

Industrial Group of The British Crystallographic Association

The minutes of the 19th Annual General Meeting of the Industrial Group of the British Crystallographic Association held at the University of Nottingham, on 28th March 2002 at 12.30 pm.

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Dr. C.L. Anderton, Dr. P. Holdway and Dr. S.V. Norval.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

Minutes of the 18th Annual General Meeting, held at Reading University on Tuesday 10th April 2001 were circulated at the meeting and accepted as a true record. Proposed by Prof. P. Fewster, seconded by Dr. J.K. Cockcroft.

3. Matters Arising not otherwise covered by agenda.

None.

4. Chairman's Report.

This is the first report of my three-year occupation of the Industrial Group chair and I have to admit that this period for me has been challenging in the extreme. I was unable to attend the BCA spring meeting at Reading owing to the birth of my third daughter, Phoebe. One can never plan these events to any great precision and unfortunately this meant that I missed the AGM in 2001 and also the official handover of the chair from Steve Norval. Since it was not possible for me to be there and thank Steve personally I would like to place on record here a big thank you to Steve for all his efforts on behalf of the group over the past three years. From my previous position as secretary/treasurer and as vice-chair he has been a very great pleasure to work with and an excellent chairman for the group. As a consequence this means that I have a very hard act to follow. Not being present at Reading makes it very difficult for me to comment on the IG sessions held at that meeting. From reading the meeting reports and talking to the participants it was clear that the organized sessions were very rewarding. The IG group held three principal sessions, a "Basic Powder Diffraction Workshop" which was an educational session aimed at people relatively new to the field of powder diffraction, a session on "Why Industry uses Crystallography" giving an overview of the value crystallography brings to industry and finally last but by no means least "New and Future Possibilities in Powder X-ray Diffraction", a session aimed at wetting our appetites for the diffractometer and software of the future. The next meeting that followed in 2001 was a Pharmaceutical SIG hosted by Clare Anderton at GlaxoSmithKline. This meeting was based around a loose theme of High Throughput Powder Diffraction, a very popular and topical subject and as a consequence the meeting was very well attended. On a lighter note, I now know where the expression "no such thing as a free lunch" comes from. The

final meeting of the year returned to the tried and tested format of a "Crystallography in Industry" meeting organized by Judith Shackleton and hosted by Mark Farnworth of Pilkington European Technical Centre, Lancashire. This meeting had the usual broad depth of subject with talks from diverse sectors of industry. It was also a great pleasure at this meeting to present Ian Langford with the Industrial Group Award for his work on profile analysis. Given that he had used Zinc Oxide as an example in many of his papers it was fitting that Ian should choose to have a Beevers model of zinc oxide for his award. Perhaps the most challenging event of this year for me was that six-weeks after the Reading spring meeting the untimely and completely surprising announcement of the closure of Roche Discovery Welwyn, where I had been employed as a crystallographer for the previous 9 years. This came as a complete shock to both me and my colleagues at Roche and is perhaps a sign of the times that we are living in. Steve Norval comments in his 2001 chair report that "crystallographers working in industry are becoming an endangered species" for me were very prophetic. It is true that industrial crystallography positions appear to be shrinking by the year with mergers and closures taking their toll on our numbers. This is of course continuing to take its toll on the committee and consequently it is becoming harder and harder to fill vacant positions. The IG newsletter and web pages continue to grow and I would like to thank Phil Holdway, Colin Small and David Taylor for their efforts in this direction. On a continuing note I would also like to thank our Industrial sponsors for the newsletter, Bruker AXS and Phillips Analytical X-ray. Finally I would like to finish by thanking all members of the current committee for their support over the past year. It makes it all worthwhile working with an excellent group of people on the committee and knowing that our efforts are well appreciated.

5. **Treasurer's Report.**

Copies of the Statement of Accounts for the year to 31 December 2001 were distributed. The profit for the year was £897.38, and the balance in hand was £7350.53. The accounts have been submitted to the BCA for examination. The healthy state of the bank account was mainly due to a rise in meeting fees and sponsorship compared to the previous year.

Accepted as a true record. Proposed by Dr. C. Dollman, seconded by Dr. J.K. Cockroft.

6. **Elections to Committee.**

None.

7. **Any other business.**

It was suggested that there should be an Extra AGM in the autumn.

Dr. V.B. Cooper.
IG Group Committee Member.