

Minutes of the 68th Annual General Meeting of the Physical Crystallography Group of the British Crystallographic Association and Structural Condensed Matter Group of the Institute of Physics

11.45 am Wednesday 13th April 2011, Keele

There were 22 members present. Committee members present: David Keen, Matt Tucker, Ivana Evans, David Allan, Andrew Goodwin, Helen Maynard-Casely and Kirsten Christensen

1. Formal apologies for absence were received from Sarah Lister, Christoph Salzmann and Brian Cantor.
2. Minutes from the 67th AGM held at Warwick, 14th April 2010 was accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.
3. There were no matters arising from the minutes.
4. Chairmans' report

Meetings

Looking back over the year, we organised a typically packed programme at the last BCA Spring meeting in Warwick with sessions on

Electron diffraction (Kirsten Christensen)
Resonant X-ray diffraction (Peter Hatton)
New approaches to structure solution (David Keen)
PDF: Local structure (Matt Tucker)

Our contribution to the programme was co-ordinated by Sarah Lister (Tallentire) and Matt Tucker.

In addition to these sessions, we invited Lynne McClusker (ETH Zurich) to present the PCG Plenary Lecture to describe a 'witch's brew' of techniques available for structure solution under the title "Polycrystalline Materials, Powder Diffraction, Electron Microscopy and Charge Flipping – A Remarkable Brew".

The meeting then had a very enjoyable 'postscript' with a PDF Workshop, "Local structure: data correction matters" with around 30 participants.

We again held our Winter Meeting in conjunction with the ISIS Crystallography User Meeting in The Coseners House in Abingdon at a similar time of year to last time, 15-16th November. This joint meeting was as well attended as last year with more than 60 people coming along (helped in part by the financial support provided by ISIS and the IoP). It proved to be a very good meeting under the imaginative title "Current Research in Physical Crystallography" with many high quality talks and including a talk by our 2010 PANalytical-sponsored Thesis Prize winner Dr Helen Maynard-Casely who spoke about her thesis work under the title "The High-Pressure Behaviour of Methane, Part of the New Mineralogy of the Outer Solar System".

Prizes

During the Spring meeting in Warwick we awarded the Physical Crystallography Prize to Dr Christoph Salzmann from Durham. He gave an excellent talk on his work on ice XV and other forms of solid water under pressure. This is a two-yearly prize, so the next award will be made in 2012.

As already alluded to Helen Maynard-Casely was awarded the PANalytical sponsored PCG-SCMP Thesis Prize. The continued sponsorship from PANalytical means that we are delighted to be able to continue to offer this prize; this year's recipient will be announced at the Conference Dinner later tonight. Our poster prize will also be announced at the dinner.

All these prizes are decided on by the PCG-SCMP committee and I want to thank them for their efforts – especially since we had a record number of theses to decide between this year!

Communication

The PCG-SCMP twice-yearly newsletter continues to be our main formal route for communication - thanks to Ivana Evans for co-ordinating this and to many of you who have contributed articles. We also continue to update our WiKi-based web pages (www.PCG-SCMP.org) and this is a really good place to find up-to-date information about PCG-SCMP activities as well as acting as a place to record details of past meetings etc. - thanks to Matt Tucker for maintaining these pages.

Future Activities

As well as the sessions taking place during this meeting, we are again holding our winter meeting in tandem with the ISIS Crystallography User Meeting (on the 3rd and 4th November 2011 – on a topical area tba). This year we are also sponsoring two symposia at the IoP Condensed Matter and Materials Physics meeting. CMMP'11 will be at Old Trafford Cricket Club in Manchester, 13-15th December. Our symposia are titled “Structural studies of nanomaterials” and “Local structures of functional materials” and we would be pleased to see you there whether you are a cricket fan or not! Next year’s BCA will be held in Loughborough in the week beginning 16th April 2012.

Vacancies

The current committee vacancies will become obvious later in this meeting; Dave Allan, who has served on the committee for two terms is happy to stand for re-election as an ordinary member. In addition, all officers of the committee are retiring; all are happy to stand for re-election in different roles. There is still at least one vacancy on the committee.

