

**The 186th Committee Meeting of the British Biophysical Society, held from
9.30 am – 12.30 pm on Tuesday 4th October 2022 online via Zoom**

Edited Minutes

Date: 4th October 2022

Present: Olwyn Byron (Chair), Tharin Blumenschein (Secretary), Ann Dixon (Treasurer), Guy Grant (Education Secretary), John Sanderson (Meetings Secretary), Svetlana Antonyuk, Mark Wallace, Ehmke Pohl, Tony Watts, Peter Crowley, Alice Pyne, John Seddon.

1 Apologies: Mark Leake, Matthew Horrocks, Jayne Wallace. Ehmke needed to leave early.

2 Approval of Minutes of the 185th meetings
Approved with minor corrections.

3 Actions and Matters Arising
Actions are now kept in a live document.

4 Chair's Report (Olwyn Byron)

David Scott and Robin Leatherbarrow left the committee The committee approved a vote of thanks for their service.

Student Committee Member

In August Olwyn contacted Heads of School about student chapters. There was interest from Edinburgh, Warwick and The Crick. Olwyn will offer encouragement and assistance with their application. We may gain up to 3 student members to the committee.

Action: Olwyn to send contacts of Warwick students to Ann.

Biophysics Week 2023

20th-24th March 2023. Olwyn will try and organise an event at the Advanced Research Centre in Glasgow. IoP has a satellite meeting for the Physics of Life meeting in Harrogate that could take place in that week.

Action: all to plan more events

BBS Awards

Awards were advertised by emails to heads of departments, newsletters, Twitter and our website. We received 23 nominations in total, with a good proportion of women nominated, but mainly for the Elspeth Garman and John Kendrew awards, with fewer for the Louise Johnson and even fewer for the Sosei Heptares award. We should aim for more nominations of women in the future, and reach out to potential nominators.

5 Treasurer's Report (Ann Dixon)

1. **Balances:** Our balances are currently very healthy.
2. **Payments:** Up to date on all.
3. **Gift Aid:** Registered and received. Also set up Just Giving account for donations.
4. **Accounts:** Submitted accounts to Charity Commission on time. Also completed application for Royal Society contribution to IUPAB subs.
5. **Galway 2022:** All awards and awards dinner paid, and paid travel costs for Lorna Dougan. No payments outstanding, there was some discussion on the destination of the income.

5a. Membership payments (Mark Wallace): Stripe payments are linked to a separate bank account. The page is live and we can test it. We need a form to collect membership data when processing the membership payment.

Action: Ehmke to send the membership form to Mark W.

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

EBSA – The EBSA Executive Committee was held in Stockholm on 17th June 2022. The contract for the European Biophysics Journal is currently has been renewed with Springer-Nature.

The 2023 EBSA Congress will be held in Stockholm at Stockholm University, from 31st July – 4th Aug 2023. A temporary website is currently available, it will be fully live later this month. The 2025 EBSA Congress will be held in Rome at Sapienza University from 30th June – 4th July 2025. The 2027 EBSA Congress will be held jointly with IUPAB in Berlin at the Messe Berlin – Hub 27, from 10th – 14th October 2027.

The deadline for nominations for the 2023 EBSA/Avanti and Young Investigator Awards will be 31st Dec 2022. A letter will be sent out to EBSA National Societies next week, asking for nominations

There is travel support available for the EBSA Congress, we should advertise it.

There is a bigger discussion to be had about how we fund travel bursaries, as some people join just for the bursaries. Should we make them into an annual programme with deadlines? Should we require longer membership for eligibility?

Action: add bursaries as an agenda item for the next meeting

The committee has agreed to support 4 bursaries of £400 each for the next EBSA Congress.

IUPAB – The new committee was elected in October 2021.

IUPAB has organized a number of events, including:

- A free AFM workshop from the Kanazawa, NanoLife Science Institute, Japan, between September. Over 300 registered, and at any one time, 50 – 80 participated in online lectures. 40 participants were in person.
- A continuation of the IUPAB 2020 Brazil congress which was delayed, curtailed and wholly online in 2021 (see previous report). The “continuation” of the congress took place in person in Sao Paulo, as the 46th Congress of the Brazilian Biophysical Society (SBBf), held at Águas de Lindóia (Sao Paulo), 5-8 October 2022, together with the 51st Annual Meeting of the Brazilian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. The event, with 28 symposia and 7 Plenary lectures, gathered the expected participants from Latin America (Brazil, Uruguay, Chile, Argentina), and other geographical distribution (USA, France, UK, Denmark, India, Switzerland, Portugal, Italy). IUPAB supported the event with a IUPAB Plenary Lecture (“Bioenergetic Immune Exhaustion in Malaria”, by James Kazura, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH, USA), a joint Symposium of IUPAB with LaFeBs (Latin-American Federation of Biophysical Societies) with speakers from Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela and Portugal), and a pre-congress course at the Brazilian Synchrotron Facility “Sirius” at Campinas.
- IUPAB supported the BBS Biennial congress held at the University of Galway, Ireland on 29th June – 1st July 2022. The IUPAB sponsored lecture was given by Prof. Laura Hartmann (Universität Düsseldorf). With over 120 registered participants, the number of in-person attendees were 77 international and 38 from Éire.
- IUPAB supported the annual Japanese BPS meeting with a sponsored lecture and 4 student awards.
- Significant engagement with the African biophysics community is being established. “Chapters” of biophysics supported by the

BPS, are being formed, with a view to establishing national societies. Already in Kenya and Uganda, some chapters are established. IUPAB is providing a ZOOM platform for their meetings (4 in October), overseas speakers, a website and guidance for the meetings. Lots of activities are being planned around Biophysics Week in Africa.

