

Institute *of* **Physics**

Merseyside Branch Committee Meeting

Thursday 5 November 2001

Oliver Lodge Laboratory, Department of Physics, University of Liverpool

Present: N Marks (Chairman), S D Barrett (Secretary and Treasurer), M F Bode,
A G Buckley, A Marks, R N McGrath, M Moores, J A Varley

Apologies: D Banks, E Boyes, D M Farley, A Fesmer, N Heritage, M Joyce, P J Nolan,
R A P Smith

1. **Welcome to New Members**

NM welcomed Mike Moores and Jennifer Varley, who were nominated as co-opted members of the committee and subsequent votes were carried.

2. **Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of 22 May 2001 were accepted. Letters of thanks will be sent to GRC, EG and MM who have stepped down from the committee. SDB noted that RAPS wishes to stand down from the committee. **Action SDB**

3. **Matters arising**

DB is the Young Professional Representative of the Branch, and Joseph Hines will be informed of this. **Action SDB**

Visits to CERN: After a brief discussion it was decided that the Branch would take no further action in encouraging local teachers to make such visits.

4. **Brief Reports on Recent Meetings**

The Story of Radio... by Dominic Dickson and Peter Rowlands (September) Attendance ~ 60, principally new undergraduates of the University of Liverpool. The idea of providing a talk and an IoP sponsored buffet lunch as part of the undergraduate 'Freshers' Week' appears to have worked well. The talk covered the history of radio communication and the links with the University. The benefits of joining the IoP were explained to the new students, and a number of them took away registration forms. As the format was successful, it was decided to do something similar in September 2002, and MFB volunteered to give a talk on the history of astronomy on Merseyside.

Magnetic Dating of Early Man by John Shaw (October) Attendance ~ 25. The talk highlighted our inability to understand the physics of the Earth's interior and to explain magnetic field reversals.

Sounds Interesting by Asoke Nandi (October) Attendance ~35, a mix of undergraduates, University staff, and other members. The talk was based around a computer presentation, starting with the fundamentals of sound propagation and finishing with digital signal processing. Although members of the committee found the content interesting, it was felt that it covered topics at a level that would have been inappropriate for A-level students.

Forthcoming Meetings of Current Programme

Jaguar visit AM reported that Jaguar will not be conducting evening visits. It was decided that we should try to arrange an afternoon visit, and details would be communicated to members with the AGM mailshot in February 2002. **Action AM**

The AGM will be held on 25 April 2002 after the Clive Dyer talk.

The talks on 19 March 2002 will be advertised in Royal Society of Chemistry literature.

5. Schools and Education initiatives

AM reported on the current status of schools and education activities:

Liverpool Physics Olympics – took place on 13 October and was again successful in attracting ~120 A-level students from local schools.

The proposed *CASIM Afternoon* has produced an underwhelming response from teachers (pressure of work, module deadlines, lack of interest, cost of transport?).

Paperclip Physics – deadline for applicants is the end of November. Suggested judges were Fred Talbot and Judith Hann.

Science Week – Physics jokes; £100 prize; best to go onto web. A letter to schools will be prepared for the AGM mailshot in Spring 2002. Judges to be decided at the next committee meeting. **Action SDB**

Schools Lecture Series 2001/2 – the Liverpool lecture will be in February 2002

6. Industrial Representative

Note that “IoP Affiliates” are now called “Business Partners Network”.

The *Technology Transfer* initiative (with the Manchester Branch), displaying posters of research from academic institutions that are of industrial interest.

MM made various suggestions: the best networking meetings need bigger underlying aims; build in to sixth framework programme and information transfer; allow industrial participants to show their research; the scope should include the whole of the North of England.

MM will chair a sub-committee to pull it all together. The sub-committee will include representatives from the Manchester Branch, plus AGB and JAV will be on the sub-committee to help with clerical support (inc. mailshots) at DL.

Action MM

7. Public Relations

- (i) MJ should update the list of Branch committee members. **Action SDB**
- (ii) Press liaison (AGB)
 - 24 Nov "Science To Press" talks not worth going to.
 - BA committee for the North West 18 Apr 2002 "Science and Press" talk and discussion.
 - Opportunities for press releases: Mobile Phones, Black Holes, CASIM and Hubble telescope. AGB requires contact details from SDB. **Action SDB**

8. Commemorative Plaques

What about Horrocks, Lassell, Lodge, Chadwick, Frölich, Barkla? They may not fulfil the criteria for a commemorative plaque (some have been considered previously). MFB will investigate the astronomers, RNM the physicists.

Action RNM and MFB

Add to agenda for the next committee meeting.

Action SDB

9. Brief Report from Chair of Branches Meeting

NM reported on items discussed at the Chair of Branches Meeting, none of which required action by the committee.

10. Another Other Business

None

11. Date of Next Meeting

Provisionally set for Thursday 31 January 2002 at 5.30 pm at the University of Liverpool.

S D Barrett Honorary Secretary
Merseyside Branch
Institute of Physics
17 December 2001

Copies to:

NM, SDB, DB, MFB, EB, AGB, DMF,
AF, NH, MJ, AM, RNM, MM, PJN,
JAV
and Leah Goldson (IoP HQ)