

BRITISH BIOPHYSICAL SOCIETY

The 41st Meeting of the Committee will be held at 2.30p.m. on Tuesday, January 8th 1974 at the Biochemical Society, 7 Warwick Court, High Holborn, London.

A G E N D A

1. Election of Chairman
2. Minutes of the 40th Meeting of the Committee (enclosed)
3. Matters arising:
  - (i) International Congress of Biophysics, Copenhagen, August 1975.
4. Report of Annual General Meeting
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Meetings Secretary's Report
7. Physical Biochemistry Group Report
8. Reports of Representatives on Joint Committees
9. Any other business
10. Date of next meeting.

BRITISH BIOPHYSICAL SOCIETY

The 40th Meeting of the Committee was held at 2.30p.m. on Tuesday September 25th 1973 at the Biochemical Society, 7 Warwick Court, High Holborn, London.

Present Dr. E.H. Bradbury (Chairman)  
Professor W. Fuller (Secretary)  
Dr. R.H. Pain (Meetings Secretary)  
Dr. H.C. Watson (Treasurer)  
Dr. J.M. Creeth  
Dr. A. Miller  
Dr. J.C. Metcalfe  
Dr. S.P. Spragg

Apologies were received from Dr. N. Tosbe

73/23

The Chairman spoke about the recent death of Professor Jean Hanson, a member of the Biophysical Society Committee, and a founder member of the Society. Professor Hanson had made major contributions to muscle and flagella research and at her death was the Director of an extremely active Medical Research Council Unit at King's College, London. She had also played a major role in the development of both undergraduate and postgraduate teaching in Biophysics, and held the Chair of Biology in the School of Biological Sciences at King's College. At the time of her death she was undoubtedly at the peak of her powers, and there was no question that the work she was stimulating at King's College was making a most important contribution to understanding contractile mechanisms. Members of the Committee spoke of her generous personality and her unselfishness in helping scientific colleagues, particularly young research workers. She was currently engaged in organising with Dr. Miller on behalf of the Society, a meeting on muscle research to take place in December 1974. It was agreed that this meeting should be dedicated to her memory, and that one of her earliest collaborators, Dr. Hugh Huxley, should be asked to speak about her work at the meeting. The Secretary was asked to write a letter on behalf of the Committee to Professor Hanson's mother.

73/24

The Minutes of the 39th Meeting of the Committee were approved and signed by the Chairman.

73/25

Matters arising from the Minutes

1. Training and Careers in Biophysics  
(73/11)

The Secretary reported that copies of the publication entitled Biophysics Courses in the United Kingdom had been sent to the Institute of Physics, the Institute of Chemistry, the Institute of Biology, the Association for Science Education and to CRAC. With the exception of CRAC, replies had been received from all the bodies, and in the case of the Institute of Biology, some additional information on courses relating to Biophysics had been sent. This information would be used in the next revision of the publication.

ii. International Congress of Biophysics, Copenhagen, Aug. 8-9 1975 (73/11)

The Secretary reported that Mr. G.R. Gruner of Express Travel and Transport was proceeding with arrangements, as the Society's official travel agent for this meeting. It was agreed that members would be notified of this in the next circulation, and advised that at a future date the Society anticipated being involved with the Royal Society in the distribution of travel grants for scientists in the United Kingdom to attend this meeting.

iii. Addresses of other Biophysical Societies

The Secretary reported that he had obtained from the International Union of Pure and Applied Biophysics a list of addresses of Biophysical Societies throughout the world. The Meetings Secretary had now incorporated these in his mailing list. The Secretary reported that he had had no reply to the Austrian Secretary of the proposed Union of European Biophysical Societies, and it was agreed that the Meetings Secretary should write to all the European Biophysical Societies, inviting them to let him have details of their meetings etc., so that he could include this information in the circulation which is sent to our members three times each year.

iv. Readings in Biophysics (73/2)

The Secretary reported that he had now had a reply from the Clarendon Press about the possibility of a series sponsored by the Society on Readings in Biophysics. The Press had decided that they did not wish to proceed with such a scheme at this stage.

