

Institute *of* **Physics**

Merseyside Branch Committee Meeting

Thursday 22 May 2001

Oliver Lodge Laboratory, Department of Physics, University of Liverpool

Present: N Marks (Chairman), S D Barrett (Secretary and Treasurer), E Boyes,
D M Farley, N Heritage, R A P Smith

Apologies: M F Bode, A G Buckley, E Gabathuler, A Marks, P J Nolan

1. **Welcome to New Members**

NM welcomed the two new committee members, Diana Farley and Neil Heritage. It was noted that Geoff Court, Erwin Gabathuler and Michelle Mercer have stepped down from the committee, and it was agreed that letters of thanks for their services to the Branch should be sent out. SDB reported that Ronan McGrath had agreed to be nominated as a co-opted member of the committee, and a subsequent vote was carried.

2. **Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of 22 March 2001 were accepted.

3. **Matters arising**

None.

4. **Recent Meetings of Current Programme**

The Physics of Entrepreneurship by Peter Williams (March) Attendance ~ 50, including a large number of Daresbury Laboratory staff. At the Industrial Forum following the talk it transpired that only three of the audience were industrialists. The buffet after the forum was a very useful opportunity for networking.

Rethinking the History of British Physics... by Jeff Hughes (April) Attendance ~ 25. Agreed to be a very good talk. At the following AGM, NM was re-elected as Chair and SDB was re-elected as Secretary/Treasurer. No Vice-Chair was elected.

Visit to Clatterbridge Centre for Oncology (May) Attendance ~ 15, a mix of undergraduates, University staff, and other members. The talk and tour of the cyclotron and therapy room of the Cyclotron Unit were very interesting. The staff of the unit were very helpful and informative.

5. Programme for 2001/2

The slots in the programme have filled up as committee members have confirmed speakers and dates as follows:

27 Sep 2001	UoL	Peter Rowlands	Development of Radio	SDB
18 Oct 2001	UoL	Nial Tanvir	Hubble Space Telescope	MFB
15 Nov 2001	UoL	Alan Preece	Mobile Phones	SDB
13 Dec 2001	UoL	Carole Mundell	Supermassive Black Holes	MFB
24 Jan 2002	DL	Peter Weightman	CASIM	SDB
21 Feb 2002	UoL	Colin Gough	High Tc Superconductors	NM
18-21? Mar	DL	GG/AW/LT-A	Unusual Career Paths...	AM
25 Apr 2002	UoL	Clive Dyer	Electronics Reliability in Space	MJ
16 May 2002	-	Visit	Jaguar Plant	AM

One more speaker is willing to give a talk – EG has approached Prof. Asoke Nandi in Electrical Engineering. It was suggested that the 16 May slot should be offered to Nandi and the Jaguar visit moved back to June. Alternate dates for Nandi are 7 or 14 March. **Action EG**

The two events at DL will have buffets, paid for by IoP Merseyside/Manchester (January) and IoP/DL/RSC (March). For the former, key people involved in the CASIM proposal will be invited. SDB to inform Peter Weightman about the plans for this talk. **Action SDB**

The organisers of each talk/visit as indicated on the right of the list above should endeavour to provide SDB with a title and abstract as soon as possible.

Action SDB/MFB/NM/AM/MJ

6. Industrial Representative

- (i) Trawl for Industrial Representative: NM will email corporate affiliates (BNFL, Unilever, ...) and other contacts that we have stumbled across (Pilkingtons, industrial members on Clatterbridge visit) to ask if anyone would like to be our Industrial Representative, or at least a local contact. **Action NM**
- (ii) Possible science/technology workshop: NM will approach a member of DL staff to work on this. **Action NM**

7. Report from Chair of Branches Meeting (NM)

- (i) Dates when new officers and committees succeed the retiring members vary from branch to branch. My feeling is that 1 September is a suitable date; if agreed by the committee, a revision to the Constitution's Schedule can be enacted at branch level.
- (ii) A list of the Institute's Corporate Affiliates has been circulated. This represents an opportunity to contact a number of industrialists with a view to appointing an industrial representative and setting up a liaison network. **Action NM**

- (iii) Branches are invited to propose and arrange a branch event each year at Congress; any committee member keen to arrange such an event should contact the Chair or Secretary.
- (iv) Branches are requested to submit an Annual Report during the next month. NM will prepare such a document, basing it on the Chair's report submitted to the AGM, augmented by the Meeting Attendance Data tabled by the Secretary at the current meeting.
- (v) The Young Professional's Forum is now active in representing professional physicists of age <32. A newsletter is produced; Chair is Helen Francis, Secretary is Joseph Hines (joseph.hines@iop.org). Branches should nominate a Young Professional Representative and notify Joseph Hines. **Action SDB**
- (vi) A list of press cuttings relating to Paper Clip Physics events in various branches was circulated; a video of the national final is now available (through Ann Marks) to advertise the Paper Clip Physics events next year.
- (vii) A further IT initiative is now in place, allowing individual officers in branches to download members/committee lists from the central server and customise to meet their needs. It is difficult to see how this will result in major improvement; efforts to perfect the existing centrally held data bases would be far more effective.
- (viii) New officer and committee details should be forwarded to Sue Lipman.

Action SDB

8. Any Other Business

- (i) Finances are buoyant due to delays on receiving invoices from UoL and DL.
- (ii) Physics Teachers' Conference 5 July 2001 – arrangements are in hand.
- (iii) Newsletter will require editing in July when all contributions are received.
- (iv) Future visits to CERN: Status of experiments on SPS needs checking.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Provisionally set for Wednesday 19 September 2001 at 5.30pm at the University of Liverpool.

S D Barrett Honorary Secretary
Merseyside Branch
Institute of Physics
26 June 2001

Copies to:

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