membership (Ehmke Pohl)

Not much to add. We have a constant trickle of new members. The biggest drive are in-person events.

16 Irish Sub-section (Peter Crowley)

Covered under Meeting Secretary's report.

17 Honorary members

Mark Samson, Oxford, has accepted a nomination as an honorary members.

Action: all to send suggestions to Olwyn, especially female

18 AOB

We need to announce the prizes and ask for nominations.

Action: Tharin and Olwyn to organise

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Date of Next Meeting

The next committee meeting will be in January 2022, online. The date will be decided after a Doodle poll.