73/26 Reports from Representatives on Joint Committees

i. British National Committee for Biophysics

The next meeting had been fixed for November 29th.

ii. British National Committee for Biochemistry

Professor Gilbert had passed the copy of the Minutes of the last meeting to the Committee, but there was nothing of direct interest.

iii. Parliamentary and Scientific Committee

Nothing to report.

iv. UK Crystallographic Council

Dr. D.M. Blow reported that there was a proposal for a summer school on the problems of crystal growth. Opinion was divided amongst the Committee on the value of such a school. Dr. Watson felt that in the context of biological molecules there wasn't enough information to justify a school. However, if the school was to cover crystal growth in general, some

people felt that the subject would be too wide and there would be too much material to cover. There was, however, considerable support for a meeting of the Physical Biochemistry group of this Society being organised on problems of crystal growth. Dr. Blow had also asked that when future meetings of the Society were being planned, the possibility of joint sponsorship with the United Kingdom Crystallographic Council be considered. He felt, for instance, that the Polysaccharide Meeting planned for December 1973 would have been suitable for this.

v. Editorial Board of Biochemical Journal

Professor A.C.T. North had asked the Committee to note that his period as representative on the Society would end during the Summer 1974 and asked the Committee to give thought to a successor.

vi. Harden Planning Committee

No meeting of the Committee has been held since the last Biophysical Society Committee. However, Dr. Watson reported that he had heard that it was planned to hold a meeting on Multi Subunit Enzymes in 1974. This was relevant to the proposal that the Society hold a meeting in this subject area in April 1975. Dr. Watson agreed to obtain more information on this.

vii. Computer and Instrumentation Group

There was nothing to report.

viii. British Joint Committee for Electron Microscopy

Our representative, Dr. Highton, had written to say that a profit of £2000 had accrued to the Committee from the European Electron Microscope Meeting ENCON 72 held in Manchester. The Committee was soliciting suggestions for ways in which this money could be used to encourage electron microscopy. The Committee felt that a summer school providing training in techniques for visualising macromolecules would be particularly helpful, possibly concentrating on more elementary training, particularly for research students.

ix. Biological Council

The Secretary reported that the matter of payment for the Calendars prepared by the Biological Council. As was explained at the last committee meeting, the Calendars which had been ordered for distribution to our members at the beginning of this calendar year, had not been received by the Biochemical Society. The Secretary had taken this up with Mrs. Young at the Biological Council. She had been assured by the printers that they had been despatched by the Biochemical Society. However, they had no signed delivery note to prove this, nor had the Biological Council advised the Biophysical Society, nor the staff at the Biochemical Society who administer our affairs, that the Calendars had been despatched. The bill for the Calendars amounted to £31.85 and the Committee discussed whether some payment might be made to the Biological Council.

It was agreed that there was no basis for making a payment, and indeed the Council should be able to obtain some, at least of its money back from the printers, since they had no record of the Calendars being delivered.

73/27

Reports on Scientific Meetings

No Society meeting had taken place since the last Committee meeting. However, the Meetings Secretary reported on progress with the meeting on Polysaccharides arranged for December 1973. £495 had been collected from industry to support this meeting, which together with £250 from the Royal Society, should be adequate to ensure that it was run without a deficit. The Committee expressed their thanks to Dr. Fees and the Meetings Secretary for their efforts in raising this financial support.

The Meetings Secretary reported that arrangements for the meeting on Folding, Nucleation and Interactions of Biopolymers which was to be held in Newcastle from March 26th to 28th 1974 were proceeding well. Financial support had been obtained from a number of industrial companies, and once again there was every reason to expect that the meeting would be self-financing. The Committee felt that the programme prepared by the Meetings Secretary, who was also the organiser of this meeting, was a good one and should attract a good audience. The Meetings Secretary reported that he had had eight offers of free communications. It was also agreed that the papers originally scheduled for Wednesday afternoon would now be given in the evening of that day, so that there could be an afternoon excursion. The possibility was also raised of having an evening buffet, instead of a Conference Dinner, since it was felt that this provided more opportunity for informal contact. It was agreed that registration for the meeting would be £3 for members of the Society and £6 for non-members.

Dr. Miller reported on arrangements for the Muscle Meeting to be held in December 1974. As was noted in 73/23, it was agreed that this meeting should be dedicated to the memory of Jean Hanson. Dr. Miller agreed to approach Dr. Hugh Huxley to ask him to speak on Jean Hanson's work. He reported that a booking had been made at University College, London. There was a room adjacent to the theatre which could be used for an overflow meeting, and the foyer around the theatre would allow for poster displays etc. It was agreed to ask Dr. Gerald Offer if he would replace Jean Hanson as co-organiser of this meeting.

