

Astrophysical Chemistry group of the RSC & RAS AGM

Minutes Jan 5th 2007

Chair – Ian Sims (Rennes University)

30 members of the society were present at the meeting, held in Queens University Belfast during the annual meeting of the group. All the officers of the group were present, along with 4 committee members

1. The minutes of the previous AGM (Strathclyde 2006) were approved without further comment.
2. Chair's report – Ian Sims, current chair of the Astrophysical Chemistry group gave a brief report on the past year's activities starting with the previous meetings. The annual meeting (organised by HJ Fraser) was held in Strathclyde University in Jan 2006, attended by around 65 people. The meeting was entitled 'The chemistry of planets and where they come from'. Following this the group was instrumental in organising the very successful FD133 in France, chaired by David Williams and Ian Sims. (see Chair's presentation for details). After this the whole of the previous committee and officers resigned, to be replaced by fresh blood (some of whom had served previously).

The new committee is;

June McCombie June.Mccombie@nottingham.ac.uk (treasurer)

*Helen Fraser h.fraser@phys.strath.ac.uk (secretary)

*David Williams daw@star.ucl.ac.uk (ex-chair)

Dave Nutter david.nutter@astro.cf.ac.uk (webpages)

*Ian Sims ian.sims@univ-rennes1.fr (chair)

*Jeremy Yates jyates@star.ucl.ac.uk

Martin McCoustra martin.mccoustra@nottingham.ac.uk

Serena Viti sv@star.ucl.ac.uk,

Tom Millar tom.millar@qub.ac.uk

Monica Grady M.M.Grady@open.ac.uk

*Anita Richards amsr@jb.man.ac.uk

Specific duties are indicated and * = served previously.

The officers will serve a max of 3 and ordinary members a max of 5 years.

As the committee were only in post since May 1st 2006 no elections or nominations for additional members were required this AGM.

The final meeting in which the group had involvement was the Young Researchers Meeting, hosted by EPSRC ASTrosurf network in UCL and aided by our group. Serena Viti a member of the committee organised the meeting with Dr Wendy Brown at UCL.

3. Secretary's report – Helen Fraser current secretary of the group reported that we have a currently healthy 95 members, approx 20 of whom are in the RAS, 20 of whom are neither RAS or RSC and the remainder of whom are in the RSC.[secretaries note this is now 125 after processing the recent memberships gained at recent meetings]. The membership list is in the process of being update, and those members of the group who's subscriptions are neither collected by the RSC or RAS will be invoiced in early 2007. In return for membership we are continuing to offer reduced fees to meetings to members, as well as the newly revamped webpages (managed by Dave Nutter) to be found at www.astrochemistry.org.uk to which we have the rights for 3 years. In addition a newsletter is planned for early 2007 to keep members up-to-date.

The group has been represented at RSC Faraday division meetings by all 3 officers this year, and the newly formed RAS groups committee by HJF. This continues our good relations with our parent professional bodies, and ensures we are able to exploit funding and other opportunities to the fullest for the benefit of group members.

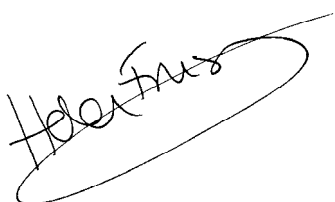
3. Treasurers report – June McCombie presented the group accounts (which now look healthy thanks to a RSC grant and some sponsorship for the Belfast Meeting) which are attached separately. She also explained that the group was applying for RAS grant funds to assist with bursaries etc at future meetings. Surplus for the year stood at £2669.31.

4. Future meetings of the group were then discussed – provisionally the 2008 annual meeting will be organised on jan 3rd + 4th in Gallway Ireland by Dr Matt Redman. A one-day meeting is then planned to be organised at the OU in mid-2007 by Prof's Monica Grady and with the assistance of Prof Nigel Mason. Dr Dave Nutter will organise the Young persons meeting, this year in Cardiff. Finally it was agreed that the group will volunteer to organise a 2-day session as part of NAM 2008, which will be held in Belfast. It is likely the subject of this Astrochemistry Group sponsored event will be along the lines of Chemistry in Extragalactic sources and Early Stars' although this is TBC. Prof Tom Millar will coordinate on behalf of the group.

Any other business – Peter Sarre mentioned that it was a bit irregular for the whole committee to resign and be reappointed. It was explained this was due to previous year's lapses, and continuity had been maintained through returning members. The introduction of new blood also encourage a new outlook from the committee, and it is envisaged that not all the current members may wish to serve their full terms.

It was also mentioned by Peter Sarre that the excellent posters were hard to read in only the tea breaks and in the annual meeting next year we should make space for a proper poster session. This was duly noted and agreed.

I sign that this is a true report of events / proceedings

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Helen Fraser', is written over a large, loopy circular flourish.

Helen Fraser, Secretary