

UK CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT USERS' GROUP

MINUTES OF THE 2001 BUSINESS MEETING

The annual meeting of the Controlled Environment Users' Group was held on Monday 10th September 2001 in the Recreation Centre, John Innes Centre, Norwich. The meeting opened at 2100 hours.

The Chairman, L.D Incoll (Leeds University), opened the meeting.

Apologies were received from Alan Bell, Bob Hughes, Roy Randall, John Toler and Joe Aldous.

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting at Wye College (now Imperial College at Wye), Kent, on the 5th September 2000

The minutes of the previous meeting, which had been distributed to members earlier in the year, were proposed by Julian Franklin (IACR Rothamsted) and seconded by Brian Wilson (Imperial College at Wye) and approved as a true record of the proceedings.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Future Meetings

Annual Meeting 2002: Syngenta

P. Stratton, the local organiser, proposed the following:

- September 9th 2002 at Kingswood Hall, Royal Holloway University of London, Egham, Surrey: A scientific meeting (one half day) on the theme of "The Glasshouse Environment", followed by a business meeting in the evening.
- September 10th 2002 at Syngenta in Bracknell, Berks: A tour of controlled environment facilities at Syngenta (one half day).

Suggested speakers included Prof. Paul Hadley, Tim Wheeler or Laurence Hansen from Reading University, Andrew Marchant – freelance consultant, possibly someone from Kew Gardens and/or Climate Controls, someone from Frankfurt Botanic Gardens, Philip Imerziel (Ludwig Sensor). Sander Pot (Corresponding member, The Netherlands) will suggest someone from the Netherlands. Julian Franklin (IACR Rothamsted) will make inquiries about Silsoe Institute. Suggested topics included light, shading, structures, CO₂ enrichment, and glasshouses for the future.

Action: Sander Pot, Julian Franklin

Annual Meeting: post-2002

The following suggestions were made for further future meetings:

| Date | Venue | Comments |
|-------------|--|--|
| 2003 | Biological Sciences, Lancaster University | (will be 12 years since last visit) <i>Theme: ?</i> |
| 2004 | CSIRO, Brisbane (March/April) | International meeting to celebrate the 10 th anniversary of ACEWG |
| | Biological Sciences, Leicester (September) | (will be 11 years since last visit) <i>Theme: "Light and its measurement in CEs – a workshop"</i> |
| 2005 | IGER/University of Wales, Aberystwyth | (will be 11 years since last visit) |
| 2006 | HRI, Wellesbourne | (will be 11 years since last visit) |
| 2007 | SCRI, Dundee | (will be 10 years since last visit) |
| 2008 | IACR Rothamsted | (will be 10 years since last visit) |

Another site interested in hosting a meeting was Imperial College at Silwood Park.

There was some discussion of a proposal of the chairman that, in the face of gross ignorance of basic physical and plant science of many molecular geneticists, there was an increasing need for managers of facilities to be repositories of knowledge on CEs and their use. The style of our future meetings might be altered to have more of a training element in them. He proposed that the next meeting on light at Leicester might be an appropriate place for a workshop.

The proposal to hold another international meeting, this time in Brisbane, Australia, in 2004 was met with interest and it was agreed that further international meetings would help to encourage a global CE community. However, there was some doubt about whether there would be enough financial support available for most CEUG members to attend. The Group supported the proposal in principle.

4. Membership

L.D.Incoll provided the following information:

Since September 2000:

| Category | Number |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| New members | 16 |
| Members resigned | 11 |
| Net change | +5 |
| Current total | 140 |
| Email contact | 111 plus 6 email only |
| Attending the 2001 meeting | 35 including 5 joint NCR-101 |

Overseas Recruitment since September 2000:

| Country | Number |
|---|---------------|
| France - invited | 7 |
| France – joined | 2 |
| The Netherlands - invited | 5 |
| The Netherlands – joined | 1 now 0 |
| India – joined | 1 |
| Germany – transfer from The Netherlands | 1 |

Group membership was healthy with a net gain in members this year. However it still remained difficult to recruit European members.

5. Controlled environment topics

Because of the nature of this year's scientific meeting, there was no discussion of CE topics at this meeting.

6. Treasurer's Report

A. Nichols (John Innes Centre) presented the financial report.

The balance brought forward from 1999-2000 was £3,178.17, income from donations was £16,283.16, and expenditure was £5,450.23. The credit balance on the account on 9th September 2001 was £14,011.10. The final credit balance will be less after invoices and expenses of invited speakers for the 2001 meeting are paid. The report was unaudited, but was accepted as presented.

The group agreed that the healthy balance was largely due to the success of those who had organised this year's Trade Displays (G. Taylor, A. Morgan and R. Hughes).

L. Incoll said that the group needed financial reserves so that it could pay the deposit for accommodation for the next year's meeting.

7. Any Other Business

Convenor post 2002: L. Incoll is due to retire in September 2002. He is happy to continue as Convenor of the UK CEUG if the group meets his expenses in future. J. Franklin (IACR, Rothamsted) proposed that the UK CEUG support Lynton's expenditure next year as convenor of the group. G. Taylor (SANYO Gallenkamp) seconded. The motion was carried.

Guidelines: At this point the NCR-101 group joined the meeting. NCR-101 has asked the UK CEUG to interact with them on a project to enable international standardisation of terminology, measurement and guidelines for reporting and monitoring. T. Tibbitts (University of Wisconsin) will take some initiative in this. He will attempt to rewrite the guidelines with the help of members of the CEUG / NCR-101 and other groups worldwide.

The following members of UK CEUG, NCR-101 and ACEWG volunteered to form a committee with T. Tibbitts for this purpose: I. Pearman (IACR Rothamsted), R. Kerslake (CSIRO, Brisbane), D. Krizek (USDA, Beltsville), G. Taylor (SANYO Gallenkamp), D. Greer (HortResearch, NZ), L. Incoll (University of Leeds), M. Romer (McGill University, Montreal), A-J Both (Rutgers University).

T. Tibbitts will try to find a volunteer from Asia as well.

Action: T. Tibbitts, I. Pearman, R. Kerslake, D. Krizek, G. Taylor, D. Greer, L. Incoll, M. Romer, A-J. Both

International meeting, 2004: The NCR-101 group reported that they too have agreed in principle with the proposal to hold another joint meeting in Brisbane in 2004. The meeting decided that a more aggressive approach to finding financial backing would be needed. Suggested possible sources are EU funds and Royal Society funding.

Publications of scientific proceedings of this meeting: The possibility of publishing the proceedings of this year's meeting has arisen. Speakers have been asked individually if they will participate. There were no objections at this stage but several members requested further details. LDI will proceed to meet the publishers to investigate the offer.

Action: L.D. Incoll

L. Incoll expressed his appreciation to M. Crawley, his team and the organisation at the John Innes Centre on behalf of both groups for agreeing to host this year's meeting.

The meeting closed at 11.30 p.m.

Recorder: Victoria Gardiner
21/11/2001