

Institute *of* Physics

Merseyside Branch Committee Meeting

9th June 2005 at 17.30

Room 315, Oliver Lodge Building, University of Liverpool.

Present: A Marks (AM) (Chair), S D Barrett (SDB), S. Bennett (SLB) (Minute taker), N Clitherow (NC), D Farley (DF), A Fesmer (AF), N Heritage (NH), N Marks (NM), M Poole (MP), D Porter (DP).

1. **Apologies:** P Nolan (PN), M Bode (MB), D Martin (DM), M Chartier (MC), A Newsam (AN), P Rowlands (PR).

Introductions: MP announced that he is a past president of PHYSOC

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**

(3) Hand over of treasurer's duties

AM agreed to contact HQ about procedure for transferring the account. It was agreed that the new signatories will be SLB, AM and MP.

- (14c) The cost of student membership** is £25 for 3 years (4 years for an M Phys degree)

Block memberships can be obtained at a cost of £18 for 10-49, £12 for 50-99 and £8 for more than 100 members.

DP proposed organising a group student membership next year academic year. The value of the deal should be emphasised at the freshers' meeting

ACTION Phys Soc to get a list of freshers.

AM added that from September 2005 women undergraduates will get automatic free membership of the IoP Women in Physics Group.

MP noted an apparent lack of inducement to students in 2nd and 3rd years. It was suggested that second year students could be approached at the beginning of their lectures.

4. **Reports on events held since the last committee meeting.**

5 May, Anna Ellison, Forensic science lecture: the talk was well received and described as enjoyable and gripping. NC had already thanked Anna. Buffet finance has been sorted out. NC was also asked to pass on thanks to the Medical Institute for providing the venue.

ACTION NC

British Aerospace visit: 16 people attended a well organised four hour event. It was suggested that student attendance was affected by the imminence of exams. John had thanked the organisers.

5. **Forthcoming events**

Visit of Dr Robert Kirby-Harris 29/30 June- evening meal arranged and hotel booked. Dr Kirby-Harris will stay until early afternoon on 30th June.

Travelling schools lecture 12th October: It was agreed that the event should be advertised at once.

ACTION PN/AM

6. **Programme 2005-06**

- Much of the programme has been confirmed - see page 4

- It has not been possible to contact John Zarnecki so far. An alternative of Peter Main speaking on the IoP education programme was suggested for this or the item below.
- Jocelyn Bell-Burnell is happy in principle to be included in the programme. Ann will pursue leaving the topic to be decided by the speaker. A decision will be made later about providing transport for students.
- John Shaw has confirmed. SDB will agree the date with him. The proposed date could be swapped with Jocelyn Bell-Burnell if necessary. **ACTION SDB**
- Keith Horne had been contacted by Mike Bode but the outcome was not known.(now confirmed) – It was noted that work at the ARI had been affected by the death of John Porter.
- Philip Moriarty has agreed to speak – details to follow. **ACTION RNM**
- SDB has begun the process of booking Lairdside, but had not heard back from them yet. **ACTION SDB**
- A fusion talk for 23 May has been fixed. DP said that students may well be interested. It was agreed that if there is sufficient interest the branch will fund transport. There was consensus that a better title is required. **ACTION DP** to gauge level of interest
- It was agreed that MP would inform Colin Whitehouse about the Daresbury Laboratory events. **ACTION MP**

7. **Branch Support Officer Report**

JB submitted a written report before the meeting.

DF raised the issue of work related learning.

ACTION DF and JB to contact Paul Warren.

A Bootle school has booked the Lab in a Lorry in July and is looking for volunteers. (Since cancelled)

A number of concerns were expressed about the process of HQ agreeing a visit with a school and then expecting the branch to staff the lorry when a shortage of possible volunteers had already been identified.

JB suggested contacting the SETPOINT: AF warned that they might charge for their services.

8. **Einstein Year Activities**

Christmas lecture and Freshers' talk to be badged as Einstein events

November will be badged as an Einstein 'Science and Art' month to link with the topics of the branch lectures and the exhibition to be arranged by Mary Green.

