



## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting/Special General Meeting of the Society for Low Temperature Biology**

### **Held at Society for Low Temperature Biology Scientific Meeting 2007 University of Derby 14<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2007**

Chair: Prof Tiantian Zhang, 24 members of the SLTB were present. Thus, a quorum was present as >10% of the members of the charity attended.

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from: Prof Bill Block

#### **2. Minutes of last AGM**

The minutes of the previous meeting held at the held at Cryo-2006, 26<sup>th</sup> July 2006 have been posted on the SLTB web-site and were circulated at the meeting.

*They were accepted and will be signed as a correct record by the Chair.*

#### **3. Matters arising**

All matters arising from the Minutes of the 2006 AGM were dealt with under the main agenda.

#### **4. Secretary's report**

The Committee has met three times during the year, twice at the University of Bedfordshire and briefly at the Derby meeting.

Three Newsletters were published and distributed since the 2006 AGM, the most recent in May 2007. The Secretary apologised that this last Newsletter was dispatched to UK members with the incorrect postage rate and many members incurred an additional charge from the Post-office. Steps have been taken to prevent this from reoccurring.

Three travel grants have been awarded from the Audrey Smith Fund to attend the SLTB meeting at Univ. Derby

- Dr. Marcos E. Martinez-Montero (Bioplasmas Center, University of Ciego de Avila, Cuba)
- Chia-Hsin Lin (Univ. Bedfordshire, UK)
- Tsai Sujune (Univ. Bedfordshire, UK)

Prof Brian Grout and Dr M Elena González Benito have completed their terms on the SLTB committee.

One nomination was received for membership of the SLTB Committee:

Dr Lilia Kuleshova, National Univ. Singapore (Proposed by Tiantian Zhang, Seconded by Paul Watson)

No nominations for the position of Treasurer were received prior to the deadline, therefore the committee nominated: Dr Mark Curry, Univ. Lincoln, UK

*As the number of nominations received was less than the number of vacancies on the committee there was no necessity to hold a postal ballot and the election of Drs Kuleshova and Curry was ratified by the meeting.*

Thanks were extended to Brian & Elena for all the work they have undertaken for the SLTB during their terms on the committee.

The membership were informed in the May issue of the SLTB Newsletter, that the committee wish to see some minor changes to the Constitution. In accordance with Article 20 these alterations/amendments were formally raised and voted on at the AGM.

**Motion 1:**

It is proposed to delete the following sentence from Article 16 of the Constitution ...that the AGM should be held in “September each year or as soon as practicable thereafter”. This will increase the flexibility of when AGMs may be conducted to allow us, on occasion, to have joint meetings with other organisations.

Proposer: John G Day (General Secretary SLTB).

Seconded: Andreas Sputtek

There was some discussion on this issue and it was confirmed by Brian Grout that the Charity commission had no objections to this change, but wished to see that an AGM was held every year.

*The AGM passed the motion 23 members in favour with one abstention.*

**Motion 2:**

It is proposed to delete the following sentence from Article 19 of the Constitution ... “in the United Kingdom”. This Article is about contacting / issuing “Notices” to members. As many of the members live outside the UK and we would always contact members on SLTB, this geographical limitation is irrelevant to the SLTB.

Proposer: John G Day (General Secretary SLTB).

Seconded: Brian Grout

*The AGM passed the motion unanimously.*

The Secretary reported the recent death of one of the SLTB’s Honorary Members, Albert Bernard, and had written to his family to express the condolences of the SLTB.

**5. Treasurer and membership report**

The Balance Sheet for the period 01.08.06 to 21.07.07 was presented to the meeting.

As of 21 <sup>st</sup> July 07	Income	£766.99
	Expenditure	£1211.63
	Excess of expenditure over income	[£444.64]
	Balance in current & Deposit accounts	£5102.16

A significant number of “members” have not paid their subscriptions for 2006-07; some of these have been received during the Derby meeting. An additional issue is the low levels of Subscriptions paid by some members who pay by Standing Order. A comprehensive list of these is available and will be addressed by the next Treasurer.

Because of its charitable status a refund from the UK Exchequer/Inland Revenue is anticipated shortly and this will further increase the SLTB’s financial reserves.

*The accounts were accepted by the meeting.*

The problem of excessive bank charges incurred by non-UK members when paying in GBP was raised by Elena González Benito. The possibility of pre payment by non-UK members for up to 4 years subscription with the incentive of one year free was suggested.

*The AGM discussed this and considered it worth trialling this option for one year and reviewing it at next years AGM. The membership application form will be revised to give this option for payment.*

*ACTION John Day*

In the past two months the SLTB has recruited 8 new members; however, only 56 members have paid their full subscriptions for 2007. There are an additional ~50 members who either have not as yet paid and/or are paying less than the current membership subscription. There remains an on-going need to encourage new, younger members to join.

