

Institute *of* Physics

Merseyside Branch Committee Meeting 2nd November 2005 at 18.00 R315 Oliver Lodge Laboratory.

Present: A Marks (Chair), M W Poole (Vice Chair), D S Martin (Hon Secretary), S L Bennett (Hon Treasurer), S D Barrett, N Clitherow, J. Bradshaw, D Porter, A Newsam, P. Rolands.

1. **Apologies:** M Bode, M Chartier, D Farley, A. Fesmer, N Marks, R. McGrath, P Nolan.
2. **Minutes of the last meeting**
The minutes of the last meeting contained an error: the date of the Physics Olympics should be 8 Oct 2005. Following amendment, the minutes were then accepted and signed.
3. **Matters arising not appearing in any item below**
None – Actions completed.
4. **Reports on events held since the last committee meeting.**
 - i) 23 Sept, M Holden: attendance approx. 100, mostly UoL Freshers. The committee thanks the speaker for another good talk.
 - ii) 8th Oct, Physics Olympics: another successful year and positive feedback received. The COB requested information as a model of a successful competition. **Action AM**
 - iii) 11 Oct, P Warren: attendance was disappointing at 14, however, the audience contained several new faces. A very interesting talk with many questions and a discussion at the end.
 - iv) 12 Oct, Schools Lecture: two lectures given at near capacity (~400 in total) attendance. Interactive elements well received. It was noted that a large proportion (2/3) of one audience were female.
 - v) 18th Oct, M Irvine: attendance approx 120. Good talk followed by a lively discussion. The buffet was a good opportunity to network.
5. **John Porter Memorial Lecture**
Notes defining details of the lecture were circulated to the committee and will be kept on record for future committees. It was noted that future speaker details will need to be finalised by early July for inclusion in the newsletter programme. (Final version of the notes has been agreed by Mike Bode and are attached to these minutes.) **Action complete AM**
6. **Forthcoming meetings**
 - 10 Nov: S Chapman has cancelled. M Bode has kindly stepped in with an alternative talk 'images of astronomy'. Branch members to be informed of the change via email. **Action AM**
 - Larger capacity lecture theatre to be reserved in case of large numbers **Action DSM**
 - 24 Nov, G Starks: projector and sound system needed. Inform Department of Music. **Action SDB/AM**
 - 14 Dec, P Kalmus: 195 places reserved to date.
 - 9 Feb, M Poole: projector needed. **Action DSM**
7. **PHYSOC report**
 - DP reported on the Nexus regional dinner in Manchester on the 15 Oct. 20 went. It was a success and should be repeated.
 - Group membership correspondence is ongoing and AM to be copied in. **Action DP**
 - In 2006 the Physics Dept of UoL is 125 years old and events are being considered. Tours of Jodrell Bank and Daresbury are being considered. SLB to pass on contacts for Daresbury Lab. **Action SLB**
8. **Report COB meeting**
 - Budget awaiting approval.

- Generous Paperclip prizes for winning school and runner-up in regional finals decided.
- AM reported to COB the committees concerns about localisation and these were considered. The COB working party is to be reconvened to look into the interaction of proposed regional officers with Branches.

9. **Branch support officer report**

JB discussed dates for the paperclip physics final. Decided 21 March NW Regional Final and 8 March for heat in Chadwick Lab subject to venue availability. **Action SDB**

JB to follow up suggestions for non-scientific judges and act as schools' contact. **Action JB**

10. **Education**

- Travelling lecture is confirmed: 29th March.
- Annual Liverpool Teachers' Conference will be on 29 June 2006
- Date not finalised for the KS 3&4 teacher's conference organised by the teachers' network.
- Suggestions for the programmes for the 2 teachers' conferences to AM.
- Plans for the Pilkington's Einstein Year visits are near completion. **Action JB**
- Schools to be contacted via teachers' network. **Action AM**

11. **Blue Plaque**

P Rowlands is leading the blue plaque activity and reported that appropriate contacts were needed to pursue further. The Heritage Committee at UoL was suggested.

12. **Media**

No media interest for November.

13. **Programme 2006-07**

- PR suggested a lecture for next year relating to the 150th anniversary - JJ Thompson.
- All ideas to be forwarded to DSM **Action ALL**
- Student input for topics/speakers **Action DP**
- Possibility of making new contacts with other societies for joint meetings. **Action ALL**

14. **2008 Capital of culture**

Portland Place has expressed interest. Preliminary meeting arranged with Liverpool Culture Co. AM will attend. The committee noted that Science is an important cultural activity that should be represented in 2008.

15. **AOB**

Lab in a lorry is visiting Salford for one week.

Merseyside careers surgeries planned for 1 and 2 Feb 2006, information to be circulated.

Action JB

Mary Green has had to change the venue for the Einstein Year 'Science and Art' exhibition. It will be at the Williamson Gallery, Birkenhead, 3 to 31 December.

16. **Date of next meetings**

18 Jan 2006 at 6pm in R337 Oliver Lodge Building, University of Liverpool.

15 March at 6pm in R337 (provisional date)