The meeting on Multi-subunit Enzymes, which it had been suggested might take place in Bristol during Spring 1975 was discussed. It was agreed that before proceeding further with these arrangements, Dr. Watson would find out if a meeting on a similar subject was planned for 1974 by the Harden Conference Committee. If this was the case, an alternative suggestion for a meeting in Bristol was on the topic of Immunological Proteins. The dates for the Bristol meeting were arranged provisionally as March 25th to 27th, and Dr. Watson agreed to make a provisional booking of a suitable hall. It was agreed that once again Free Communications would be accepted at this meeting. The proposal for a meeting on Membranes in September 1975 was discussed. The possibility was raised of a joint meeting with the Biochemical Society Membrane Group. Dr. Metcalfe agreed to pursue this further. The Meetings Secretary exhibited a poster for Christmas. It was agreed that this had an improved format over previous posters.

The Meetings Secretary reported also that he was making notices of Biophysical Society meetings to appear in the papers of the Biochemical Society and Faraday Society and also in the Journal of Molecular Biology. It was also suggested that they could be sent to Nature and to Physics Bulletin. The Committee thanked the Meetings Secretary for his efforts on improving meetings' publicity.

### 73/11 Physical Biochemistry Group

Dr. S.P. Spragg reported that there had been an interesting meeting on simulation of biological systems in computers in Birmingham on September 17th. 25 people were present.

The Chairman reported on his negotiations with SRC over support for a meeting on Neutron Scattering. It was agreed that this would become a full Society One-Day meeting, and would be held on April 18th 1974 at the Rutherford Laboratory. All the local expenses of organising the meeting would be paid for by the SRC. The clash of date with the meeting in Israel from 14th to 19th April on Proteins was noted, and the Chairman agreed to see if it was possible to change the date of the meeting at the Rutherford Laboratory to April 25th. However, it was thought that it would probably not be possible, and in any case the number of British scientists attending the meeting in Israel would be rather small.

There was nothing further to report on the proposed meetings on Kinetic Measurements of Conformational Change, suggested by Dr. E.G. Richards for September 1974, and that on Photoelectron Spectroscopy, suggested by Dr. Miller, Loughborough, for early 1975.

A meeting on High Energy X-ray Sources was suggested. The point was made that the SRC were looking at the provisions they should make for synchrotron sources, partly for groups interested in radiation damage, but also for those groups that were interested in using the radiation in scattering experiments.

### 73/29 Membership

The Treasurer reported that further difficulties had been experienced with the Biochemistry Society and that the person appointed to look after our affairs four months ago had now left. He therefore proposed that £50 be set aside so that he could employ someone on a part-time basis to do the work under his supervision in Bristol. This would consist of receiving applications for membership, cheques etc., and generally maintaining an up-to-date membership list. Changes in this list would be communicated to the Biochemical Society who would still maintain the mailing list and be responsible for distributing circulations to members three times a year. This arrangement was agreed. The Treasurer said that he hoped to have an up-to-date list of those who had paid their subscription in time for the next circulation to members, and that he would also circulate those members whose subscriptions were outstanding, and hoped that by 1st January 1974 all the problems with membership list would have been sorted out.

73/30 Finance

The Treasurer reported that the financial situation of the Society had not changed markedly from that of the last Committee Meeting. However, he noted that the deposit with the Flowley Urban District Council would come up for renewal in the Spring, and suggested that this money be transferred to the Society's deposit account. This was agreed.

73/31 Annual General Meeting

It was agreed that the following nominations would be made by the Committee for the elections that would take place at the Annual General Meeting:

Secretary      Professor H. Fuller  
 Treasurer      Dr. H.C. Watson  
 Meetings Sec. Dr. R.S. Pain  
 Vacancies on the Committee:

Dr. D.J. Cove  
 Dr. M. Breuer

73/32 Any Other Business

- (i) The Chairman referred to the Macromolecules group of the Chemistry Society on whose Committee he was serving. He emphasised the value of keeping in touch with the group as regards the choice of topics for meetings.
- (ii) There was a discussion of the fees which were being proposed for attendance at Biochemical Society meetings, and in particular how this affected the meetings of joint groups of the Biochemical Society and other Societies. Generally feeling was hostile towards the new arrangements made by the Biochemical Society, and it was agreed to pursue ways of changing this policy.

73/33 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on January 8th 1974 at 7.30 in the Biochemical Society offices.

The meeting closed at 5.15p.m.

*EM Broadbent*  
 8-1-74