*ACTION SLTB Committee*

## **6. Meetings Secretary’s report**

Dr Elena González Benito thanked Prof Lynch and Drs Harding and Benson and their team for their work organising the meeting in Derby.

The next scientific meeting will be held at Univ. Copenhagen, probably in association with the Nordic Genebank, in September 2008, with Prof Brian Grout acting as the local organiser.

Dr Birgit Glasmacher, Univ. Hanover, has previously offered to host a SLTB meeting and will be asked if she is willing to host a meeting in Sept 2009.

*ACTION Meeting Secretary*

## **7. Chairman’s report**

As part of the process of increasing the benefits of SLTB membership and encouraging recruitment, it is proposed to publish the abstracts of the Derby meeting and future SLTB Scientific meetings in CryoLetters. Most members were extremely positive about this suggestion as they considered it adds “value” to the papers

presented and will particularly benefit students and those who require an “out-put” to justify funding from their university to attend meetings. However, significant reservations were expressed by some members about the publication of abstracts from this and future SLTB meetings. The concerns were two fold:

Cost implications to the society and the need to increase registration fees for future meetings to cover publication costs.

Scientific quality and adherence to ethical standards.

*The above issues were discussed in some detail and the AGM agreed that abstracts should be published and that a number of safeguards should be put in place to ensure quality:*

*Only abstracts of papers presented at the meeting would be published.*

*The local organising committee would remain responsible for selecting papers to be presented at any SLTB scientific meeting and would liaise with the SLTB Meetings Secretary.*

*The SLTB meetings secretary would be responsible for reviewing/ checking ethics of any abstracts considered for publication. It is fully appreciated that many abstracts will be outside the scientific expertise of the Meetings Secretary. He/she will liaise with other members of the Committee, members of the Society and/or other workers as is necessary to ensure the quality of the published abstracts.*

Prof Tiantian Zhang reiterated her thanks to Prof Lynch for organising Cryo2006 and facilitating the SLTB AGM.

She announced to the AGM the election in April of Prof Paul Watson as an Honorary Member of the SLTB.

In addition, she took the opportunity to tell members about some new developments in the relationship between the SLTB and the journal CryoLetters.

In future new SLTB members will receive a complementary issue of CryoLetters (up to a maximum of 15 members per year) and new SLTB members will be offered a half price subscription to the Cryoletters for their first year.

Abstracts from the Society’s meetings will be published in Cryoletters.

The journal will sponsor a £100 prize at the meeting for young scientists who will subsequently submit a manuscript for publication. At the Derby meeting the first CryoLetters prize was won by Quynh Mai Le (Max-Planck Institute for Molecular Plant Physiology, Potsdam, Germany), for her oral paper entitled “Natural genetic variation of sub-zero cold acclimation in *Arabidopsis thaliana*”.

Whilst the SLTB and CryoLetters remain fully independent organizations it is hoped that the closer relationship will be mutually beneficial to the aims of both Society and journal.

She also reported on charity status and the website (see below).

## **8. Charity status**

In discussions with Brian Grout the Charity Commission had not raised any objections to the suggested changes in the Constitution. This issue was voted on by the membership at the AGM (see above) and Charity Commission will be sent a revised version of the Constitution when they are next contacted.

*ACTION Andrew Whetten*

Because he is no longer resident in England or Wales Brian Grout has resigned as a Trustee of the SLTB Charity. He has been replaced by Andrew Whitten (Univ. Reading) who will now act as the “contact” between the SLTB and the Charity Commission.

The current Trustees, as of the AGM, are:

Dr Andrew Whetten (Univ. Reading)

Prof Paul Lynch (Univ. Derby)

The SLTB currently has no documentation/ procedures on the replacement of the Trustees and this needs to be addressed. Because the current General Secretary is not a resident of England or Wales he is ineligible to act as a Trustee and as a result Paul Lynch remained the nominated Trustee for the past two years. Unfortunately, he had not realised this was the case and is considering whether he wishes to remain a Trustee for the forthcoming year. A clear procedure is needed on this issue with defined periods of office and responsibilities. This will be drafted by the Committee and can be discussed at the next AGM.

*ACTION SLTB Committee*

#### **9. Web site**

Belinda Wade continues to act as SLTB webmaster. The website is regularly updated with documentation being forwarded via the General Secretary.

#### **10. AOB**

Glyn Stacey highlighted the issue of almost inevitable slippage in meeting programmes that resulted in the loss and/or curtailment of Discussions.

*The AGM agreed that this was an important point and that the organising committee should consider this when planning programmes.*

#### **11. Date of next meeting**

At Univ Copenhagen in Sept 2008 in association with an SLTB scientific meeting.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 6.20pm

Dr. John G. Day  
General Secretary  
18-Sept. - 2007