

INDUSTRIAL GROUP OF THE BRITISH CRYSTALLOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 15th Annual General Meeting, held at the University of St Andrews on Tuesday, 7 April 1998.

1. MINUTES OF THE 14TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The minutes of the 14th AGM, held at the University of Leeds on Tuesday, 15 April 1997, were circulated at the meeting, approved and signed by the chairman.

2. MATTERS ARISING.

There were no matters arising.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I have enjoyed my term as chairman. I have now retired from Pilkington and my decision to retire a year early as your chairman will allow me to pursue other activities, and my successor time to get his feet under the table before the IUCR meeting in Glasgow next year. However, I am planning to stay active in the x-ray analysis field, so you haven't seen the last of me yet.

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. The three qualifying meetings in the past year resulted in 21 new BCA members and 62 membership renewals and there are already over 20 renewals pending for 1999.

Our meeting programme for the last year followed on from the well received programme of events at the Leeds Spring meeting where we welcomed Kath Clay, Mary Vickers and Philip Lake to the committee. In June I arranged a meeting at Pilkington on diffraction at Elevated temperature. Considering the specialist nature of the topic it was well attended (34) and following a favourable response will become our second Special Interest Group (SIG) with the next meeting on 4 June 1998 at ICI Wilton. I thank Pilkington for providing lunch and Philips who supplied the wine to accompany the buffet.

The Autumn meeting at Cranfield on Industrial Crystallography was well attended (41). I thank the Royal Military College for their hospitality and Keith Rogers for the local arrangements and putting together a programme of interest to all. We even tried out a new idea of finding solutions to problems submitted by the audience in open debate. It went well and created some interesting discussion and answers for the varied problems put forward. In fact the BCA President was so taken with the idea it is being tried out on a wider audience at the Spring meeting.

The third meeting of the Pharmaceutical SIG took place on 18 March 1998 at Roche Discovery, Welwyn. I was able to attend a well-organised meeting with an excellent technical programme. Thanks go to Philip Lake and Jamshed Anwar for the technical programme and Chris Frampton and Roche for provision of lunch and the local arrangements. It was well received and a high attendance (68) was maintained showing that the momentum of SIG's is sustainable.

Steve Norval has represented the BCA at two meetings of a group involved in a European Initiative on Powder Diffraction Standardisation. He is keeping members informed of progress in this important area through Crystallography News, our own Newsletter and presentations at technical meetings. A set of draft documents is currently under review in the UK by a team of interested parties. It is important that members understand the importance of developments in this area, as it will affect our operating procedures.

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J A Jutson, Hon Secretary, April 1998

Two editions of the Industrial Group Newsletter have been produced and the quality is improving issue by issue thanks to the efforts of our editor Bruce Fox. We are obliged to send a copy to all BCA members who tick our group as a main or special interest on the membership form (currently 185 members). Our efforts continue to get a copy onto the desk of every active industrial diffraction user in the country and are continually reviewing a circulation list of over 450. Thanks to all who contributed to the content, keeping members informed of our activities is essential to the future of the group. The printing and dispatch of the August 97 and January 98 Newsletters has been handled and funded by Pilkington and Raychem respectively to whom we are indebted.

There were no nominations for an Industrial Group Award this year. We have introduced an Industrial Group logo with Ron Pflaumer submitting the winning entry in a design competition. I hope you like the new design and that it will help to quickly identify Industrial Group material. An Instrument Sensitivity Round Robin exercise in conjunction with ICDD has been completed with over 30 UK participants. A report has been issued and a valuable resource on instrument sensitivity has been generated. It is now available on the BCA web pages as a set of self-test files. I have been invited to present the results at the Denver Conference in a workshop covering the tests world-wide.

This year sees a number of changes to our committee; Tim Hyde has served his three years, a vacancy was held over from last year and of course my retirement. Tim has been involved in many of our activities and we have lots of meeting reports to thank him for. Perhaps his hardest task has resulted in the excellent Hardware and Software Session we have just enjoyed. The other activities here at St Andrews were a workshop on Data Quality – Fit for the purpose organised by Mary Vickers and the second Alun Bowen Industrial Lecture given by Bob Snyder. The BCA are not holding a Spring Meeting next year because of the IUCR meeting in Glasgow. However, the Industrial Group has decided to have a meeting spanning two days in the spring of next year incorporating the Industrial Group AGM, the Alun Bowen Lecture, a general interest session and individual SIG meetings.

The support given to the Group by commercial suppliers is acknowledged, especially to Bruker AXS for their support towards the cost of the Autumn and Pharmaceutical meetings, Philips for support towards the cost of the Elevated Temperature workshop and the Pharmaceutical meeting. I thank our hosts for their hospitality in support of meetings at Pilkington - Lathom, Cranfield University - Swindon and Roche Discovery - Welwyn. Also, all the speakers who have put so much effort into making the years technical programme so interesting and rewarding.

I thank all the committee members who have helped make my spell as your Chairman an enjoyable and rewarding experience. Their efforts behind the scenes underpin all our activities and are reflected in the quality of the technical programmes that we have been able to present. It is a team effort and the astute will have noticed that all but one of your committee have already been mentioned in this report for the part that they have played in our activities this year. I said last year that following Eric Kelly as our Secretary Treasurer would be a difficult task, but Jo Jutson has taken on the responsibility, efficiently fulfilling the demanding role and still finding time to present a talk alongside Kath Clay at the Autumn meeting.

Finally I thank all the members who have supported our activities during my two years chairmanship. It extends to 161 individual members and a special thanks to the two who attended all six meetings! I leave the group in the capable hands of a well balanced, hard working committee and I'm sure that with your support the Industrial Group will continue to flourish.

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4. TREASURER'S REPORT

J A Jutson, Hon Secretary, April 1998

Copies of the Statement of Accounts for the year to 31 December 1997 were distributed. The surplus for the year was £661.60, compared with a deficit of £899.73 in the previous year. A cheque for £696.00 in respect of membership fees had not been presented. Taking account of this cheque the balance in hand was £5,426.12. The accounts had been examined by Mr Denis Groombridge, Technology Manager, BICC Energy Technology.

5. ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEE

Having been duly nominated, the following were declared elected: Dr S V Norval as Group Chairman, Mr B E Fox as Vice Chairman and, as Committee Members, Dr. C Frampton and Dr. G McPherson.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The new chairman, Dr. S V Norval, thanked Mr. D. Taylor for his efforts as chairman over the past two years.