

Institute of Physics

Merseyside Branch Committee Meeting

9 October 2003

Oliver Lodge Laboratory, Department of Physics, University of Liverpool

Present: A Marks (Chair), R McGrath (Vice Chair), D S Martin (Secretary and Treasurer), S D Barrett, N R Clitherow, D M Farley, A Newsam, M Chartier, C Crenell.

1. **Apologies** M Bode, N Heritage, P Nolan, N Marks.

2. **Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of 3 June 2003 were accepted.

3. **Co-opted committee members**

The co-opted members are D Milstead, Tony Buckley, Andrea Fesmer This information needs to be updated on the webpage. **Action: RNM**

4. **Report on recent meetings**

a) Officer meeting 2nd July 2003: Held to finalise the newsletter. The final newsletter has been well received. AM was thanked by the committee for her work on the newsletter.

b) Teacher's conference: Attended by around 40 teachers. Feedback has been very positive. Report from evaluation forms appended (1). The committee thanked SDB and NH for their work.

c) Budget plan (17th Sept officer meeting): A budget was agreed on and has been submitted.

d) Medical Imaging talk: Part of Freshers' week. SDB gave an introduction to IoP membership to the new students. The event was well attended and the talk well received.

5. **Programme for 2003/4**

a) Joint meetings with Manchester Branch: Two joint talks are arranged and advertised in the newsletter.

b) Travel for P Hubert: low cost flights to be booked soon **Action: MC**

c) Joint meeting with Medical Institution: advertised in newsletter. A sponsored buffet has kindly been arranged by LMI. The committee extends their thanks. NC is leading this event.

d) Physics and Primary School event: Yvonne Baker, National Manager of the Science and Engineering Ambassadors' Scheme, Brenda Keogh, Concept Cartoons, and Lorelly Wilson, Northwest Science Alliance, have kindly agreed to talk. Details to be finalized.

e) New version of speaker form: update the form for speakers to fill in. **Action DSM**

f) Forthcoming meetings:

Collins- arranged

Gough- check accommodation etc

Action: AM / DSM

Need to confirm speakers for the Careers event on 19th Nov.

AN noted he could provide a reserve speaker.

Action: DSM.

6. **Report on Branch Treasurers' meeting on 3rd Oct.**

DSM reported on the Branch Treasurers meeting at Portland Place.

7. Branch support officer – Joint appointment between Merseyside, Manchester and Lancaster Branches.

Interviews have taken place, one interview pending.

8. Teacher Network

Two appointments have been made for Merseyside: AM and Lucas Heyhurst.

9. COB meeting To take place at Daresbury on 24th Oct. Report appended (2).

All members of this committee have been invited to the dinner planned for 23rd with tours of the laboratory.

10. Blue plaques

Horrocks (SDB) Site identified. Planning permission applied for from the council. A letter to IoP is needed and a check that there is no duplication of an existing statement at the proposed site.

Action: SDB

Chadwick (RNM) Site identified. Currently 'with University'. A case must be made to IoP.

Action: RNM

11. Education Programme 2003-4

Paperclip physics date and judges under discussion.

Physics Olympics taking place this Sat. is fully booked.

12. CERN

visit to have same format as 2000 but with tour of ISOLDE. Funding to be sought.

Action: AM

13. Industry Agenda item for next meeting.

14. Newsletter distribution

SDB has spare copies available upon request.

PJN has asked that spare copies be available for prospective students.

15. Any Other Business

CC reported that Physoc was active and running well. It was noted that web-based IoP membership may now be available and it was decided to investigate this option. **Action: CC**

A visit to the Physics Department by the IoP 'Site Visit' team will occur soon to assess how 'women friendly' the department is. MC agreed to speak to them. **Action: MC**

A new agenda item was agreed for future meetings: 'Capital of Culture'

16. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the committee will be held on 11 Nov. 2003.

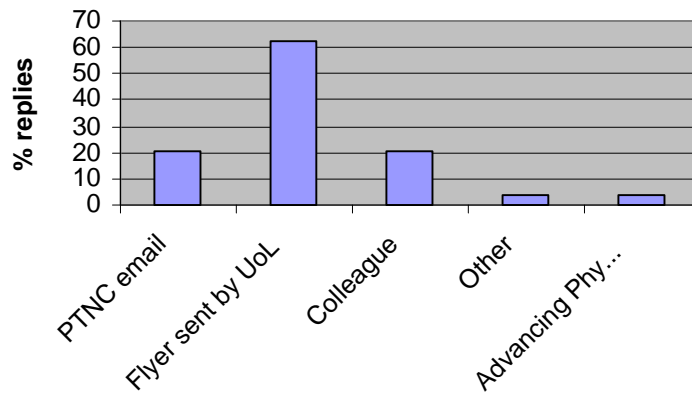
Dr D S Martin
Honorary Secretary
Merseyside Branch
Institute of Physics

