

Industrial Group of The British Crystallographic Association

**22nd Annual General Meeting
Wednesday, 13th April 2005 16:00
At The University of Loughborough**

Chair Jeremy Karl Cockcroft

Jeremy Cockcroft opened the meeting at 16:12

1) APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Phil Holdway

2) MINUTES OF THE 21st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at 21st Annual General Meeting Wednesday, 7th April 2004 12:00 am
at UMIST

The minutes were accepted as a true record

Proposed by Martin Gill

Seconded by Richard Morris

It was felt that there was insufficient time to review the AGM minutes at the meeting. JKC proposed posting AGM minutes on the web prior to the AGM giving members plenty of time for review. This proposal was accepted and an archive for recent AGM's will be made available.

ACTION Post minutes on the web

JKC/DJT

3) MATTERS ARISING

No matters arising

4) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2004

Delivered at the AGM, University of Loughborough by JKC

This is my first report as chairman of the Industrial Group. For many of us, it has been a time of change. Personally, as some of you will know, Paul Barnes, myself, and others in the Industrial Materials Group in Crystallography at Birkbeck relocated last Autumn to new facilities in Chemistry at UCL. It was a sad day in the sense that it brought an end to the vision of the founder of the Department of Crystallography, J. D. Bernal. Bernal was a man of great vision, who, despite his background in physics, encouraged the creation of research into, what was at that time, novel areas of crystallography such as biological structure determination, liquid and amorphous diffraction, and the investigation of industrial materials such as cements. I realise that Paul Barnes and myself have been very fortunate.

As I wrote for the recent Industrial Group Newsletter, many of you this year have not been so lucky. The decline of diffraction-based research still seems to continue in many industries with the loss of many skills. I have seen this at close quarters this year with 3 of the committee members facing possible (and in at least 1 case now notice of) redundancy due to closure of industrial research laboratories. It was such losses from industry that led the membership last year to question the constitution of the Industrial Group committee. As chairman, I have acted upon this and, with the agreement of the committee, have proposed the changes published in Crystallography News. We will discuss this issue later in the AGM.

Despite the difficult circumstances, the Industrial Group of the BCA still has a very active committee who meet on a regular basis, typically 3 times per year, in contrast to some of the other BCA groups. We have been fortunate to have had the use of facilities at Huntsman Surface Sciences at Oldbury, near Birmingham for our committee meetings and I would like to express my personal thanks to Richard Morris for arranging these facilities. The main activity of the committee is to organise meetings and workshops of interest to the members, and this last year has been no exception.

Last summer, we organised an "Introduction to Powder Diffraction" workshop, which was held at UMIST and organised by our group secretary-treasurer Judith Shackleton. I thank her for all the hard work involved. These workshops form part of our remit as an educational charitable organisation. Ideas for workshop themes from the core membership are always welcome. We do listen to your feedback: so it was feedback from the summer workshop that has directly resulted in the theme chosen for our next one this autumn on the theme of "Patents in Crystallography". This theme is so important for many of you that we have decided to include it as part of our annual autumn meeting. Consequently, the two events will be held back-to-back and it will be possible to register for either event or both. In addition, the afternoon session of the autumn meeting this year will continue our regular theme of "Crystallography in Industry".

Last autumn, we had two meetings: the first held at Alderley Park and sponsored by Astra Zeneca related to our Pharmaceutical Special Interest Group. The meeting was well attended and I would like to thank Anne Kavanagh and all those who helped organise it. Personally, I found it very enjoyable as my only contribution was to simply turn up and be a member of the audience for a change. The second autumn meeting was on the slightly eclectic topic of "DIY Crystallography". We had many contrasting talks at both ends of the spectrum for both hardware and software and I would like to thank all of those who took part in this enjoyable event, which was held again at Birkbeck College. I also have to thank the School of Crystallography for sponsoring such events by the provision of facilities. Some of you may wonder why we use Birkbeck College for holding so many meetings. The answer is that the College is still one of the few academic institutions that offers cheap (as opposed to commercial) rates for academic meetings in contrast to most UK academic institutions. However, we are keen to use industrial venues too, so suggestions and, better still offers, from members located in UK industry are always welcome.

The Industrial Group newsletter continues to be produced twice a year by our vice-chair, Phil Holdway, with help from Dave Taylor, and I thank them for their work. We are always on the lookout for interesting articles, so please don't hold back if you feel you have something interesting to say. Photos are also welcome. We are also very grateful to the various sponsors of the newsletter. Since the last AGM, our newsletter has been sponsored by PANalytical and Hiltonbrooks, the latter as a 25th anniversary celebration.