9. **Once complete, the detailed programme should be sent to Sarah Connelly to be put on the WHATSON website.** **ACTION DM**

10. **Education**

- **30 June - Annual Teachers' Conference** –number registered is increasing steadily. Department Staff members invited to join the teachers over lunch to meet Dr Robert Kirby-Harris.
- **Education programme for 2005-6 to be finalised by NH and report prepared for the newsletter.** **ACTION NH**
- **Paperclip Physics-** The 2006 competition will not have a national final. There will be Northwest Regional Final for Merseyside, Manchester and Lancashire Branches to be held at Daresbury Laboratory.

11. **Teacher Network –report.**

Nearly 50 are registered for the KS3&4 teachers' Conference on 14th June.
The Merseyside Teachers' Network now has over 250 members.

12. Student Rep/ PHYSOC report

The new committee will report once a programme has been arranged. It was agreed in principle that a coach might be arranged to take students to Daresbury for a visit or an event.

PHYSOC email address is livphysoc@hotmail.com

13. Newsletter

- PHYSOC article **ACTION DP done**
- Paperclip **ACTION AM done**
- Nuffield students **ACTION SDB**
- Asteriods **ACTION AN/AF**
- Atlas **ACTION SDB**
- JMU **ACTION MB done**
- Education **ACTION NH**
- Daresbury ERLP article delayed until February when construction will be more advanced.
- Synchrotron Radiation Source 25th anniversary. MP to prepare an article. **ACTION MP**

14. Blue Plaque- PR gathering information. **ACTION PR to report to the next meeting**

15. Media

SLB to prepare a press release for the Max Irvine event.

16. AOB

- The committee was saddened to hear of the recent sudden death of John Porter.
- The committee congratulated Steve Barrett on his elevation to a Fellow of the Institute.
- NM announced that the IoP will contribute £2000 towards the 25th Anniversary of Daresbury to support students.
- AM reported that she had attended a meeting, organised by HEFCE and the IoP, to develop ways to attract young people into physics degrees. There will be considerable funding to support the initiative.

17. Date of next meetings –

6.00pm, 20 Sept 2005, Daresbury Laboratory
6.00pm, 2 Nov 2005, Oliver Lodge Building, UoL

Merseyside Branch Programme 2005-6

(Bold = confirmed)

23 Sept	M. Holden	Freshers talk- Gravity	SDB
4 Oct	Paul Warren	Glass	DSM
12 Oct	Laura Grant & Karen Bultitude		PN
		Schools Lecture "<i>Our Planet - Our Future</i>"	
18 Oct	Max Irvine	Power to the people	AM
		(joint with Manchester and IEE at DL) + Buffet	
		Chair PN panel MWP +IEE invited	AM
10 Nov	Sandra Chapman	Antarctica	
		(Link with Physics and Art)	AM
24 Nov	Garvin Starks	Music from data	AN
14 Dec	Peter Kalmus	Xmas lecture	AM
24 Jan	John Porter Memorial Lecture		
	Janet Drew	What goes up doesn't always come down	MB
7/9 Feb	?		
2 Mar	J. Shaw	Physics of Earth	SDB
14(16?) Mar	Jim Hough	Gravitational waves	AN
29 Mar/	Schools' lecture	(No details available yet)	PN/AM
6 April	Keith Horne	The quest for extra solar planets	
		Joint with LMI	NC/MB/AM
25/27 April	P. Moriarty + AGM	Nanostructures	RNM
9/11 May	Visit	Lairdside Ship Simulator (cost agreed)	SDB
	Reserve	Williamson's tunnels	
23 May	C Llewellyn Smith	Fusion (with Manchester at DL)	Manchester
Other ideas:			
		London eye	AM
		Technology of accelerators	SDB
	Peter Main (IoP)	Education	AM
	Peter Cole	Medical imaging	

It was agreed that events should be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and all talks will start at 18.30.