

Institute of Physics Gravitational Physics Group
Annual General Meeting
Phillips Room, Institute of Physics
Thursday 24th April 2003

Present:

Malcolm MacCallum (chair), David Wands, Elizabeth Winstanley, Clive Speake, Tim Sumner, Robin Tucker, Walter Johnston and 6 other members

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mike Cruise and Ray d'Inverno.

2. Chairman's report

The report from Mike Cruise was read out by Malcolm MacCallum. The report covered the last AGM and this meeting endorsed those minutes. The report also covered the definition of the subject areas covered by the group, as taken from the Draft Statement of Purpose, and stressed the importance of funding in this field. Mike Cruise has now stood down as Chair of the group (see item 5 below).

3. Honorary Secretary's report

The report from Ray d'Inverno was read out by Malcolm MacCallum. The report outlined the committee meetings and activities over the past year, and the scientific meetings organized or supported by the group. The next tasks for the committee are updating the group's web pages and taking a census of those involved in research in gravitational physics in the UK. Ray d'Inverno has now also stood down as Chair of the group (see item 5 below).

4. Annual Report of Council and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2002

Tim Sumner presented a summary of the accounts for the past year, covering the income of the group from the Institute and the expenditure. The accounts were received.

5. Election of Honorary Offices of Chair and Secretary of the Group

David Wands (Portsmouth University) was elected unopposed as Honorary Chair of the Group. Elizabeth Winstanley (University of Sheffield) was elected unopposed as Honorary Secretary of the Group. Both will serve for three years.

6. Election of two ordinary members of the Committee

Clive Speake, Tim Sumner, Robin Tucker and Harry Ward are continuing as members of the committee. Walter Johnston was elected as a full member of the committee. Jerry Griffiths (Loughborough University) and Diana Shaul (Imperial College London) were elected as new members of the committee.

7. Any other business

(a) Robin Tucker brought the BritGravIII conference to members' attention. This will be held on 12-14th September in Ambleside. The deadline for abstracts is 26th May 2003. Further details are available at the web-site:

<http://www.lancs.ac.uk/depts/physics/conf/britgrav/default.htm>

(b) Tim Sumner brought the Fundamental Physics meeting to members' attention. This will be held on 28-30th May at the Institute of Physics.

(c) The GR17 conference to be held in Dublin, 18-25th July 2004 was brought to members' attention. The committee will be discussing the possibility of the group providing some financial support, possibly for IOP group member students to attend the conference.

(d) A member of the group, Mr. Hunter, spoke briefly about a conjecture of his, which was distributed to members.

The meeting closed at 4.45pm

After the meeting, Dr. Clive Speake (Birmingham University) gave a lecture entitled: "*Modern Measurements of the Newtonian Constant of Gravitation*".