

Institute *of* Physics

Merseyside Branch Committee Meeting

16th March 2006 at 18.00

R337 Oliver Lodge Laboratory.

Present: A Marks (Chair), M W Poole (Vice Chair), D S Martin (Hon Secretary), S D Barrett, N Clitherow, D Porter, A Newsam, N Marks, M Chartier.

1. **Apologies:** S L Bennett (Hon Treasurer), M Bode, P Nolan, R. McGrath, J. Bradshaw, P. Rowlands, A. Fesmer, N. Heritage.
2. **Minutes of the last meeting**
The minutes of the last meeting were accepted and signed.
3. **Matters arising not appearing in any item below**
None.
4. **Reports on events held since the last committee meeting.**
 - i) 24 Jan, J Drew (J Porter Memorial): attendance 75. Good lecture followed by presentation and buffet by invitation. AN reported that the event was well received by the family of J Porter.
 - ii) 9 Feb, M Poole: attendance 35. Very good overview of the subject given. Good student interest and discussion at end.
 - iii) 2 Mar, J Shaw: attendance 30. Interesting topic with a good question session at end. A summary of this talk is to feature in the Interactions magazine.
 - iv) 8 Mar, Paperclip heat: Five teams competing on the day. It was noted that teams of different ages (year 10 and 12) are competing. Two teams have gone through to the final at Daresbury Lab.
 - v) 14 Mar, J Hough: attendance 20. Good talk with interesting demonstrations.
5. **Forthcoming meetings**
 - 6 April: K Horne: Accommodation required. Buffet for 40 to be organised from 'Educatering' firm. **Action AM**
 - 27 April, P Moriarty: Finalise details/speaker form **Action RMG**
 - 27 April, AGM: opportunities for new committee members. Current Chair and Secretary must step down and replacements discussed. AN agreed to take over as 'main' Secretary with DSM as 'on site' manager of the programme events.
 - 9 May, Visit to Lairdside: Limit of 20 people. The Branch will cover the cost of the tour. Numbers so far are approaching 10.
6. **Brief finance report**
The report by SLB was read. Account includes ~1k grant managed by AN/AF.
7. **PHYSOC**
 - Student membership: interest has been poor with only 12 memberships, even at the discounted rate of 12 pounds. The committee agreed to cover the additional costs for these 12 memberships as the number is below the minimum 50 for the 12 pounds rate. It was discussed whether the IoP should consider free membership for students and this would be raised at the next COB. **Action AM**
 - The trip to Daresbury Lab was enjoyed by all and PHYSOC thanked all those involved at DL.
 - Plans for a 'women in physics' event were discussed briefly.
 - PHYSOC ball planned for 6 May and being advertised.
 - A new president of PHYSOC is about to be elected, DP thanked the Branch Committee and the Branch Committee thanked and congratulated DP on a successful presidency.

8. Programme 2006-07

The draft of the programme was updated:

22 September	Fresher event	AN/SDB
22 September	Rotblat talk by LM Historical Society (PR)	
3/5 Oct	P Weightman/Mott medal?	SDB/DSM
17/20 Oct	Nuclear debate (Joint Manchester Oct event)	
7/10 Nov	Bob skeleton	DSM
21 Nov	125 th Anniversary of LU Physics Department event: E. Gabathuler? involve retired staff and invite John Holt	
18 Dec	Sixth form Christmas lecture	
16/18 or 23/25 Jan (to avoid London meetings)	Memorial lecture: solar astronomy	AN
6/8 Feb	A Hodgson: Science of ice	SDB
20 Feb	Neutrons	
8 Mar	Jocelyn Bell Burnell – joint meeting at Daresbury	AM
20/22 March	public lecture, French speaker suggested	MC
17/19 April	IoP/LMI event P Cole Medical Imaging	NC
1 May	Polkinghorne + AGM	AM
15 May	Visit to Spaceport (family visit?)	AF
28 May	Joint event with Manchester	

Other suggestions :

Exobiology talk	AN/MB
Sellafield/cancer cluster	JB

9. Newsletter

March newsletter contains AGM announcement.

Spare copies of the newsletter are with DSM.

10. Education

- Paperclip Physics arrangements are finalised. It was noted that the future of paperclip as an event was uncertain.
- Schools lecture –expected numbers need to be checked. **Action DSM/PN**

11. Blue Plaque

No new progress to report.

12. 2008 Capital of Culture

An update on recent developments was given. The committee discussed possible events such as a lecture series, exhibition, advertisement posters in city. It was felt that there should be a strong physics and science contribution to 2008.

13. Women in Physics report

AM stated that the IoP Sites Visit Report has been published and is worth reading.

AM agreed to send MC a copy of the IUPAP 2005 report.

14. AOB

None.

15. Date of next meetings

Dates to be circulated separately.

Action AM/DSM