Personal remarks

Since this is my last Chair’s report, I would like to end with a personal thank you to all who have worked with me over the past three years in the running of the group. The committee have made an enormous contribution in this and have been a very enjoyable team to be a part of. I have not always been the most organised Chair – I am certainly one with one of the worst memories – but I believe that we have made a good contribution to both the BCA and Physical Crystallography within the UK over the past three years. I am particularly pleased with the way that the winter meetings have developed and grown through our links with the ISIS Crystallography User Group meeting and with the strength of recent thesis prize nominations, still willingly supported by PANalytical. These show that the PCG-SCMP Group and the subject areas that it represents remains in good shape, especially with younger people being introduced to – and invigorated by – the subject.

Professor John Evans formally thanked David Keen for his service as chairman on behalf of the group members.

5. Secretary/Treasurer’s report

The secretary/treasurer presented the annual activity report to the meeting and the financial summary appended. There were no questions.

Currently there is a special fund within the IOP for bursaries (£250 for students in a period of 3 years). These funds can be applied for through the IOP-homepage provided students are members of the IOP.

Please inform Matt Tucker if you did not receive the email concerning this AGM sent out on the 5th April.

6. Elections to PCG/SCMP committee
 - a. Chairman: Ivana Evans. Proposed David Keen; Seconded Matt Tucker
 - b. Vice-chairman: Matt Tucker. Proposed Andrew Goodwin; Seconded Ivana Evans.
 - c. Secretary: Kirsten E. Christensen. Proposed Matt Tucker; Seconded David Keen.
 - d. Ordinary Member: David Keen. Proposed Ivana Evans; Seconded Andrew Goodwin
 - e. Ordinary Member: David Allan. Proposed Andrew Goodwin; Seconded Ivana Evans.The committee are happy to welcome new people, so please approach the committee if you want to become a more active member.

7. Consultation on possible group name change

Some of the reasons for why the PCG committee is considering changing the name within the BCA are that the popular sessions that we are running are not necessary true PCG sessions in the conventional sense. We could merge with the CCG or change to a new name that more reflects our current activities of our current and future members, such as Functional materials group or materials group.

The first reaction from the floor was that these names would remove a topic as 'fundamental crystallography' from the group that otherwise would be covered by the current name 'Physical Crystallography'. There are only very few guardians of physical crystallography left. If the group keeps changing its name there is the possibility that we can get lost between other groups. We also need to consider how our members present themselves when they seek funding.

We should look at how the content of the BCA is compared to the ACA, and also look into the alignment with the IUCr and IUCr special interest groups. Also to be considered, is where our group members are publishing and the references they are making.

There is a general tendency/impression that there are less crystallographers that would call themselves physicists at the BCA meeting (or at least they go to other conferences) and much of the physical crystallography is being done in Chemistry Departments. Most of the fundamentals of crystallography are done at large facilities instead. The Structural Condensed Matter Group within IOP was previously named The Physical Crystallography Group of the IOP.

We do need a clear statement of the group, which could be done via a PR campaign. There will be a consultation period, so please do respond and come with suggestions. The new chair will make a detailed schedule. We expect to have an extra ordinary meeting in November and do email Ivana Evans with questions and comments.

Please note this was a lively discussion and so it was hard to note it down exactly, please let me know if you would like anything in this section corrected or added to.

8. Future Meetings are detailed in the Chair's report above.
9. Any other business
None was mentioned.

Financial summary 2010

Balance as of 1.01.2010	£0.00
Group income for 2010	£3,200.00
Student bursary fund	£550.00
Group expenditure in 2010	-£2,364.17
Balance as of 31.12.2010	£1,385.83

Details of Spending in 2010 Accounts

Miscellaneous

Committee expenses	£0.00
Speaker expenses	£0.00
Postage/printing	£0.00
Total misc	£0.00

Prizes in 2010

Lisa Simmons	£50.00
Dr Christoph Salzmann	£500.00
Total Prizes	£550.00

Bursaries in 2010

None	£0.00
Total Bursaries	£0.00

Meetings

PDF Workshop	£1,358.67
2010 Winter meeting**	£1,005.50
Total meeting expenses	£2,364.17

2010 Meeting support

None	£0.00
Total meeting support	£0.00

Total expenditure 2010	£2,914.17
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IOP bid for projected spend in 2011

Committee Expenses	£440.00
Newsletter & Communications	£80.00
PCG prize support	£50.00
Student Bursary	£0.00
Winter meeting	£1,100.00
Magnetic Rietveld school support	£1,100.00
Total requested budget for 2011	£2,770.00
Total approved budget for 2011	£2,496.00

Notes:

**The 2010 winter meeting was paid late, so for now has come from the 2011 budget, if this money is needed I can request additional funds from the IoP, this will then be considered by the GCC.