

Institute *of* **Physics**

Merseyside Branch Committee Meeting

Thursday 13 February 2003

Oliver Lodge Laboratory, Department of Physics, University of Liverpool

Present: N Marks (Chairman), S D Barrett (Secretary), D S Martin (Treasurer), S L Bennett, D M Farley, A Marks, R N McGrath

Apologies: A G Buckley, M F Bode, E Boyse, N R Clitherow, A Fesmer, N Heritage, M Moores

1. Apologies

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 26 November 2002 were accepted.

3. Matters arising

- (i) The Paper Clip Physics local heat will be held on 4 March 2003. Ten teams have been entered.
- (ii) Science Week is 7–16 March 2003. There appear to be a number of activities advertised on the British Association web site, and there is insufficient time to arrange any other activities.
- (iii) NM has contacted the members of the joint working party to arrange a meeting, but no date has been fixed as yet.
- (iv) Flyers for the talk on 'Fast CT' on 20 March 2003 have been passed on to NRC to distribute to his contacts in the medical community. AM will also distribute the abstract to her contacts and SDB will advertise the talk within the UoL.

Action NRC, AM, SDB

4. Brief Reports on Recent Events

Adventures in ... Protein Crystallography by John Helliwell (January) Attendance ~25. The numbers were a little depressed as the talk fell during an exam week at UoL (perhaps this ought to be avoided in future?). An entertaining talk.

What Is Wrong With Plate Tectonics? by Don Tarling (February) Attendance ~25. A diverse audience, including some from the Earth Science department. The number of questions after the talk indicated a considerable amount of interest.

5. Planning for talk by Professor Gareth Padfield on 27 February 2003

As we were unable to accommodate a request from the speaker for a change of date for this talk, the committee is reminded that we need to ensure that the talk is widely advertised to maximise the numbers attending. Wine and some snacks will

be available (to be arranged by SDB) after the talk for groups waiting to visit the flight simulator facilities in the Department of Engineering. **Action SDB**

6. Planning for the AGM on 10 April 2003

- (i) The Chair's report and Treasurer's report will be prepared. **Action DSM, NM**
- (ii) Election of officers (NM and SDB will be standing down as Chair and Secretary, respectively):
 - RNM proposed AM as Chair [AM indicated after the meeting that she would be willing to stand].
 - SDB proposed DSM as Secretary, and DSM indicated that he would be willing to remain Treasurer and to stand for Secretary.

The possibility of having a member of staff of the Department of Physics at UoL stand for Chair will be explored by RNM and SDB. **Action RNM, SDB**

- (iii) Election of committee members:
 - All existing members are willing to remain on the committee.
 - Dr Andy Newsam (JMU Astrophysics) will be asked if he is willing to join the committee. **Action SDB**
 - A new student representative should be recruited as the student who previously held this position has stepped down. **Action SDB, RNM**
- (iv) A March 2003 newsletter giving notification and details of the AGM will have to be prepared. In addition to the Chair's and Treasurer's reports, the newsletter will have a paragraph of introduction; some news about the Liverpool Telescope; news re winners of the student lecture competition; abstracts of forthcoming meetings in the Branch Programme 2002/03.

Action NM, MFB, RNM, SDB

7. Matters arising from the Chairs of Branches Meeting 1 November 2002

- (i) Reclaiming VAT: IoP HQ will contact DSM in due course.
- (ii) Teachers' Network Coordinator: Mr Paul Malpass will cover Merseyside/Manchester/Lancashire and Cumbria Branches. The contact on this committee will be NH. **Action NH**
- (iii) Branch Support Officer: A Branch representative will be invited to sit on the interview board for the recruitment of this person; there will also be a contact on this committee. It was agreed that this should be the Chair or Vice-Chair.
- (iv) Web pages: RNM reported that the migration of the Branch web pages from a local server to the IoP server at HQ is complete, and that not many other branches have yet done the same. There are still some technical problems in making modifications to the pages, but access for members is not affected.
- (v) Blue plaques: RNM reported that little progress has been made recently. For Horrocks, an application needs to be made to the local Council. For Chadwick, the application to the UoL appears to have stalled at the Heritage Committee and enquiries need to be made regarding its status. **Action RNM**

8. Preparation of Branch Programme 2003/04

The aim is to have a newsletter giving the Branch Programme ready for late July. All committee members are thus asked to come to the next meeting with at least one proposal for a talk and/or visit. **Action All**

9. Another Other Business

- (i) NM has proposed that the Chair of Branches meeting of Friday 24 October 2003 is held at Daresbury Laboratory, hosted by the Merseyside/Manchester and District Branches. There will be a social event associated with the meeting.
- (ii) Nominations for IoP Awards 2003 are invited from individuals. Details of the categories are available at <http://physics.iop.org/IOP/Awards/>. RNM and SDB will investigate the possibility of nominating members of the UoL. **Action RNM, SDB**
- (iii) The IoP Schools and Colleges Lecture will come to Liverpool on 5 March 2003. DMF reported that she had not received any information about it from the IoP, and so SDB will contact IoP HQ to check on advertising. **Action SDB**
- (iv) Particle Physics Master Class – is it happening this year? SDB will check with members of the Department of Physics. **Action SDB**
- (v) The Liverpool Physics Teachers' Conference will take place on 3 July 2003. AM outlined ideas for the day, including a talk on the Liverpool Telescope by Andy Newsam; Catherine Wilson talking about the Teachers' Network; a talk given by a member of the Department of Physics at UoL; something on SetUpScience; a question-and-answer session; a general discussion session. The general structure of the day will be similar to that of PTC 2002, but the details need to be fleshed out. **Action NH, AM, SDB**
- (vi) Science Year CD ROM: DMF suggested that NH emails schools' contacts regarding this resource. **Action NH**

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the committee will be Thur 3 Apr 2003.

S D Barrett Honorary Secretary
Merseyside Branch
Institute of Physics
18 February 2003

Copies to:

NM, AM, SDB, DSM
SLB, MFB, EB, AGB, NRC, DMF, AF,
NH, RNM, MM, PJN