

Minutes of the 54th Meeting of the Committee held on Wednesday, 26th April, 1978, at the Biochemical Society Rooms.

Present:

Dr. H.C. Watson	:	In the Chair
Dr. M.E.J. Holwill	:	Secretary
Dr. G.L. Kellett	:	Meetings Secretary
Professor C.F. Phelps	:	Treasurer
Dr. K.A. Cammack		
Dr. R.A. Crowther		
Dr. P.M. Harrison		
Dr. P.F. Knowles		
Dr. D.A. Rees		

78/11 Apologies for Absence were received from Professors Chapman and Jennings, Drs. Eagles, Highton, Miller and Pike.

78/12 The Minutes of the Meeting held on 31st January, 1978 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

78/13 Matters Arising from the Minutes.

- Biophysics Broadsheet. Professor Phelps reported that about three-quarters of the contributions had now been received, but that the material would be better presented as a booklet than as a broadsheet. The cost of producing a booklet would be between 5p and 7p a copy. It was agreed that the Royal Society be asked if it would contribute towards the production costs. Professor Phelps agreed that a draft of the booklet be circulated to Committee Members in the Summer, so that distribution to schools could be achieved by late Summer. An initial printing of 3,000 copies was agreed, with members of the B.B.S. included in the first distribution.
- U.K. Crystallographic Council. Professor Blundell had agreed to represent the Society on the Council.
- Group Membership of B.B.S. Dr. Watson noted that where foreign Biophysical or related Societies had requested information about the B.B.S., a representative had been made an honorary member. It was agreed that this policy be continued but the agreement reached under Minute 78/3b should hold for non-Biophysical societies requesting general information.

78/14 Meetings Secretary's Report.

- Excitable Membranes, April 3-5, 1978, Cambridge. Dr. Kellett reported that the meeting had been attended by 112 delegates, of whom one quarter were members of the B.B.S. Generous donations from industry (£650) and the Royal Society (£400) contributed to the financial success of the Meeting. One foreign invited speaker was unable to attend the Meeting and this, together with the donations, created a surplus of £400 when all debts had been met. It was agreed that the funds provided by the Royal Society for travel in respect of the speaker referred to should be returned.
- Active Sites of Enzymes, December 19-21, 1978, Imperial College, London. Dr. Watson reported that overnight accommodation for 60 persons had been arranged at Chelsea College for December 19th and 20th. It was agreed that accommodation for 18th December should be available for overseas invited speakers if required. The Society Dinner would be held at Imperial College and the Committee agreed that a menu be selected so that the total cost of the meal, including wine, would be £5.50. It was noted that no evening meals (other than the Society

Dinner) would be provided by I.C. The charge for use of the Lecture Theatre for three days would be £117 while portering charges amounted to £50. There would be no book display at the Meeting.

In designing the programme, Dr. Watson and Professor Blow aimed to present views representing past, present and future aspects of enzyme structure. Concern was expressed at the relatively high crystallographic content of the programme. Dr. Watson indicated that he hoped to include an enzyme kineticist in the programme. It was agreed that Professor Phillips be asked to speak after the Society Dinner. If he was not prepared to perform this role, an alternative speaker would be sought.

After some discussion of free communications, Dr. Watson agreed to bear in mind the Committee's suggestions in drawing up the programme when the topics of the free communications were known.

It was agreed that the registration fees for the meeting be £6 for B.B.S. members, £10 for non-members and £12 for non-members who wished to join the Society.

- c) Spring Meeting, 1979: Transport and Storage of Metal Ions, April 9-11, 1979, University of Sheffield. Dr. Harrison presented an outline programme which was discussed and approved by the Committee. An upper limit of £1,000 was set for travel expenses in respect of invited speakers.
- d) Winter Meeting, 18-20 December, 1979 at Queen Elizabeth College, London. It was proposed that the topic of this meeting be 'Receptors'. Dr. Rees agreed to initiate discussions relating to a programme for the Meeting with Professor Blundell and possibly Drs. Arden and Henderson.
- e) Future Meetings. Professor Phelps agreed to present at the next committee meeting, proposals for a possible Spring Meeting on Electron Conduction.

Dr. Knowles suggested that the subject of Magnetic Resonance in Biology would be suitable for a future meeting. It was agreed to hold this topic in reserve for the time being. Other topics suggested were scattering techniques (Dr. Rees) and Biophysics in Hospitals or Industry (Dr. Watson). It was agreed that the next circulation should contain an appeal to the membership for suitable topics.

78/15 Treasurer's Report. Professor Phelps reported that the finances were in order, but drew the Committee's attention to the high cost (about £1,000) for arranging despatch of material through the Biochemical Society. It was agreed that the investment of the Society's Funds should be discussed at the next meeting of the Committee.

78/16 Representative's Reports. Dr. Watson noted that the International Crystallographic Meeting had made a large financial surplus. He noted that, because the B.B.S. had acted as a guarantor, the Society could have suffered a financial loss had the Meeting failed, but would reap no benefit from its success.

78/17 Undergraduate Biophysics Seminar. Dr. Watson noted that the Seminar had been very successful. Professor Phelps expressed his gratitude to the speakers and noted that 80 students had attended. The Meeting was also successful financially. The Committee expressed its thanks to Professor Phelps for his organisation of the Seminar. It was hoped that a third seminar would be held early in April, 1979, when a possible topic would be muscle.

78/18 Sixth International Biophysics Congress, Kyoto, September 1978. The Secretary reported that of 33 applications to the Royal Society for funds to attend the Congress, 16 had been successful. Grants amounting to about one half of the cost of travel were made to each successful applicant.

It was agreed that a summary of grants awarded be included in the next circulation.

78/19 The Committee agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to Professor Pain in acknowledgement of his services to the Committee.

78/20 Date of Next Meeting. It was agreed that the next meeting be held on September 27th 1978 at 2.15 p.m. in the Biochemical Society Rooms.

J. C. Watson  
26/9/1978.