

BRITISH BIOPHYSICAL SOCIETY

The 44th Meeting of the Committee will be held at 2.30p.m. on Wednesday January 8th 1975 at the Biochemical Society, 7 Warwick Court, High Holborn, London.

A G E N D A

1. Welcome new members of the Committee.
2. Minutes of the 43rd Meeting of the Committee (enclosed).
3. Matters Arising:
  - (i) International Congress of Biophysics, August 1975 (74/15(i))
  - (ii) Summary of Biophysics courses in the U.K. (74/31)
  - (iii) Proposed book on Twenty-five Years of Biophysics (74/30).
4. Report of Annual General Meeting. *74.7*
5. Election of Chairman.
6. Treasurer's Report.
7. Meeting Secretary's Report  
Registration fees for Society meetings.
8. Physical Biochemistry Group Report.
9. Reports from representatives on Joint Committees  
Subjects for Harden Conferences.
10. Associate Membership of the Society for Chemical Industry.
11. Any Other Business
12. Date of next meeting.

## BRITISH BIOPHYSICAL SOCIETY

The 43rd Meeting of the Committee was held at 2.30p.m. on Wednesday October 2nd 1974 at the Biochemical Society, 7 Warwick Court, High Holborn, London.

Present

- Professor G.A. Gilbert (Chairman)
- Professor W. Fuller (Secretary)
- Dr. R.H. Pain (Meetings Secretary)
- Dr. H.C. Watson (Treasurer)
- Dr. M. Breuer
- Professor N.H. March
- Dr. S.P. Spragg
- Dr. M. Tombs

Apologies were received from Dr. D.J. Cove, Dr. J. Metcalfe, Dr. J. Murray and Dr. A. Miller.

74/22

The Chairman welcomed Professor N.H. March to the Committee as a representative of the Institute of Physics.

74/23

The Minutes of the 42nd Meeting of the Committee were approved and signed by the Chairman.

74/24

### Matters Arising from Minutes

#### Society Membership and Meeting Registration Fees for Younger Scientists (74/20)

It was agreed that

- (i) the fee for membership of the Society should be maintained at £2.
- (ii) for members under the age of 25 the membership fee should, as now, be £1.
- (iii) the Committee and the organisers of Society meetings should bear in mind the possibility of offering a reduced registration fee to scientists under the age of 25.

74/25

### Annual General Meeting

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

Secretary  
Treasurer  
Meetings Secretary  
Vacancies on the Committee

Dr. R.H. Pain  
Dr. H.C. Watson  
Dr. J. Metcalfe

Dr. T. Blandell  
School of Biological Sciences,  
University of Sussex.

Dr. G. Offer,  
Department of Biophysics,  
University of London King's College.

Professor C.F. Phelps,  
Department of Biochemistry,  
University of Lancaster  
(until April 1975 at University of Bristol)

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer spoke to the report which he will present at the A.G.M. and which is to be found with the papers for that meeting. He noted that the excess of income over expenditure for the years 1972, 1973 and 1974 was respectively £392, £911 and £559. He also noted that the total assets of the Society were slightly in excess of £4000. He suggested that in his view the finances of the Society were currently very healthy and justified maintaining the annual subscription at £2. However he suggested that the Committee should keep two important points in mind:

- (i) That it had been possible to drastically reduce administrative costs during the last year or so by putting our membership list on his own laboratory computer. In addition to reducing the administrative load in maintaining this list up to date, the computer also provided a set of addressed labels for the membership list. Also because the computer maintained an up to date list of members, the Society did not lose money because of members who had not paid their subscription continuing to receive circulations, and also the fact that membership applications could be speedily and effectively processed meant that we did not lose prospective members who had expressed an interest in the Society.
- (ii) That the potential loss on scientific meetings had increased rapidly during the last year. This was due to the fact that Universities accommodating Society meetings were increasingly asking for higher and higher deposits against accommodation bookings. While we had continued to make a small profit on all our meetings, the Treasurer emphasised that the risks we ran were increasing and that we should be prepared with enough money in reserve to cope with an unexpected loss. He felt that the reserves of approximately £4000 were not too high when viewed from this point of view.

