

## Royal Society of Chemistry

### Educational Techniques Group Trust

Minutes of the Meeting held at Nottingham on Friday 15<sup>th</sup>.December 2006

- 1) Present: A.J.Rest (Chairman), R.Murray, R.Wallace, D.Brattan, P.E.Curry (Secretary)

Apologies: none

The meeting noted the resignation of S.Kettle. The Committee agreed to send a letter to thank him for the many years of work and support for the Group that he has contributed.

- 2) Minutes of the Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2006

These were approved subject to removal of the` paragraph “?Ray-ECTN” in section 2.

It was noted that the minutes of the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2006 and previous minutes (17<sup>th</sup> June 2005), had not been included in the Group’s RSC website and that the extended ETGT page on the ECHEMED site only contained the November 2004 minutes. This subject was discussed later in the meeting (see Item 6).

- 3) Chairman’s Report

The Chairman had attended several meetings which had resulted in helping to increase the public awareness of the Group’s activities in conjunction with those of the Chemistry Video Consortium (CVC):

- a) The RSC General Assembly in Glasgow in November gave an opportunity to publicise the work of the Group in the Breakout Sessions, especially the work with developing countries under the “Chemistry Aid” project.
- b) The American Chemical Society meeting in January 2006 was attended with the assistance of CVC funding. The meeting covered the need to improve teaching methods, increasing public awareness of science, the development of animation techniques in presentation. Some interesting innovations in teaching “hands-on” chemistry were encountered. For example, using common chemicals from supermarkets and reacting them in plastic bags instead of on traditional chemistry benches. Such a technique would be suitable for developing countries where they do not have traditional benches.
- c) The Malaysian Ministry of Education is currently testing our “Practical Chemistry for Schools and Colleges” CD-ROMs in a pilot project to improve chemistry teaching in English in Malay schools and colleges. This initiative arose from a visit to Malaysia by the Chairman in 2005.
- d) The RSC is proposing to support “HUB” centres in developing countries so as to disseminate teaching and learning resources. This has arisen

from the plea for help from Kenya in 2003 and the launch of the "Chemistry Aid" project (RSC/CVC).

- e) The Chairman attended the "Public Awareness of Science" Awards Ceremony. The main award was for a Docudrama on the work of Albert Einstein.
- f) The Chairman contributed a piece to RSC News on the work of the ETGT and on "Teaching the world about science" (December 2006)
- g) Funding from the CVC has enabled "Chemistry Aid" visits to a number of countries: Charles Agbor (Cameroon), Jean and Pat Johnson (Uganda) and has supported Jared Ogunde's (Scientific Advisory and Information Network, Nairobi) participation at pan-African IT and Teaching Conference in Addis Ababa

#### 4) Secretary's Report

There had been no correspondence. However, a debate ensued on how RSC members and other interest groups obtain access to ETGT activities. For example, what, exactly does the group provide, and how can this be improved. The RSC General Assembly (2006) has provided some notes on the benefits of RSC Membership (see Appendix).

It is not always possible to access the ETGT website based at Southampton (ECHEMED site) so this site needs to be made more accessible. In addition, it needs publicity. It was agreed to send out a Newsletter and a CD or "Pen" to ALL ca.300 ETGT members (see below Item 6).

#### 5) Treasurer's Report

R Murray submitted Accounts to 14 Dec.2006:

Balance at 31 Dec.2005	Income	Expenditure
		1873
Meeting 9 Jan. 2006		262.1
From RSC	1160	
(includes income for 2005)	1370	
	267	
	1068	
Interest	101.07	
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Total	3966.07	262.1
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Balance at 14 Dec.2006 5576.97

Balance at 31 Dec 2006 (end of financial year) will include the expense for the meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> Dec 2006

In addition about £2000 is held by the CVC as funds for the ETGT/CVC joint projects, e.g. "Chemistry Animations"

The 2005 and 2006 accounts need auditing. It was agreed to pay up to £100 for an auditor, who may have a report ready prior to R.Murray's return from holiday on February 10<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime a letter would be sent to the RSC to inform the RSC that the Accounts would not be submitted in time for the 31<sup>st</sup> December deadline.

Where external bodies had contributed sponsorship, e.g. CVC/ETGT activities for conferences and CVC visits for "Chemistry Aid" to developing countries, the view was expressed that this sponsorship should be included in the accounts in future years.

