

Main Group Chemistry Interest Group

Annual General Meeting – 15th July 2011

Burlington House, London

In attendance: Dr. S. Aldridge (Chairman), Dr. P. Dyer, Dr. J. Goicoechea, Dr. M. Hill (Treasurer), Dr. M. Ingleson, Dr. K. Izod, Dr. D. Kays, Dr. R. Layfield (Secretary), Dr. A. McGhee (RSC), Prof. J. Nixon, Dr. C. Russell, Dr. J. D. Smith.

1. Election of officers

Chairman: Dr. S. Aldridge re-elected unopposed

Secretary: Dr. R. Layfield re-elected unopposed

Treasurer: Dr. Hill indicated that he would like to step down. Dr. D. Kays was elected Treasurer. The Committee and members thanked Dr. Hill for his dedicated service to the Main Group Chemistry Interest Group.

2. Treasurer's report (Dr. Hill)

The Main Group Chemistry finances are in good condition. A more accurate statement will be possible once the final cost of the 2011 meeting is known.

3. Report on 2011 Main Group Chemistry Meeting (Dr. Layfield)

The meeting seems to have very gone well, scientifically and logistically. A total of 97 delegates registered for the conference. Burlington House was an excellent venue. It would have been helpful to have been provided with more detailed information about the refurbishments, however given that this was the first year in which we have used BH it was always likely to be a learning experience.

Prizes were awarded for the best student/PDRA oral presentation (A. Chapman, Bristol, £75 and an RSC book) and the best posters (Z. Livingston, Strathclyde, and M. Arrowsmith, Bath, £50 each).

4. Proposal for a 'celebration of inorganic chemistry' in April 2012

Members discussed the proposal put forward by Prof. Mike George, to hold a two-day joint meeting of the 'inorganic' Interest Groups. The meeting is provisionally scheduled to take place at the University of Warwick early in April 2012. A wide range of views were expressed, including postponing the meeting until 2013 so that a more detailed and less rushed discussion can be held. The consensus was that Main Group Chemistry should support the proposal in principle, but that more details would have been helpful to inform the discussion. Dr. Aldridge was tasked with obtaining further information regarding costs from Prof. George, and to circulate this by email before a final decision is reached. [*post-meeting note: this situation is evolving rapidly – further information to be provided soon by Dalton Division and Prof. George*]

4i. The members were unanimous in the opinion that the cost of the meeting to students should be kept as low as possible. The suggestion of £50 per student, including registration, accommodation and meals, is a reasonable target.

4ii. The impact of the Main Group financial contribution to the Inorganathon was discussed. Some members expressed the view that it would be difficult to support the cost of the joint meeting and a separate Main Group Meeting in the same year, particularly since we can only realistically expect to be awarded one Travel Grant in any 12-month period. It would have useful to know what the required level of financial support is: the cost of one speaker is thought to be appropriate.

4iii. A potential Main Group speaker for the Inorganathon is Prof. P. P. Power, who is scheduled to be on sabbatical in Bath at the time of the meeting.

4iv. The members were generally of the opinion that we should have a dedicated Main Group meeting in 2012 irrespective of whether the larger joint meeting takes place (see below). Main Group meetings in recent years have been very well attended and seemingly enjoyed by all participants, so it would be a shame to lose momentum.

5. 2012 Main Group Chemistry Meeting

5i. To reduce conference congestion, the 2012 Main Group meeting will be held in September assuming that the joint meeting does go ahead. The preferred venue, based on the 2011 experience, is Burlington House. Alternative venues are: Oxford, Manchester and, possibly, Nottingham.

5ii. Proposed first-choice speakers for 2012: Prof. Warren Piers, Prof. Dr. Matthias Driess, Dr. P. Dyer. Should either of the international speakers be unavailable, other suggestions are: Profs. S. Sevov, G. Robinson, M. Westerhausen and D. Bourissou.

6. Choice of post-meeting pub

After a false start, most of us settled in The Clarence on Dover Street. Dr. Layfield offered to buy a round. There was much rejoicing.

RAL

20.07.2011