

SURCAT AGM 2007

Glasgow University, 19th July 2007 at 17.00

Present: Professor J Anderson, Professor S.D. Jackson, Dr R. Wells, Dr D. Willock, Dr J. Hargreaves, Dr. D. Lennon, Dr F. Meunier, Dr R. Cunningham, Mr R. Spence, Dr E. Crabb, Dr N. Gudde, Dr J. Birtill

Apologies: Professor P. Wells, Professor M. Bowker, Professor R. Birch, Professor M. Twigg, Dr S. Taylor

Chairman's Report

The Chairman commenced his report by reflecting on the sad deaths of Professor Geoff Webb and Dr Richard Moyes, both of whom had played a major role in SURCAT in the past. Professor Webb will be particularly remembered for his part in setting up the SURCAT Ecosse meetings, the only regional SURCAT meetings still running. On a happier note the Chairman expressed his pleasure at the increased profile of UK catalysis in terms of presence and presentations at international meetings.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported on the two SURCAT meetings of the past year, these being the national meeting in Cardiff in July 2006 and the regional SURCAT Ecosse meeting in St Andrews in May 2007. Attendances of 105 and 65 were present respectively. Thanks were registered to Professor Hutchings and Dr Davies in Cardiff and Dr Badley in St Andrews for their work organising these events.

The membership of the group stands at 239 compared with 256 last year, the drop in membership is consistent with most of the other Faraday Interest Groups.

Three committee members were due to stand down, these being Professor Ross, Professor Birch and Dr Cunningham. Dr Cunningham was eligible to stand for a second term and agreed to do so. The group expressed its sincere thanks to both Professor Ross and Professor Birch for their considerable efforts on behalf of the group over numerous years of service. Three nominations were received for the two vacant positions, these were for Dr D Willock (Cardiff), Professor C. Hardacre (Belfast) and Dr J. Breen (Belfast). A ballot was held after which Dr Willock and Professor Hardacre were welcomed onto the committee. The committee agreed to nominate Professor Hardacre as treasurer.

Treasurer's Report

In the absence of the treasurer the accounts were presented and approved.

Future Meetings

The Chairman noted that many meetings would take place in 2008 including the Rideal Meeting in Cambridge (March 17th – 19th), the 14th ICC in Korea and the European conference on Environmental Catalysis in Belfast. As such there will be no national SURCAT meeting next year. The group's AGM will be held during the Rideal meeting in Cambridge. A discussion then took place regarding the possibility of holding a one day symposium as part of the IUPAC meeting in Glasgow in 2009.

This possibility had been raised through the RSC and the secretary had agreed to discuss the proposal with members. The meeting agreed that the profile of such a symposium would be high and providing a satisfactory attendance could be guaranteed we should investigate the possibility further in conjunction with the Applied Catalysis Group, the IChemE and the Process Technology Group. The Secretary agreed to coordinate the action in conjunction with the secretary of the Applied Catalysis Group.

2011 Europacat / 2012 ICC

The Chairman outlined the possibilities regarding bidding for the 2011 Europacat meeting and the 2012 ICC. Glasgow was suggested as a suitable venue for both meetings. A discussion followed regarding the best option. A vote was taken, 4 members voting for a Europacat bid, 4 for an ICC bid. The Chairman's deciding vote was placed in favour of a bid for the 2012 ICC.

IACS Report

Dr Hargreaves updated the meeting on preparations for the 14th ICC in Korea. The call for abstracts was now open. Professor Bowker is now on the IACS Council although currently without voting rights.

EFCATS Report

Professor Anderson reported on EFCATS issues. The latest meeting of EFCATS council took place in France and was the last under the present constitution. The next EuropCat conference will take place in Salamanca, the sole bid for the event having a joint bid from Spain & Portugal. Professor Anderson also indicated that he had been nominated as secretary of EFCATS and that Professor Jackson's term of office as treasurer would shortly end. The UK had nominated Professor Birch for the Francois Gault lectureship, currently held by Professor Hutchings.

AOB

The Secretary reported that Professor Bowker had agreed to host the 2009 Taylor meeting at the University of Cardiff.

The meeting closed at 18.00

Richard P.K. Wells
Hon. Sec.