Copies to: AM, RNM, DSM, SDB, NM, SLB,
MFB, NRC, DMF, MC, AN, NH,
MM, PJN, CC, AGB, DM, AF

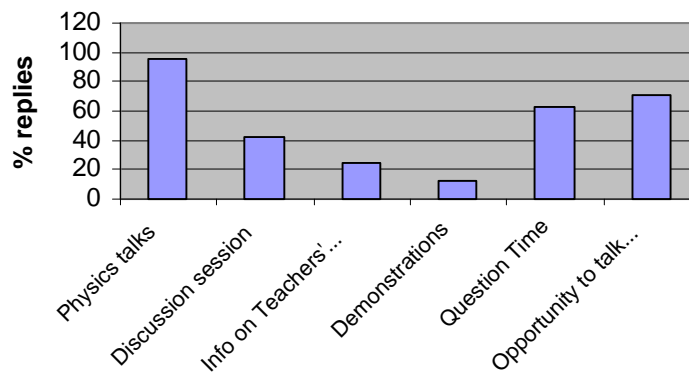
Appendix 1

Feedback from PTC 2003 (41 attendees, 24 replies)

How did you hear about PTC 2003?



What did you find most useful?



Do you have any suggestions for PTC next year?

- I would like to see more resources and strategies at key stage 3 and 4 for use in the classroom
- Avoid a degree day - parking might be easier
- Particle physics talk in the same mode as today's medical physics talk

- There is a person who gave a talk on juggling to the Institute update course at Royal Holloway (2 years ago). I do not know his name but I believe he is from the Wirral. He was brilliant! Try to capture him for the PTC. If you cannot find his name, I might have it on the conference program - ask me - (email supplied)
- Discussion of links from A-level physics to maths

Any other comments

- Very useful!
- Another worthwhile day out. I look forward to next year
- An excellent, useful day
- Very well run, informative and helpful. Many thanks
- Very good thank you
- No, but thanks you for organising the event. I found the question time most stimulating
- A very worthwhile experience!
- Excellent day out!
- Excellent (and interesting)
- Excellent. I came all the way from Milton Keynes for this and was not disappointed. Advertise this nationally. I am quite sure a lot more people would travel a long way if they knew just how good it was
- Being able to access the presentations once home is useful

Neil Heritage
Education Secretary

Appendix 2

Institute of Physics

Chair of Branches Meeting, 24th October 2003

Report from the Merseyside Branch

“Physics on Merseyside”, the Branch Newsletter, is to be tabled.

Programme

Liverpool Teachers Day Conference was on 3rd July and once again this annual event was a very successful, with the feedback forms providing enthusiastic and encouraging reports. The year ended with good meetings and a fascinating visit to Pilkington’s Technology Centre at Lathom.

Our main activity since the last COB has been to prepare the Branch Programme for the year 2003-4. This is printed on pages 2 and 3 of the Newsletter and the Education Programme is on page 6. We have a more extensive programme arranged than ever before with a wide range of activities including several new initiatives.

There will be a careers afternoon at which several highly successful people, whose only link is that they started their careers in Physics, will talk and answer questions. Following a new, successful initiative by the Women in Physics Group, there will be a meeting for physicists interested in visiting primary schools so that young children will learn about the excitement and enjoyment of physics. Also, it is hoped that one of our blue plaque investigations will reach the unveiling stage this year.

Newsletter

The new format of the newsletter has been very well received and has made it possible for several articles to be included as well as Branch reports and the programme. It is regrettable that the first draft of the newsletter received from IOPP had been extensively re-worded to include many mistakes in the science, the facts, and the grammar. In places text had actually been lengthened rather than shortened and the programme venue coding had been completely misinterpreted. Having submitted the text and pictures well before the deadline, we were given two days to deal with all their errors. This was in the holiday period when I had other priorities and had I not been available to open my emails, the incorrect copy would have been circulated. In the past the chair has taken responsibility for the content: in future, I do not expect the text to be altered.

The Branch Support Officer

The position has been advertised, interviews have taken place and by the date of the COB meeting it is expected that an appointment will have been made. Merseyside, Manchester and Lancaster have decided to share one Support Officer because only thirty five days were allocated for the whole area. The priorities will be industry and schools.

Teachers’ network appointments

Two Co-ordinators have been appointed to work in the Merseyside area and they will receive some support from the local SETPOINT because it is considered that there is so much work to be done

Thanks

Thanks are due to both Liverpool University Physics Department and Daresbury Laboratory for providing venues, facilities and equipment. Each committee member has their own area of responsibility and is making a valuable contribution. The chair would like to thank them all for their enthusiasm and hard work.

Ann Marks,

Chair, Merseyside Branch. October 2003.