

## **Institute of Physics**

### **Thin Films and Surfaces Group**

#### **Minutes of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting**

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Thin Films and Surfaces Group of the Institute of Physics was held at 12.30 pm on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2001 at the University of Warwick.

Present: A. Fisher, W. Brown, M. McCoustra, Z. Barber and 9 other Thin Films and Surfaces Group members.

#### **1. Apologies for Absence**

These were received from N. Jennett, Q. Guo, A. Wander, S. Romani, N. Harrison, D. Monaghan, R. Forbes, N. Richardson, S. Holloway.

#### **2. Chairman and Secretary's communication**

The Secretary reported on the groups activities over the past year. She reported that the group had been asked to produce a report for the IOP on the groups activities and that this had been a very helpful exercise as it had shown that the group activities had increased during the last year. The Secretary reported that the group finances, as at end of October 2001, stand at £23000. Over the last 12 months the group has:

- Given out 35 student bursaries (totalling almost £6000). 29 of these were given for student attendance at ISSC-13.
- Supported various meetings financially including: DFT 2001 which took place at the Royal Institution in May 2001; IUVASTA workshop on nanoparticles which took place in Birmingham in July 2001; Novel Techniques in Optical Thin Films which took place in November 2001; CCP3 student training workshop which took place at Daresbury in November 2001; Surface Science Summer School which will take place at Warwick in August 2002.
- Organised ISSC-13 which took place at University College London in April 2001

The group are also currently organising the following future meetings/symposia:

- ISSC-14 which will take place at the University of Liverpool in June 2003.
- Surface Science Summer School which will take place at Warwick in August 2002.
- Symposia at CMMP in April 2002 on the subjects of "Photochemistry" and "Ice surfaces".
- A one-day meeting on the subject of "Perovskite films".

**The Chairman reported on the background to the proposed merger with the RSC group, SSUK. He explained the advantages and disadvantages of the merger and reported back on the consultation exercise that has recently been undertaken with the TFSG members (see attached appendix).**

### **3. Views of the membership on the proposed merger with SSUK**

**Following the Chariman's report on the merger an open discussion occurred. A summary of the discussion is as follows:**

**Richard Palmer expressed concerns about the merger on the basis that the group might lose influence in the IOP if it became more biased towards Chemistry. He was also concerned that the merger would cause the group to lose its Thin Films membership and therefore the group would become much smaller. He suggested an alternative to the merger which involves closer affiliation with the RSC SSUK group. The affiliation could include cross-membership of the two committees and also automatic mailings to be sent to all members of both groups. AJF agreed strongly with RP's second concern about losing the Thin Films membership.**

**Chris McConville was also in favour of closer affiliation rather than merger. He was concerned that SSUK are a very new group and have few new members (i.e. there is considerable overlap in the membership of SSUK and the TFSG) . He also expressed some concern about the how the financial details of any merger might be arranged. Ronan McGrath and Roger Bennett were in agreement with this view.**

**A show of hands was taken as an indication of the mood of the meeting and all present (excepting one abstention) were in agreement that closer affiliation was a better step to take initially.**

### **4. Committee changes, election of new members**

**Three members of the committee retired: Dermot Monaghan, Richard Forbes and Simon Romani. All were thanked by the Chairman for their previous hard work for the committee.**

**It was agreed to co-opt D. Monaghan back on to the committee so that he could continue to represent the views of the Thin Films community during the current period of change in the TFSG.**

**Nominations for election of new committee members were as follows: Georg Held (University of Cambridge), Chris McConville (University of Warwick). Both were duly elected onto the committee.**

**5. Any other business**

**There was no other business.**