New to the BCA Spring Meeting this year are the XRF sessions. There is appreciable overlap between XRF and XRD in terms of the manufacturers and many users of XRD also use XRF. We will discuss later in the AGM whether the Industrial Group of the BCA should consider encompassing both the XRD and XRF communities.

I would also like to thank our secretary and treasurer, Judith Shackleton, for all her hard work. It is not an easy job, and I know that most of the work has to be done in her own free time at home. Please try to make her job easier by paying for Industrial Group meetings in a timely manner - following up non-payers is a time consuming exercise.

Finally, in addition to thanking all of the committee for their support during the year, I would like to pay a special thank you to Dave Taylor. Not only has he been BCA Treasurer for 5 years, but he is also the Industrial Group webmaster. As such he continues to work hard behind the scenes in maintaining the web pages of the Industrial Group. They are clearly the best web pages of all of the 4 groups of the BCA and I'm sure his efforts in this area are well appreciated by all.

5) TREASURER'S REPORT

a) Financial Report

Judith Shackleton, Secretary Treasurer

Our increased receipts are due to sponsorship (£2300, some outstanding from 2003) & meeting fees. Also, we have only paid £195 in Membership fees to the BCA, as we haven't recruited many new members. Increased expenditure is for room hire and catering for meetings & the Newsletter

Bank Balance as of 25th March 2004 6687.71

There are quite a few bills, which have not been received, and an overpayment of £512 in the account.
The actual balance about £5300

The "actual" bank balance is much the same as on this date in 2004, when there were also a lot of bills still outstanding, making the balance on the statement artificially high

b) Changing the IG Bank account to the Charities Aid Foundation

The Charities Aid Foundation account is now open & £2000 is being transferred

c) Accepting Credit Cards

The IG can't accept credit cards, as our turnover (total about £6k) is too low for Lloyds to set the system up. The matter is being perused by the BCA Treasurer who will investigate whether it is practical to set up a system, which can be shared by all the BCA groups and as such would have sufficient turn over to be viable. However, it may be difficult to separate the various groups' transactions

6) THANKS TO SPONSORS OF THE IG

Many thanks to sponsors of the Industrial Group, received since April 2004, in alphabetical order

AstraZeneca
Hilton Brooks
PANalytical

IG Newsletters, Pharmaceutical SIG & Autumn Meeting.

7) IG CONSTITUTION

A proposed change to BCA Industrial Group Constitution was put to the meeting for discussion and approval.

Current version:

11 COMMITTEE. The affairs of the Group shall be managed by a Committee consisting of the Officers of the Group together with no more than six Ordinary Members of Committee. Not more than three Officers or Members of the Committee shall be from Academic Institutions. The BCA representative to the ICDD shall be a member of the committee *ex officio*. Additional members may be co-opted from time to time under Rule 13. The Committee shall be broadly based, with no one field or discipline unduly favoured. Only members of the Group shall be eligible for Membership of the committee.

15 NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE. Vacancies for Officers and Ordinary Members of the Committee shall be filled by election at the Annual General Meeting of the Group. Nominations, which shall be proposed by not less than two members of the Group and shall be accompanied by the written consent of the nominee, shall be sent to reach the Honorary Secretary of the Group not later than seven days before the Annual General Meeting.

New Version: Following discussion and some minor changes to the wording proposed in the notice of AGM published in the February 2005 Group Newsletter the following revised sections of the constitution were unanimously approved.

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8) ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEE

Royston Copley, was elected unanimously to the IG Committee,

Proposed Anne Kavanagh
Seconded Jeremy Karl Cockcroft

9) INCORPORATING XRF USERS INTO THE INDUSTRIAL GROUP'S ACTIVITIES

The XRF sessions at the Spring Meeting had been well attended with lively discussion sessions. The Commercial Exhibition had also been a great success. The hard work David Beveridge & Dave Taylor in organising the sessions was greatly appreciated.

It was felt that additional XRF expertise was needed to supplement the IG Committee and keep momentum. This incorporation of the XRF community into the IG was referred, unopposed for consideration by the Committee who will report developments at the 2006 AGM.

10) ANY OTHER BUSINESS ADMITTED BY THE CHAIR

None.

The meeting closed at 16:36 Jeremy Cockcroft thanked all for attending