

AGM 2010: Astrophysical Chemistry Group of the RSC / RAS

Held 15.20 on Jan 7th 2010, Manchester University, as part of the annual meeting of the group: High Resolution Astrochemistry

Apologies: Dr H J Fraser (Secretary)

Due to the inclement weather conditions, a number of members were unable to make the Manchester meeting, making the AGM attendance necessarily small (<20 people) but I would like, as secretary to extend my thanks to Ian Sims for chairing the meeting in my absence.

The minutes of the 2009 meeting were agreed by those present.

1. Chair's report – previous meetings

Date	Activity	Attendance Numbers	Comments
6-7 Jan 2009	Annual Meeting, Computational Astrochemistry – a New Era?, UCL	52	SOC/LOC: Jeremy Yates, Serena Viti, Wendy Brown, Estelle Bayet, Magda Vasta, Zainab Awab, Helen Christie
3-5 August 2009	IUPAC Conference Astrochemistry Session SECC Glasgow	150+ each day (room overcrowded with people standing and turned away at the door!!)	Convener Helen Fraser + SOC Ian Sims, Martin McCoustra, Tom Millar, Mike Pilling, Ruth Lynden-Bell

Upcoming meetings;

Date	Activity	Comments
12-16 April 2010	UK NAM Parallel Session : A New Era of Astrochemical Star Formation	Organisers : Jane Buckle et al
14-16 June 2010	Faraday Discussion 147 : The Chemistry of the Planets	SOC : Ian Sims (Univ. Rennes 1, France) (Chair) Bruno Bézard (Obs de Paris-Meudon, France) André Canosa (University of Rennes 1, France) Helen Fraser (University of Strathclyde, UK) John Plane (University of Leeds, UK) Jonathan Tennyson (UCL, UK)
5-7 Jan 2011	Annual Meeting, Technische Universiteit Eindhoven, NL	Organiser : Prof Daan Schram

2. Secretary's report

Committee Meetings 2009 - 2010

We hold all our committee business via email, although a short face-to face meeting for the old and new committees will be held at here in Manchester and meetings of the senior officers were held face-to- face in July 2009.

Membership 2009

We currently have 62 listed members from outside the RSC / RAS, 24 members through the RAS (and 4 members whose ApChem group status is unclear), and 73 RSC members of the group – in total this makes 163 members (25 % = 40 – 41 people).

Our aim is to grow this to 200 over the next 12 months, continuing to extend our remit beyond the UK, and to use the group as an excellent portal for the plethora of European and Worldwide Astrochemistry and astrobiology networks that are springing up, acting as a conduit for people networking to be part of such enterprises.

The changes in RSC group membership structure will have an effect on us – but we HOPE this will be positive in numbers, and benefit us both financially and as a group. We would like to continue to encourage academics to ensure their PhD students and postdocs are members of the group, and ensure that group members continue to benefit from reduced conference fees at group meetings, student bursaries for student members, and RSC / RAS members reduced fees at major RSC / RAS meetings, for those group members also in these professional bodies.

In addition Prof Sims, Dr Fraser and Dr McCombie have continued to represent the group at a variety of meetings and general assemblies for the RAS and RSC throughout the year.

Group Communication

This is undertaken exclusively via email via the secretary. Those who tick 'no' for communication via email from the RSC / RAS should note that we are unable for data protection issues to use their email address – they need to email the secretary directly to ask to be added to the list. Also some email addresses bounce or have been omitted, so IF you have not received regular emails from the group, please email Dr Fraser (h.fraser@phys.strath.ac.uk) to check your email is correct and on the list.

The group also maintains a webpage, linked from the RSC and RAS groups sections. Our webpages are at;

<http://www.astrochemistry.org.uk/>.

The domain for this webpage is currently owned by Dr Fraser & her research group at the University of Strathclyde on behalf of the group – renewal is due August 2010, at which point the domain probably should be transferred to the incumbent Chair and his group, to ensure continuity for the next 5 years. I would like to propose that this is the case, and ask the membership to agree. The pages are maintained by Dr D Nutter (Cardiff).

3. Treasurer's report

- a. – note on annual fees, those wishing to pay directly owe £10 on or before 31/1/10 : members in this category were emailed by HJF / JMcC prior to Xmas, and will be chased in January.
- b. – note on annual fees for members of the RSC / RAS, to continue your membership you MUST tick the group membership box (group 70) on the RSC membership form, and / or the Astrophysical Chemistry Group box on the ‘extras’ on the RAS form. Even if we have your membership number only YOU as the member of the RSC or RAS can activate your group membership
- c. From 2011 all RSC members will automatically be allowed to join up to 3 subject groups – and this ‘fee’ will be included automatically in your annual membership – please be sure that group 70 is included on your 2011 renewal.

4. Elections

Positions up for election this year were;

1. Chair (4 year term May 2010 – 2014)
2. Ordinary committee members (3 year term) leaving = S Viti, T Millar, M McCoustra

Nominations for the positions have been received as follows;

Chair – Prof Tom Millar, proposed I Sims, Seconded H Fraser

Tom was duly elected.

HJF also proposed as is usual that the immediate past chair is given an honorary position in the ordinary membership for a period of 12 months (i.e. to May 2011) to ensure continuity and hand over. Ian Sims was be duly elected for this short period.

3 ordinary membership positions exist, following the ‘retirement’ from the committee of Prof T Millar, Dr S Viti and Prof M R S McCoustra as ordinary members – we have received 3 nominations;

Name	proposer	second
Dr W A Brown (UCL)	Dr H J Fraser	Dr S Viti
Prof P Caselli (Leeds)	Dr S Viti	Dr T Millar
Dr C Kemper	Dr M Gray	Dr A Richards

These three were duly elected and will take up committee positions with effect from Jan 2010 – 2013. Also Prof. T. Millar as chair elect is duly provided with an honorary position on the committee between Jan and May 2010 to ensure continuity between the incoming and outgoing chairs.

6. Upcoming and Planned meetings 2010 – 2011

Regarding the next meeting, Daan Schram was present and we discussed the possible financial implications. Nigel Mason proposed a link up with WG1 of the COST Action "The Chemical Cosmos..." whereby Nigel could contribute 3000 Euros to pay for eg speakers etc. Everyone present (inc DS) thought this a good idea.

Nigel will negotiate with the leader of WG1 (W Geppert) and liaise with D Schram.

JMcC will ask for funds specifically for D Schram’s meeting from the RSC / RAS in collaboration with Daniel.

7. Any other business

Finally the proposal for 2012 is to hold the annual meeting in Leeds (action P Casselli?) unless other members / committee members have alternative suggestions.

Paul Ruffle asked when / whether members had been informed about the possibility of nominations to the c'tee.

Indeed HJF circulated two emails to the full group membership in Nov and Dec 2009, first calling only for nominations and second combined with the meeting and AGM announcement for Manchester.