- IUPAB is actively involved with the ISC, and relevant events are announced to the BBS Executive Committee. The European ISC meeting will be held on October 13th and will be attended by Guy Grant, and Tony Watts.
- The next triennial IUPAB congress will be 25 – 20th June 2024 in Kyoto, organized by Hiroyuki Noji and Takayuki Nishizak. AW has submitted suggestions for ~30 UK speakers. We need to make sure that there are no clashes with the BBS Biennial meeting. The Congress in 2027 will be in Berlin jointly with EBSA, see above.
- IUPAB is now using Twitter, FB, Instagram organized by a comms team of younger biophysicists. A new website is about to be released.
- IUPAB welcomes members and representatives of any biophysical societies to a social in San Diego. An email response from the secretaries and Presidents of societies is expected – Maybe Mark Wallace and John Sanderson can attend to represent the BBS.

There was a question of what IUPAB is doing to support Ukrainian biophysicists. IUPAB is remaining neutral, as is ISC, There are Russian council members and a meeting planned for next year, right on the border.

7 IOP Activities (Mark Leake)

The IoP BPG budget for 2022/23 will hopefully be confirmed soon, which should include opportunities for an as yet tbc BBS/BPG co-badged workshop activity beyond the Harrogate 2023 meeting (Mark W is new BPG Treasurer and may comment more).

8 Physics of Life Network (Olwyn Byron)

The Physics of Life 2023 meeting registration will be going live later this month: <https://iop.eventsair.com/physics-of-life/>
Would be great to have a concerted effort from BBS to disseminate when so. Would also be fantastic to have the committee members register and encourage their own teams to attend.

PoLNET is still open for business in terms of supporting workshops/sandpit applications. As it stands the end date for that

network award is 29 Feb 2024, but we are negotiating a possible funded component beyond this primarily for ECR pump priming support, hopefully tbc soon.

9 RSC Biophysical Chemistry Group Activities (Matthew Horrocks)

Not present, nothing reported.

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

Newsletters continue to be circulated to the committee by Tharin. The AGM took place in May, and Olwyn attended.

Jayne wasn't present to report on the DIWG.

11 Secretary's Report (Tharin Blumenschein)

Routine activity continues, with membership requests and other emails.

The AGM took place in Galway.

Biophysics Week will be 20th – 24th March 2023, the week before the Physics of Life meeting. What can we do to tie the two events together?

The Royal Society is organising an event for stakeholders of the International Science Council. Guy will attend representing the BBS.

It looks like we are exempt from registration as data controllers because we are a not-for-profit organisation and only process data from members and people we are in regular contact with. We could choose to register, at a cost of £35, but the committee decided that there is no reason if not required.

12 Meetings Secretary's Report (John Sanderson)

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

There were 115 delegates and a few local extras. Attendance was 2/3 international. 1/3 Irish. Two speakers cancelled at short notice due to Covid.

Finances - €6000 were received from industry, from a number of sponsors. Internal funding covered all printing costs and lanyards. The bid with Visit Ireland generated €3600. They want bigger meetings –

perhaps EBSA in 2029. Registration fees generated €19000. Two delegates were reimbursed due to visa issues, one due to a bereavement, and one due to covid.

Organising the conference took most of 2 months full time, Catering was challenging. The amounts of conference-related email were phenomenal.

The satellite meeting organised by Mark Leake had 20 participants, and it was a really nice warm up.

The science was diverse, with very good attendance and discussion.

Delegates came in clusters from different regions. Locally, only the people known to the organiser took part.

Tony had some suggestions for organising meetings – for instance, as satellite meetings to Irish Biochemical Society meetings, and encouraged Peter to form a small society.

€5000 should be transferred to the BBS.

2023

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

31st July-4th August, EBSA Congress, Stockholm.

2024

BBS Biennial Meeting – we should start thinking of potential venues. Should we include a student-run session?

Kyoto, IUPAB

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

Action: Guy to organise

2025

30th June – 4th July, EBSA Congress, Rome

2027

10th-14th October, IUPAB Congress, Berlin

13

Newsgroup/Publicity Officer (Alice Pyne)

Alice requested that people send things regularly, she often gets emails just after a newsletter was sent.

The committee approved for emails from other people to just be sent straight to the list – for instance, advertising jobs.

Another suggestion was that multiple people should have access to the Twitter account, so more relevant topics can be retweeted.

Action: Olwyn to circulate Twitter login details

14 Website (Mark Wallace)

Up-to-date in general (we should check details of honorary members).

Action: Tharin to send edited minutes of past meetings to Mark

Action: Mark to add link to the JISC newsgroup to the website

15 Membership (Ehmke Pohl)

This item was covered earlier as Ehmke needed to leave.

Membership numbers are ticking along. We had a brief look at the previous draft of corporate membership, but it was agreed that those benefits may no longer be the best combination, many years after they were first proposed.

Action: Ehmke to revisit what costs and benefits should be available for corporate members

16 Irish Sub-section (Peter Crowley)

Covered under Meeting Secretary's report.

17 Honorary members

Olwyn has a list of possible suggestions to be considered in future years.

18 AOB

We need to have an AGM at the Physics of Life meeting. We should consider if it should be a hybrid meeting.

Action: Olwyn to ask at the PoLNET meeting

Committee renewal – we should be replacing 3 members every year. We should advertise more widely, and also target a few people.

Action: Olwyn and Tharin to look at committee membership

Action: Alice to talk to people at the FLF meeting

19 Date of Next Meeting

The next committee meeting will be in January 2023, online. The date will be decided after a Doodle poll.

After that, we'll likely all meet in person at the meeting in Harrogate.
We should consider organising a dinner.