The meeting expressed the view that some of these funds should be used to develop revamped web pages. It was agreed that Richard Brattan be asked whether he could do this. If so, D Brattan would inform the Committee of the likely expenditure.

6) Newsletter

It was agreed to produce a Newsletter and that when the newsletter has been produced it should be sent out to members with a FLASH animation product. It was thought that the new "Pen drive" technology would be very suitable, and cheap. Don Brattan agreed to oversee the production and dissemination of the Newsletter.

The Secretary will obtain from the RSC an up to date membership list of the group from the RSC and endeavour to obtain a set of labels for the mail shot.

7) Other Projects.

R Wallace will be making a presentation at the Budapest ECTN meeting. An attempt by R Wallace would be made to present the work of the Group at a satellite conference.

The Variety in Chemistry Teaching would not be attended in 2007 but a workshop on "An Introduction to Compiling Multimedia Resources" would be offered to the HEA for Physical Sciences in May 2007 (DB/AJR).

It was agreed to fund R Wallace's attendance at the forthcoming Krakow meeting on Chemical Education.

A market research exercise is to be carried out on the "Chemistry Animations" project. A revised DEMO CDROM has been produced (DB/AJR/RW) and this will be trialled at the forthcoming ASE Conference in Birmingham (2nd to 5<sup>th</sup> January 2007) by the RSC Teacher Fellow, Emma Woodley. It is also proposed to set up a DEMO www page on the RSC www site, e.g. [www.rsc.org/chemistryanimations](http://www.rsc.org/chemistryanimations) so as to circulate teachers via the Chemistry-Teachers Network site ([CHEMISTRY-Teachers@yahoo.groups.co.uk](mailto:CHEMISTRY-Teachers@yahoo.groups.co.uk)). If the market research is successful it is hoped that the RSC will fund a full-scale database for "Chemistry Animations", cf. "Chemistry Images" database.

A presentation in Eastern Europe will be made in July by R Wallace. The theme would be chemistry in our daily lives, and include a Summer school for teachers.

D Brattan would seek to have the ETGT website adaptable for the partially sighted.

CVC funds would be used by Tony Rest to promote the Group's work in Uganda and Malaysia (see above Item 3(c)).

The "Archive of Chemistry Images" project is making rather slow progress. Hopefully the momentum will increase in 2007.

- 8) Date of Next meeting. May or June 2007, so as to brief R.Wallace prior to summer 2007 conference presentations.
- 9) Re-election of Officers.

The RSC would be asked by the Chairman whether it is necessary to re-elect the Group's officers. It is hoped that the forthcoming Group newsletter will promote interest in the group and the new committee members will offer themselves to serve on the Committee.

## **APPENDIX**

### **RSC Membership Benefits**

The benefits of joining the RSC include:

- Professional Body status and Worldwide recognition
- "Chemistry World" every month – the foremost publication for the chemical sciences
- "RSC News" – the monthly magazine for members. Packed with news and items of particular interest to members.
- RSC GrapeVine – regular e-mail alerts about RSC activities.
- Access to the Library and Information Centre in London. It offers the most comprehensive resource for the chemical sciences in the UK, holding over 2,000 journals and more than 20,000 books, plus CD-ROMs and online databases. This service is accessible from anywhere in the world. The Chemical Enquiry Helpdesk is free to members
- Reduced rates on an extensive programme of national and international meetings, conferences and seminars organised by the RSC
- Access to training courses
- Access to professional support including the specialist Career Management Programme, with advice on CV writing, career development strategies and job hunting
- Advice and guidance on scientific and professional issues, including Continuous Professional Development activities, professional qualifications (Chartered Chemist and European Chemist) and the register of Qualified Persons

- Special discounts on an extensive range of RSC books and journals plus special offers on books from other publishers
- Web based member-only resources
- “Lifestyle” offers (discounts from other organisations)
- Support from the Benevolent Fund
- Parliamentary contact through the RSC Parliamentary Affairs Officer
- RSC awards, medals and prizes offered
- RSC Travel Grants available
- Networking opportunities with members in your local area, as well as with over 43,000 members worldwide
- Access to interest Groups covering all aspects of the chemical sciences. (Membership of Divisions and Forums is free; there is a small charge for RSC Groups)
- Special membership pricing arrangements for HE students
- Reduced rates for retired members and those in difficult financial circumstances