

Royal Society of Chemistry Educational Techniques Group Trust

Minutes of the Meeting held at Nottingham Trent University on Friday 17th.June 2005.

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

A warm welcome was extended to B.Orger (an observer with view to joining the Committee).

- 2) Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th November 2004.

These were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

- 3) Matters arising not covered by the Agenda.

- a) The Committee expressed a desire to be represented, where possible, at the Regional Science Centres proposed by the RSC.

Action AJR will obtain list of Centres.

- b) The RSC has decided to seek more involvement outside the UK. This is in accordance with the CVC/RSC plan to launch the "Chemistry Aid" initiative (see also below).

- c) The ETGT Business Plan sent to the RSC has been well-received by the RSC Education Division. It was noted just how pro-active the ETGT.

- 4) Chairman's Statement.

The Chairman described the CVC/RSC initiative to put educational material for Chemistry into the hands of students in developing countries. The initiative, which is called "Chemistry Aid" cf. "Live Aid", had been written up in RSC News (June 2004, February 2005, March 2005, April 2005 and June 2005. ETGT materials, e.g. "Physical Chemistry Experiments" CDROMs (2001) and other CDROMs supported in the design stage, e.g. "Practical Laboratory Experiments" (CVC; 1999) were part of the collection of materials sent out to Kenya, Uganda, Eritrea and the Cameroons. The feedback from these materials and the visits by colleagues, e.g. Dr Stephen Breuer to hold Microscale Chemistry workshops in Kenya, had been very positive. A powerful message of thanks and praise has been received from Uganda (visit of Ms Jean Johnson).

One immediate problem is the shortage of computers in these countries. This is being addressed in conjunction with "Computer Aid" and "Lab Aid.

The President of the RSC will be visiting Malawi shortly [postponed until April 2006] and a RSC staff member, Dr Stanley Langer, will be visiting Namibia [in December 2005]. The President of the RSC is taking up the "Chemistry Aid" initiative with the "Commission for Africa". Notes on the "Chemistry Aid" initiative supplied by the Chairman had been favourably received by Education Division Council (Chairman, M Gagan).

- 5) Secretary's Report.

The Secretary reported that the membership figures of the group are stable at ca 330. This compares well with some other groups.

6) Treasurers Report.

	<u>£</u>
Audited account for 2004	6581.23
Expenditure for 2005 (overseas aid)	4000
Chairman's travel expenses	105.12
Interest received	73

The Treasurer reported a healthy balance sheet. He hoped and expected that the Group's activities (see below) together with an improved web site will result in an increase in membership and hence subscriptions. Efforts will continue to minimise or reclaim VAT in view of the Group's charitable status.

In a discussion on seeking increased membership, support was given to:

- a) the idea of the RSC Education Division distributing free RSC chemistry magazines to school and university students
- b) obtaining entry to the Freeview/Sky Teachers TV programmes
- c) the need to enable the ETGT website to be found more easily. [The new www site for "Chemistry Images" is now www.rsc.org/chemistryimages In the RSC web site reorganisation the ETGT site had been "lost" by the RSC Website Team]. The Secretary undertook to write a note to RSC Regional Groups reminding them of the ETGT activities and the website.
Action: PEC.

7) ETGT Projects.

Ray Wallace will be attending Kracow EuroVariety Conference and will give two posters and a plenary lecture on behalf of ETGT. The title of the plenary lecture will be "The Visual Face of Chemistry : Some Practicalities."

Ray Wallace will be presenting the two Kracow posters at the "Science and Teaching Conference" at the University of Warwick on 27th and 28th June [The ETGT contributions were written up in the Conference Booklet].

At the autumn "Variety in Chemistry Teaching" Conference at Keele the two Kracow posters will be used [Subsequently it was learned that the ETGT posters were the only ones offered and the that Poster Session was cancelled !!!].

The use of the FLASH technique for multimedia resources will be pursued (DB), and a National Archive of films, VHS tapes, laser video discs, CDROMs and DVDs at Burlington House (when air conditioned) is under discussion (the Chairman). The development of material for disabled students will continue, but this has slowed at present due to lack of time (DB and the Chairman)

It was agreed that to further European contacts membership of the ECTN (free for Non-voting members) would be sought. Members were urged to visit the ECTN (European Chemistry Thematic Network) website (see www.Chem.DT.VDU/Conf.chem). Ray Wallace attended a meeting in Vienna in April 2005. Sid Kettle reminded the Committee that its existence was in order to serve UK Members who had paid fees for activities in the UK. Therefore the ETGT should not get carried away with supporting activities outside the UK.

- 8) Date of the Next Meeting. A Wednesday in Nottingham (at NTU) in early December.