

Draft Minutes

72nd Annual General Meeting of the Physical Crystallography Group of the British Crystallographic Association and Structural Condensed Matter Group of the Institute of Physics 12:15 am 1st April 2015 at University of York

22 members were present including the following committee members: Matt Tucker (Chair), Paul Saines (Secretary), Mike Glazer (Education Officer), Matthias Gutmann, Philip Lightfoot, Emma McCabe and Jerome Wicker (YCG representative)

1. Apologies for absence

Formal apologies for absence were received from Brian Cantor, John Claridge, Anthony Phillips and Christoph Salzmann.

2. Minutes from the 71st AGM held at Loughborough on the 9th of April 2014

The recorded minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. Approval was proposed by Nick Funnel and seconded by Andrew Goodwin.

3. Matters Arising from minutes

No matters arose from the previous minutes.

4. Chair's report

Ivana Evans was thanked for all her work as the previous group chair. The success of the international year of crystallography was discussed. The strong winter meeting held by the group last year was highlighted and Emma Roberts and Matthias Gutmann were thanked for organising it. The importance of needing to get physicists along to the winter meeting next year was discussed along with the importance of inviting appropriate speakers to help encourage this. The restructuring of the PANalytical thesis prize so candidates are eligible for two years and reasons behind this, including ensuring a more consistent number of eligible candidates, was explained. This year the PANalytical Thesis Prize 2015 was awarded to Josh Makepeace (Oxford Chemistry), for his PhD thesis entitled "Light metal amides for hydrogen storage and ammonia decomposition". The entries for this years prize were very strong and the chair thanked the committee member that took on the hard job of deciding on a winner. Emma McCabe was thanked for her work on the successful newsletter and Mike Glazer for maintaining the Education pages and agreeing to stay on as our education rep as an elected ordinary member. This year's

winter meeting will be held on the 19th and 20th of October with Mark Senn organising the programme. Matt Tucker and Mark Senn encouraged suggestions for speakers for this meeting.

5. Treasurer's report

Anthony Phillip's was unable to attend so Matt Tucker briefly highlighted the figures as chair. The amounts spent in 2014 are broadly in line with previous years except for the £1344.44 spent on the 2013 PDF workshop and £1000 2013 Winter Meeting as invoices were not organised in time for these to come out of the 2013 budget. There have been no expenses to date for 2015 but £1000 each has been obtained for the Winter meeting and a Workshop (topic to be determined), a maximum of £400 for committee expenses and £50 for the IoP poster prize. The full details can be seen in the attached Treasurer's report.

6. Elections to the PCG-SCMP Committee

There were no outgoing members this year.

Elections of new members of the committee were carried out as follows:

a. Ordinary Members:

Nick Funnell; proposed by Paul Saines and seconded by Emma McCabe

Helen Playford; proposed by Andrew Goodwin and seconded by Dave Keen

Mike Glazer; proposed by Matt Tucker and seconded by Mark Senn

As these were the only nominations they were carried out unopposed.

7. Future Meetings

In light of the increasing costs of attending the BCA Spring Meeting and the related declining attendance there was discussion of having the meeting every two years or to only hold a 1½ day meeting to increase attendance. Mike Glazer mentioned that holding the meeting every second year would cause issues with the IUCr and presidency and it was also queried whether shortening the meeting may cause issues for the exhibitors. It was noted that relatively recently in 2012 the attendance was around 300 so the importance on understanding what has caused this to drop to 200 was emphasised. Mike Glazer also questioned how the BCA membership numbers could be increasing while attendance drops but it was mentioned by members of the committee that this could in part be caused by the unreliability of membership numbers going back that far. The importance of asking why members who aren't coming to the Spring meeting are choosing not to do so was emphasised and examine

costs of the meeting to see where savings can be made. Concerns were voiced by Andrew Goodwin about how further price increases could affect student attendance.

8. Any Other Business

Paul Saines, as PCG/SCMP group representative on the BCA council mentioned that the council was planning on suggesting increasing the membership fees and cutting IUCr subscriptions at the BCA AGM, which was considered necessary as the increasing value of the Swiss Franc was making the subscription significantly more expensive. Mike Glazer raised concerns about the message that the BCA cutting its IUCr subscription would send internationally and the perception this might reduce influence. Mike Glazer said that as IUCr vice-president he was very close to achieving a decrease in the cost of subscriptions to the IUCr by 20 % across the board or changing the currency, in which this was charged. This was pending a further examination of their finances, which should be increasingly healthy due to the IUCr commencing a fellowship and associate scheme. He also mentioned that it would reflect on deterioration in crystallography in the UK and make it more difficult to oppose the Russians and Americans if they chose to steer decision making in “unwise” directions e.g. a previous decision to hold the IUCr congress in Israel. The general feeling and consensus of the AGM was supportive of retaining the IUCr subscriptions as they are.