

AGM 2011: Astrophysical Chemistry Group of the RSC / RAS

Held 11.50 on Jan 7th 2011, TU Eindhoven, as part of the annual meeting of the group:
Plasma

1. Check meeting is quorate (25 % of membership)

2. Chair's report

Tom thanked Ian for his hard work as Chair over the past 4 years, and commented that under his chairmanship membership of the group had grown, and the group had hosted a number of very important conferences and meetings. Tom mentioned his key aim for 2011 is to increase membership of the group, perhaps even beyond traditional UK boundaries, and to this end there will be a group 'publicity' table / poster at the IAU Symposium in Toledo this summer. He is also hoping to re-invigorate the idea of having geographically separated one-day meetings (2-3 per annum) in addition to a shortened 2-day annual meeting.

3. Secretary's report

Committee Meetings 2010 - 2011

We hold all our committee business via email, although a short face-to face meeting for the old committee members present at the annual meeting was held in Eindhoven just prior to the AGM.

RSC Prizes and Awards

The group have been asked to consider nominations for prizes and awards in the Faraday division 2011. If members or committee members have ideas or information, these should be communicated to Helen, June and Tom asap, and before the deadline (Jan 31st 2011)

Membership 2010

We currently have 78 listed members from outside the RSC / RAS, 33 members through the RAS, and 75 RSC members of the group – in total this makes 186 members (25 % = 40 – 41 people).

Our aim is to grow this to 200 over the next 12 months, (we have grown by about 20 members in 2010) 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. To this end it is important when having group meetings that the staggered registration fee applies – making it preferable for people to be group members, and advantageous to join the group to attend the meeting.

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.

Previous Meetings

See also: <http://www.astrochemistry.org.uk/index.htm>

	Event 1	Event 2	Event 3
Meeting Date	14 th - 16 th June 2010	April 12 th – 16 th 2010	Thursday 7th-Friday 8th January 2010
Meeting Venue	Abbaye de St Jacut de La Mer, Brittany, France	University of Glasgow UK	Lovell Seminar Room, Jodrell Bank Centre for Astrophysics, University of Manchester.
Scientific Area/Topic	FD147 Chemistry of the Planets	The Chemistry of Star-Formation in extreme Environments – parallel session at NAM 2010	Astrochemistry at High Resolution
Speakers	<p>Professor Sushil Atreya (Introductory) - University of Michigan, USA</p> <p>Professor Darrell Strobel (Closing) - Johns Hopkins University, USA</p> <p>Professor Nigel Adams - University of Georgia, USA</p> <p>Dr Sebastien Le Picard - University of Rennes 1, France</p> <p>Professor Jonathan Lunine - University of Arizona, USA</p> <p>Professor Steve Miller - University College London, UK</p> <p>Dr Julianne Moses - Lunar and Planetary Institute, Houston, USA</p> <p>Professor Francois Raulin - LISA - Universities of Paris 12 and 7, France</p> <p>Dr Giovanna Tinetti - University College London, UK</p> <p>Professor Roger Yelle - University of Arizona, USA</p>	<p>Martin McCoustra, Estelle Bayet, Steve Charnley, Anita Richards, Ali Abdulgalil, Victoria Frankland, Zainab Awad, Natalie Christopher and Nadya Kunawicz.</p>	<p>(invited): Karl Menten, Peter Bernath, Derek Ward-Thompson</p> <p>Paola Caselli (contributed): Cormac Purcell, Jane Buckle, Timothy Davis,</p> <p>Peter Botschwina, Catherine Walsh, Keith Smith, Anthony Remijan, Luca Fossati,</p> <p>Malcolm Gray, Sandra Etoka, Anita Richards,</p> <p>Liz Humphreys, Dieter Engels, Markwick, Estelle Bayet, Daan Schram, Jennifer Williams</p>
Short report	<p>Organised by Ian Sims (chair). Faraday Discussion 147 'Chemistry of the Planets' principally addressed the highly interdisciplinary topic of the chemistry of extra-terrestrial planetary atmospheres. The scientific content included a range of invited and contributed papers, as well as the Discussion. The meeting brought together a total of 101 delegates, including 48 from France, 23 from the USA and 18 from the UK, the balance coming essentially from other European Countries. A good proportion of students (23) as well as recent postdocs</p>	<p>Organised by Jane buckle. H fraser on NAM LOC. Well attended as a session in Nam - about 50 people - especially since the room was a long walk and lots of stairs (hard for the secretary who was 40 weeks pregnant!!) We also had 4 people presenting posters for the session. The session was well attended, although I can't recall numbers.</p> <p>A press release was issues by Victoria Frankland, 'Dusty experiments are solving interstellar water mystery'. The link is here: http://www.astro.gla.ac.uk/nam2010/pr14.php</p>	<p>Organised by Malcolm Gray. The total number of registered participants was 49, but the inclement weather did cause several cancellations. Fortunately, Derek Ward-Thompson, who was unable to attend in person, was able to present his talk remotely over an audio link. The meeting was divided into four sessions originally, but this contracted into three due to the weather: observational astronomy, laboratory and computational studies and 'the rest'. The evening social was a trip to the Curry Mile in Rusholme.</p>

