

Minutes of the Instrumentation town-hall meeting of 2023/03/13

2 Present:

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4 Karol Krizka - **Birmingham**

5 Joel Goldstein - **Bristol**

6 Bart Hommels - **Cambridge**

7 Stephan Eisenhardt - **Edinburgh**

8 Kenneth Wraight - **Glasgow**

9 Alex Tapper, Andrew Rose - **Imperial**

10 Eva Vilella Figueras, Jon Taylor - **Liverpool**

11 Alexander Oh, Francisca Muñoz Sanchez - **Manchester**

12 Daniel Hynds, Daniel Weatherill, Daniela Bortoletto, Weida Zhang - **Oxford**

13 Peter Hobson - **QMUL**

14 Giulio Villani, Jens Dopke, Nick Owen - **RAL**

15 Andreas Korn - **UCL**

16 Apologies:

17 Laura Gonella, Phil Allport - **Birmingham**

18 David Cussans, Jaap Velthuis - **Bristol**

19 Georg Viehhauser - **Oxford**

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21 Agenda and slides at <https://indico.cern.ch/event/1259284/>

22 1 Introduction

23 • A short presentation by D. Hynds served as introduction and as a discussion
24 prompt. Statistics on last year's lectures are presented, highlighting participation
25 and course attendance

26 • Last year 61 hours of lectures were given by 22 lecturers from 10 institutes.
27 There were 97 registered attendees from 15 institutes, with around half planning
28 to attend the full set of lectures

29 • There was a drop in participation over the course of the lectures, seemingly more
30 correlated with time than with the content/topic

31 2 Discussion

32 The discussion followed broadly the topics prompted in the slides, as follows:

33 2.1 General points

34 • There was widespread agreement that we should run the course again

35 • The question of recording the lectures was raised. There was a general feeling
36 that this will exacerbate attendance issues and remove discussion. It was the

37 preference of several lecturers not to have recordings, and so it is agreed to
38 continue with only live lectures

- 39 • On the topic of non-UK participants, there was strong agreement to open up
40 the courses to outside of the UK. The steering committee and timeslots etc.
41 should still be chosen to suit UK needs, and preference was expressed that the
42 lecturers should remain UK-based (unless particular skills are lacking and need
43 to be brought in).
- 44 • Daniel specifically raises the TCAD lectures; Nick says that this should not be
45 an issue given Europractice's international operations. There may be issues with
46 certain nationalities; to be followed up offline

47 2.2 Format

- 48 • The issue of attendance drop is raised. In the feedback forms, roughly half
49 of respondents voted for the same course layout (2 times 4 hours a week),
50 while roughly half wanted fewer lectures per week over more weeks. There were
51 arguments that we should continue another year with the current format before
52 changing it, and also that the fall-off in participation was strongly correlated with
53 time and we shouldn't extend over more weeks. It is decided to keep the format
54 unchanged
- 55 • There were suggestions about having themes on a rotation to improve participa-
56 tion. Generally people were against this, as this represents the knowledge that
57 most of us would like our students to have at the beginning of their studies and
58 we would not like them to have to wait a year or two depending on the cycle. It is
59 added that the breadth of the lectures is one of the strengths of the programme
- 60 • It is suggested that we could run the course in two semester blocks, to max-
61 imise participation. This has quite some merit, but is considered a little late for
62 this year's course. Last year, availability of lecturers due to the undergraduate
63 teaching load meant that the course could not begin before Easter; the course
64 then finished in June. Pushing this back would mean overlap with summer travel
65 plans, and so it is not necessarily obvious how we could do this in two semester
66 blocks

67 2.3 Extension of the programme

- 68 • It is proposed that there could be problem sheets and tutorial slots in the future,
69 but this might be too much to ask for this year
- 70 • There is strong agreement that a hands-on in-person school at the end of the
71 lectures would be good, if funding can be found (see below). It is commented
72 that this is also needed to build up the community, and allow students to know
73 the rest of those working in the field in the UK

74 2.4 Inclusion in a UK-wide instrumentation bid

- 75 • There are ongoing discussions on a UK-wide instrumentation bid to STFC cov-
76 ering different detector technologies. The silicon community met in Birmingham

77 in September last year, and there was a recent high-level meeting at RAL to dis-
78 cuss this. The whole process would follow closely the establishment of Detector
79 R&D collaborations in Europe at the moment (DRDs), and it is proposed that
80 in a UK bid training should be firmly embedded

- 81 • Areas which could be in a UK bid include:
 - 82 – support for this programme (and extensions to other detector technologies,
83 if those communities want to join/merge forces)
 - 84 – a hands-on in-person school following the content of the lectures
 - 85 – n-day in-person training courses on specialised subjects, spread through
86 institutes across the UK
- 87 • There was strong support for a decentralised training scheme, where institutes
88 could host people on subjects where they hold expertise. This would have the
89 added advantage of bringing the community together and getting to know other
90 the personnel and facilities across the UK
- 91 • There were some questions on in-person teaching this year, but given the lack
92 of a budget it is considered unlikely that this can be arranged

93 3 Next steps

94 The steering committee will aim to meet in the coming weeks and prepare the pro-
95 gramme for this year. Many lecturers have already confirmed willingness to repeat
96 their lectures; once we have the schedule confirmed we should start to distribute this
97 across relevant mailing lists.