Meetings Secretary's Report(i) Report on recent meetings

The Meetings Secretary reported that one scientific meeting had taken place since the last committee meeting. This was on Crystal Growth organised by Professor A.C.T. North at the University of Leeds on September 24th. Approximately 60 people had registered for the one-day meeting, which it was agreed had provided a very useful exchange of information. It was anticipated that when a contribution of £25 from the Biochemical Society was included, the Society would expect to break even financially. Professor A.C.T. North had prepared a report on the meeting which was available on request from him. It was agreed that a copy would be sent to the United Kingdom Crystallographic Council, who were one of the originators of the idea for such a meeting. It was reported that the meeting had been rather short of young people and this was related to the increasing difficulty (in times when university departments are short of money) for younger scientists, particularly postdoctorals and research students, to obtain funds to attend meetings.

(ii) Detailed plans for future meetingsa) Meeting on Muscle to be held in London, December 17th-19th 1974

The Meetings Secretary reported that the arrangements for this meeting were generally going well. All the speakers who had been approached had accepted. However he did feel the programme was currently rather too full, and asked the Committee for their views on the possibility of deleting a panel discussion planned for the latter part of the final afternoon of the meeting.

It was agreed that the Meetings Secretary should ask for this deletion and also suggest that the talk by Dr. H.E. Huxley on the contribution of Professor J. Hanson should be combined with his introductory lecture on Muscle at the beginning of the first day. It was also agreed that the Meetings Secretary should ask the organisers to postpone the start of the meeting from 9a.m. on Tuesday until approximately 11a.m. It was felt that this would allow people to travel to London on the morning of the 17th and still arrive in time for the first session.

The Meetings Secretary reported that the price quoted for the conference dinner by Queen Elizabeth College was £4.32. This was felt to be outrageously high and doubt was expressed as to whether many members would wish to pay this amount. The Meetings Secretary was left to make a decision as to whether to proceed with booking such a dinner or whether to see if an alternative venue for a dinner could be found, or indeed whether to cancel the dinner. The point was made that Professor A.P. Huxley had already agreed to give an after-dinner speech on the history of muscle research. It was reported that all the free communications received for this meeting were on muscular contraction and would therefore fit in very well with the programme of invited lectures. It was also reported that speakers had been invited to produce posters which could be displayed illustrating their work.

b) Meeting on Mitochondrial Sub-unit Enzymes in Bristol, Spring 1975

It was reported that all the speakers who had been approached had accepted. There was still some uncertainty about the finances of the meeting, since a contribution which the Royal Society might make had still not been confirmed. It was agreed that registration fees should be £3 for members and £6 for non-members. It was anticipated that something between 150 and 200 people would attend the meeting. Dr. Watson reported that accommodation would be available at an all-in charge for bed, breakfast, lunch and dinner of £7 per day.

c) Meeting on Membranes to be held in London, December 1975

The preliminary bookings having been made, there was nothing further to be reported on the organisation of this meeting beyond that given at the last Committee meeting.

d) Meeting on Nuclear Magnetic Resonance, Spring 1976

It was agreed to ask Dr. E.M. Bradbury if he would be prepared to organise a meeting on Nuclear Magnetic Resonance in Biological Research to be held either in Portsmouth or Oxford. A suitable time was suggested as 6th, 7th, 8th April 1976.

(iii) Preliminary suggestions for future meetings

The Meetings Secretary reported that the people at Harwell who had been concerned with organising the Meeting on Neutrons in Biology held on April 8th 1974 were interested in organising a follow-up meeting, probably in July 1975. It was agreed that this approach should be followed up, although it was recognised that July was often a difficult time for people in Universities. The possibility of a meeting on Correlation Techniques was also discussed. It was suggested that this might be linked with development in the facilities at Daresbury, and that Dr. Pike might be consulted for his views.

(iv) Proposed European Congress of Biophysics

The Meetings Secretary reported that he had had ~~an invitation~~ <sup>notice</sup> from a group of Belgian Biophysicists ~~inviting him to attend~~ a small meeting to discuss the organisation of a European Congress of Biophysics to be held in 1976 in Liege. Invitations ~~were also~~ sent to Biophysical societies in Germany, Holland and Italy. It was planned that this steering meeting should take place in November 1974. The Society was somewhat unenthusiastic about this proposal, particularly because of the large number of international meetings of this kind which are already held regularly, and also because of the indications that this congress was aimed solely at scientists within the B.E.C. It was agreed that the Meetings Secretary would not attend the preliminary meeting at Liege, but would ask to be informed of any decisions which were made, so that the Committee could reserve the right to reconsider their participation in the organisation of such a European congress at a later meeting. The Chairman also agreed to discuss this suggestion with the Foreign Secretary of the Royal Society.