	<p>were in attendance, aided by sponsorship principally from French public bodies. The Discussion has now been published and can be consulted at http://pubs.rsc.org/en/Journals/JournalIssues/FD</p>		
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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.

Martin McCoustra also pointed out that though ASTROSURF and LASSIE organised the Young Members Meeting in UCL in Sept 2010, this meeting also had the group's name attached to it.

Full details are at

http://www.u-cergy.fr/LERMA-LAMAP/LASSIE/Documents/Programme_AYRM.pdf

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 was made on Sept 23rd 2010, and continues until 23rd August 2012. In 2011 ownership will be transferred to Tom Millar and QUB such that the continuity is facilitated by the chair, Tom & Helen will liaise on this change, though the web address might change. Dave Nutter will currently continue as

4. Treasurer's report (final accounts for Dec 31st to be agreed by membership and sent to Anne Bennet at RSC by 1/2/11 at the latest)

- a. – note on annual fees, those wishing to pay directly owe £10 on or before 31/1/11 or as part of the registration fee for this meeting – people falling into this category were emailed by June in January.– 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
- b. From 2011 all RSC members are 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.

At January 2011 meeting we have given 12 Student/Post-doc bursaries (of 100 Euros) to those giving contributed talks or posters (funded by RSC)

RAS 2010 Membership subscriptions - £240
RSC 2010 Membership Subscriptions £435

Cost of Manchester Meeting over and above registrations paid – including new membership subscriptions) £584.25

(Manchester meeting was financially problematic as the weather/transport problems meant the number of registrations was considerably less than predicted. –but speaker and refreshments costs were more or less fixed.)

Expected balance at start 2011 - ~£720.25

Membership Numbers

RSC 74 Members

RAS 33 Members

Independent - (potentially) 79 Members. This number is not ongoing – a large number are members for one meeting only and their memberships are ‘included’ in registration fees/bursaries and reductions. Renewal rates are very low – and slightly confused as many then become RSC/RAS members in the subsequent year – or confirm membership through those professional bodies.. (please see note about renewals above).

5. Elections

Current committee;

Name of Group	Astrophysical Chemistry Group	Committee Expertise (e.g. sensor technology, food science, Education, European legislation)	Dates on committee (20xx – 20xx)
Honorary Chair	Ian Sims, Rennes <ian.sims@univ-rennes1.fr>	Lab Astrochemistry (gases)	May 2006-2010 (co-opted as ordinary member May 2010 – 11 for continuity)
Chair	Tom Millar, Belfast Tom.Millar@qub.ac.uk	Theoretical Astrochemistry	May 2010 – 2014 (co-opted Jan – May 2010 for continuity)
Honorary Secretary	Helen Fraser h.fraser@phys.strath.ac.uk	Lab astrochemistry (ices)	May 2006 - 2011
Honorary Treasurer	June.Mccombie@nottingham.ac.uk	Observational Astrochemistry Laser chemistry	May 2006 - 2011
Other webmaster	David Nutter, Cardiff (David.Nutter@astro.cf.ac.uk)	Observational astrochemistry	Jan 2009 - 2012
Ordinary Members	Malcolm.Gray@manchester.ac.uk Nigel Mason, n.j.mason@open.ac.uk Jane Buckle, Cambridge j.buckle@mrao.cam.ac.uk Paola Caselli P.Caselli@leeds.ac.uk Wendy A Brown w.a.brown@ucl.ac.uk Ciska Kemper ciska.kemper@manchester.ac.uk	Observational Astrochemistry Laboratory Astrochemistry Observational Astrochemistry Theoretical / obs Astrochemistry Laboratory astrochemistry Observational Astrochemistry	Jan 2009 – 2012 Jan 2009 – 2012 Jan 2009 – 2012 Jan 2010 – Jan 2013 Jan 2010 – Jan 2013 Jan 2010 – Jan 2013

