

Minutes of the IWWWFB Steering Committee Meeting, 14/4/15 (Bristol/Bath)

Present: John Grue, Jun Zang, Richard Porter, Nick Newman, David Evans, Rodney Eatock Taylor, Ioannis Chatigeorgiou, Ron Yeung, Bernard Molin, Yonghwan Kim, Alessandro Iafrazi, Sime Malenica, Sasha Korobkin, Tatyana Khabakhpasheva, Luke Bennetts, Malte Peter, Bin Teng, Michael Meylan, Harry Bingham, Masashi Kasiwagi, Bob Beck, Kevin Maki, Xinshu Zhang, Francis Noblesse.

John Grue introduced himself as chair and welcomed the meeting. He thanked the current organisers of the 30th Workshop for their hard work in preparing a successful workshop.

1. Minutes from the previous meeting

There were no minutes from the previous meeting held in Japan, 2014. M. Kasiwagi apologised for not having had time to distribute them.

2. Report from the organisers of the current workshop

The following written report was circulated and summarised verbally by R. Porter:

Abstract submissions and acceptance

There were a total of 99 abstracts submitted of which 3 were after the deadline (and hence not accepted). Of the 96 remaining, the scientific organising committee decided to select 64 papers for presentation. Views were sought over increasing the numbers (from a usual 54 papers) as the implication was that talks would be shorter.

Authors come from a total of 22 countries. UK authors feature on 19 papers,

12 from France, 9 from China, 7 from USA, 4 from Russia and Australia, 3 from Korea, Italy, Netherlands, etc...

The Tuck Fellowship was awarded to Hugh Wolgamot (a previous runner up) from Western Australia. Tomasz Bobinski was second. There were 11 Tuck Fellowship applications in total.

The Workshop Organisation

The M-Shed was booked as the conference venue over a year ago. The increased numbers of delegates was not anticipated and there was some concern over space and capacity. We hope the space works OK.

We have 101 delegates (of which 23 are PhD students) and 10 accompanying persons.

The fees were set at £550/£410 for standard/PhD registration. In the previous year the full fee would have been equivalent to 650Euros, but the exchange rate (1.18 to 1.38) will have made our fees look high to those in the Eurozone.

We had a some difficulties with issuing visa invitation letters, including clerical problems, delivery problems and lateness of applications from delegates. We could have made it clearer earlier that visa invitation letters would be needed.

We had a problem with the Hotel reneging on a written agreement to offer reduced rates on the additional nights either side of the conference.

Sponsorship and funding

We found it harder than we thought to get sponsors interested. This was maybe because of the emerging difficulties in the oil & gas industry. In total we raised about £17,000.

We had problems with the funding from ONR. We left our application a little late (mid November) and the funding wasn't guaranteed until after we'd set our fees !! (about 12 weeks in total).

The funding from the London Mathematical Society could only be used to subsidise participation from Russian researchers and UK PhD students. We waived fees for 3.5 Russians and decided to extend a 25% discount to all PhD students. We did not anticipate we would get such a high number of PhD registrations. Fees are also waived for Evans and Newman.

2.1 Discussion of the report

There was some further discussion on the issue of visa invitation letters, especially in light of the next workshop being held in the US where visa restrictions are likely to be tighter than the UK. It was agreed that a more efficient process could be used than was used for the 30th IWWWFB.

There was also a brief discussion of the changes to ONR organisation which may have led to the delay in funding notification experienced at the 30th IWWWFB.

3. Report from the hosts of the 31st IWWWFB

Bob Beck and Kevin Maki will be joint organisers of the 31st IWWWFB to be held in Michigan, US. They reported that the Workshop will be held in an area called Plymouth about 10 miles outside Ann Arbor but in the general direction of the airport so that the distance from Detroit airport was reduced to about 20 miles.

The dates for the Workshop are set as the 3rd to the 6th of April, 2016. This is one week after Easter and also avoids the Orthodox Easter.

The venue will be based on the “isolated” Workshop model and contained in a Hotel/Conference centre, surrounded by a golf course, trails and woodland. Contracts had been signed on the hire of the venue. More details would be given at the Banquet presentation.

The organisers hadn't yet raised sponsorship money and would not be able to claim the ONRG grant that is used outside the US to help fund other Workshops. The fees were estimated at between \$800 and \$900, although it was too far off to be accurate.

There were no questions or issues and everyone at the meeting expressed satisfaction with the arrangements.

4. Future Workshops

4.1 Confirmed (2017, 2018)

It was confirmed that the 2017 Workshop was going to be held in Dalian, China (Bin Teng). There was nothing to report with the arrangements for this event.

The meeting also agreed on last years proposal to hold the 2018 Workshop in Brest, France, to be organised by Yves-Marie Scolan (absent from the meeting).

4.2 Bids for new hosts (2019-)

There were representations from 4 institutions to host the 2019 Workshop. These were:

- Newcastle, Australia (Michael Meylan)
- Seoul, Korea (Yonghwan Kim)
- Shanghai, China (Xinshu Zhang)
- Rome, Italy (Alessandro Iafrati)

After a general discussion, it was decided that the information presented to the meeting was too new for committee members to make an informed decision. Moreover, it was thought that 2019 was far enough away that a decision was not necessary at this meeting; it was decided to defer the 2019 decision to the 2016 Workshop. It was also proposed that no new bids for 2019 be allowed at the steering committee meeting at next years workshop. However, expressions of interest for 2020 could be recorded at the meeting in 2016.

5. Tuck Fellowship

John asked the current organisers to report on the health of the Tuck Fellowship funds. The current organisers had no information as they had yet to inquire over fee reimbursement for this year.

6. The iwwwbf.org web pages

Yonghwan Kim reported that everything was fine and the workload was very easy.

It was reported that there were no discussion sheet Q&A on the 2014 abstracts. M. Kashiwagi said he would chase this up.

There was also a discussion about how long local IWWWFB web sites should remain active. The general feeling of the meeting was that they could be taken down if necessary after a year.

7. Any other business

There was no other business.