

INDUSTRIAL GROUP OF THE BRITISH CRYSTALLOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 14th Annual General Meeting, held at the University of Leeds on Tuesday, 15 April 1997.

1. MINUTES OF THE 13TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The minutes of the 13th AGM, held at the University of Cambridge on Thursday, 4 April 1996, were circulated at the meeting. It was pointed out, from the floor, that the Minutes contained no reference to the election of Dr S V Norval as Vice-Chairman of the Group. The Secretary apologised for this oversight and undertook to amend the archive copy before the Chairman's signature was added. Subject to this, the minutes were approved without dissent.

2. MATTERS ARISING.

There were no matters arising.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr David Taylor reported :

I have enjoyed my first year as chairman largely as a result of the efforts of our past chairman David Dyson whose planning and foresight had left the Group well prepared for the future. I thank David for his contribution to the Industrial Group over his period of office. We were all saddened by the deaths of Industrial Group Award recipients Alun Bowen and Peter Salt. Both contributed to our knowledge of diffraction and will be missed by the diffraction community

The Group membership scheme, whereby attending an Industrial Group meeting (excluding spring meeting) qualifies for BCA membership or renewal, continues to provide new members and many Industrialists are now using the scheme to renew their membership. It has now been established that the effort involved in running the scheme is worthwhile and that it should continue.

Our meeting programme for the last year followed on from the well received programme of events at the Cambridge Spring meeting. In September Bruce Fox arranged and organised a meeting at Raychem on Reflectivity. It was the first time the group has covered this new and very specialised topic, consequently the low attendance of 20 was expected. However, much was learned by the few industrial practitioners present and we intend to look to a wider European audience for future meetings on this topic.

The Autumn meeting on Industrial Crystallography was well attended and I thank Jo Jutson for arranging a programme of interest to all, which included an optional visit to the ISIS facility. Our hosts for the meeting were AEA Technology and thanks go to Frank Cullen for the local arrangements at Harwell.

Two Industrial Group awards were made at the Autumn meeting. The first to Brian Bellamy in recognition of his contribution to diffraction over his many years service at Harwell. The second was to Alun Bowen in recognition of his work on residual stress. Sadly, although Alun knew of the award, he died before it could be presented. It was accepted on his behalf by his widow Chris Bowen who was accompanied by her daughter Clare. The award was presented by Brian Bellamy who gave a fitting tribute to Aluns contribution to Industrial Crystallography and the BCA over many years.

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We have introduced a new approach to the organisation of meetings on specialist interest topics by developing Special Interest Groups (SIG). The first SIG has been established to cover the interests of the Pharmaceutical industry with Philip Lake and Jamshed Anwar given the responsibility of organising an annual meeting of the group. The first meeting under the Industrial Group SIG banner took place on 17 March 1997 at Glaxo Wellcome Stevenage. It was well received and attendance (68) was high. Steve Norval has been given the remit to examine the potential to develop other Special Interest Groups. It is hoped to develop these on the back of future themed one day meetings and the viability of a Non Ambient Group will be gauged at the meeting planned for 4 June 1997. Steve has been nominated to represent the Group on a European Initiative on Powder Diffraction Standardisation and will keep members informed of progress in this important area.

The Leeds spring meeting has two Industrial Group sessions and a workshop. Our plenary has been renamed the "Alun Bowen Industrial Lecture" as a lasting tribute to Aluns contribution to Industrial Crystallography and the first lecture by Prof. Paul Barnes has set a high standard for others to follow.

A session titled Diffraction Plus... Simultaneous Methods has been organised by Craig Adam. It explores the possibilities of using additional analytical techniques alongside diffraction measurements. A session on Process & Production Applications of Diffraction, organised by Steve Norval, looks at the role of diffraction in the support of manufacturing processes. A special effort to encourage posters was rewarded by nine posters being submitted to the Industrial section, a big increase over the last few years. The workshop sees the culmination of the Round Robin exercise with Ron Jenkins resolving all our Instrument sensitivity problems. The Round Robin exercise has proved a useful test of instrument performance for 33 instruments in the UK and has set a benchmark against which any instrument can be gauged.

Keeping our members informed has been achieved by two editions of the Industrial Group Newsletter edited by Bruce Fox and our efforts continue to get a copy onto the desk of every industrial diffraction user in the country with a circulation of over 400.

This year sees a large number of changes to our committee with Colin Small, Derek Hart, Craig Adam, Bruce Fox and Eric Kelly all retiring after serving their term of office. They have all given freely of their time in support of our activities and have all been responsible for arranging at least one of our meetings and speaking at others, I thank them all. Perhaps Eric should be singled out for special praise. The office of Secretary Treasurer is a demanding one which he has carried it on into his retirement from EA Technology. Oiling the wheels of our organisation has been a very worthwhile retirement hobby. However, I am sure that their replacements will provide new impetus to the Groups activities. Action has been taken in an attempt to give a more even spread of committee retirements. A committee vacancy will be held for one year and a nominated committee member has agreed to serve a two year term. The vacancy will be filled by the co-option of Bruce Fox who will continue to edit our Newsletter and co-ordinate our WWW pages.

The support given to the Group by commercial suppliers is acknowledged, especially to MSI for their sponsorship of £400 towards the cost of Pharmaceutical meeting. I thank our hosts for their hospitality in support of meetings at Raychem - Swindon, AEA Technology - Harwell and Glaxo Wellcome - Stevenage. Also, all the speakers who have put so much effort into making the years activities so interesting and rewarding.

I look forward to next years programme and I'm sure that with your support the Industrial Group will continue to flourish

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Copies of the Statement of Accounts for the year to 31 December 1996 were distributed. The deficit on the year was £899.73, compared with a surplus of £347.18 in the previous year. This was because of increased Committee expenses. The balance in hand was £4764.52. Again, the accounts had been examined by Mr Murray Cowie, to whom thanks were recorded.

5 ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEE

Having been duly nominated, the following were declared elected: Dr J A Jutson as Group Secretary and Treasurer and, as Committee Members, Mrs K Clay, Mr P G Lake and Dr M Vickers.

6 AMENDMENT OF GROUP CONSTITUTION.

The Group Committee had proposed an amendment to Rule 11 to provide for the ICDD Representative to serve *ex officio* as a member of the Group Committee. After an explanation from the Chairman, the amendment was approved *nem con*. The revised Rule is as follows: the amendment is in heavy type.

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

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman reported on changes to the format of future Spring Meetings, which had been suggested by the BCA Council. The suggestion would leave organisation and programming of the Meeting in the hands of Programme Committee, with reduced input from the BCA Groups, and a greater emphasis on poster presentations. In the discussion that ensued, the following points were made:

1. There was no strong case for drastic change
2. It was important that there be a relevant **industrial** content in the programme
3. Industrial presentations could be shorter: this could be beneficial
4. A change could give the possibility of improved cross-boundary sessions
5. Materials science could fall through the gaps in the programme, leading to industrial practitioners finding it difficult to justify attendance
6. It was unlikely that industrial members would be able to prepare poster presentations quickly

In summing up, the Chairman said that the Group Committee intended to continue pressing for the needs of industrial practitioners to be recognised. Mr D G Hart said that it was vital to have at least a Plenary Lecture and a half-day industrial session.

The Chairman thanked retiring members of the Committee for their service and, there being no other business, declared the meeting closed.