Therefore positions up for election this year are;

1. Treasurer (5 year term May 2011 – 2016)
2. Secretary (5 year term May 2011 – 2016)
3. Honorary Chair leaving May 2011 = 1 place for an Ordinary committee member + Ciska Kemper is resigning as she is on sabbatical in Taiwan (2 places)

Nominations for the positions have been received as follows;

Treasurer – Prof N Mason, proposed Dr J McCombie, seconded Dr H J Fraser

Secretary – Dr W A Brown, proposed Dr H J Fraser, seconded Prof T Millar

Unless the membership has objections the positions are unchallenged and therefore Wendy and Nigel can be duly elected to the committee.

However both already hold Ordinary Committee positions which mean a further 2 positions become available. Nominations for ordinary committee members have been received as follows;

Dr T Field, proposed Prof I Sims, seconded Dr H J Fraser

Dr D Burke, proposed Dr W A Brown, seconded Dr S Viti

DR A Meijer, proposed Prof N Mason, seconded Prof M McCoustra

Prof H Linnartz Proposed Prof T Millar seconded Prof I Sims

Dr P Woods proposed Dr A Richards, seconded Prof T Millar

As in previous years it was agreed that if a nominee is in the same group as an existing committee member, and is employed by that committee member, to avoid conflict of interest, the group would prefer not to continue with the nomination. After a discussion with Dr Burke and the supervisor concerned, it was agreed he would re-stand for election at a later date.

The following four members are therefore duly elected to the committee with effect Jan 2011 – 2014.

Dr T Field, DR A Meijer, Prof H Linnartz Dr P Woods

Upcoming and Planned meetings 2011 – 2012

The following meetings are planned for the next two years - we would especially like to encourage newer committee members and younger researchers and academics in the group to organise one day meetings - please contact the honorary officers if you would like to do this.

	Event 1	Event 2
Proposed Meeting Date	Jan 2011	Jan 2012
Proposed Meeting Venue	TU Eindhoven NL	Milton Keynes (Prof N Mason) or Nottingham (Dr J McCombie)
Scientific Area/Topic	Chemistry in Ionised extraterrestrial Environments: Plasmas, ions and Charged particles: Annual Meeting of the Astrophysical Chemistry Group of the RSC / RAS	Annual Meeting of the Astrophysical Chemistry Group of the RSC / RAS
Are any other RSC Interest Groups and/or RSC Regions involved?	no	no
List any other collaborators (incl. International).	RAS / likely significant Dutch funding input to meeting & plasma community	t.b.c.

Finally the proposal for 2012 is to hold the annual meeting in Milton Keynes / Nottingham. The committee is open to suggestions for the 2013 meeting. One suggestion was Exeter / Sheffield.

Action – all especially NEW committee members to volunteer for organising one day meetings and annual meetings

6. Any other business

Martin McCoustra mentioned the RSC has withdrawn its annual subscription to IUVAC – which means there is no longer UK representation in IUVAC. As the group uses vacuum technology in a lot of its work, and has participants at major conferences like ECOSS, IVC, which often have astrochemistry sessions, then it was agreed that a letter will be drafted and passed to the committee explaining the problem, and from that the secretary will send a request to the RSC.

Actions M McCoustra / H J Fraser

It was mentioned that the group webpages at the RSC are blank. **Action** Helen / June / Tom to check and remedy