(v) Discussions with Macromolecular Group of Chemical Society

The Meetings Secretary also reported on his discussions with the Macromolecular Group of the Chemical Society. It had been agreed that the two societies would exchange future programmes and discuss their tentative plans for future meetings, so that if possible they might come together to jointly support meetings in subjects in which they both had an interest.

Physical Biochemistry Group Report(i) Report on recent meetings

Dr. Spragg reported that the meeting organised by Dr. E.G. Richards on the kinetics of conformational change at King's College in September 1974 had been a great success, although a relatively small audience of 25 was present. He reported that it had now been agreed that the meeting on photoelectron spectroscopy to be organised by Dr. Miller of Loughborough University would take place some time during the Easter 1975 vacation.

(ii) Topics for future meetings

A number of possible topics for future meetings of the group were discussed. It was agreed that Dr. Suggott at Unilever would be approached with a view to organising a meeting on Biophysical Applications of Dielectric Methods. It was recognised that this meeting could be organised in collaboration with members of staff of the the Physics Department at Queen Elizabeth College, where Dr. E.H. Grant was particularly interested in this technique.

It was also suggested that a meeting on Applications of Thermodynamics to Biology be organised, and that Dr. Ogston, Oxford, be approached.

The suggestion of a meeting on Excitable Membranes was also made, but it was agreed to wait before proceeding further to see what topics are to be covered in the main Society meeting on Membranes planned for December 1975.

Other topics which it was agreed to bear in mind for future Physical Biochemistry Group Meetings were Biophysics of Bacterial Spores, Pattern Recognition, Fourier Transform Theory and Correlation Techniques.

Reports of Representatives on Joint Committees(i) British National Committee for Biophysics

Nothing to report.

(ii) British National Committee for Biochemistry

The Chairman reported a meeting of the Committee which had discussed the value of large scientific meetings. Whilst many members of the committee questioned the value of these, it was agreed that they did provide contacts which could be extremely valuable, particularly for people in small countries and scientists from behind the Iron Curtain who often found it difficult to get funds to attend small meetings. It was also noted that the International Union of Pure and Applied Biochemistry were short of funds, and initiating appeals. It was recognised that to some extent this might be in competition with similar appeals made by national organisations.

(iii) Parliamentary and Scientific Committee

Nothing to report.

(iv) Biological Council

Nothing to report.

(v) Joint Committee for Electronmicroscopy

Nothing to report.

(vi) United Kingdom Crystallographic Journal

Nothing to report.

(vii) Biochemical Journal

The Secretary reported that he had had a letter from the Editor of the Biochemical Journal, Professor Walker, stating that Dr. Spragg had now joined the Editorial Board of the Biochemical Journal to replace Professor A.C.T. North as representative of the British Biophysical Society. The Secretary also read a letter from Professor A.C.T. North making the point that during his period on the Editorial Board of the Biochemical Journal, there had not been any great increase in the number of papers on biophysical topics. Indeed on many occasions he had refereed papers that were on the limits of his field of interest, and might appropriately be considered the field of Physical Chemistry of macromolecules.

(viii) Harden Conference

The Secretary reported that he had received a letter from Professor J.S. Lloyd, the Secretary of the Harden Conference, stating that the Biochemical Society were proposing to dissolve the Advisory Committee composed of representatives of related scientific societies. For reasons of expense they planned in future to mount only one Harden Conference per year and felt that the interests of their members might be better served if they concentrated primarily on topics suggested by members of the society. However they would also welcome suggestions sent in by other societies.

(ix) Computer and Instrumentation Group

Nothing to report.

74/30 Proposed Book on Twenty-five Years of Biophysics

It was felt by the Committee that although the initial approach had come via the Committee, the two editors nominated by them (Professor Fuller and Dr. Miller) should feel that they were acting independently rather than as representatives of the Committee. It was agreed that the Society would help in any way possible with the publicity etc. of this volume.

74/31 Summary of Biophysics Courses in the U.K.

The possibility of revising the summary of Biophysics Courses in the U.K. produced by the Society about two years ago was considered. However it was decided against this and an offer by Dr. M. Breuer to run off 50 or 100 copies for the Society was accepted. The Secretary agreed to send Dr. Breuer a copy of the original.

74/32 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would be held at 2.30p. m. in the Biochemical Society offices on January 8th 1975.

MPT  
2/1/75