

Foreword

This proceedings issue of Nuclear Physics B contains the papers presented at the 7th International Conference on Hyperons, Charm and Beauty Hadrons, BEACH, which was held from 2nd to 8th July 2006 at Lancaster University, UK. This was the seventh in a series of Particle Physics conferences that started in 1995 in Strasbourg, France, followed by Montreal (1996), Genoa (1998), Valencia (2000), Vancouver (2002) and Chicago (2004). Traditionally the conference is devoted to the Heavy Flavour hadrons and hyperons both in production and in decays. A balance between theoretical and experimental talks is pursued. The scientific policy covers a broad range of physics topics and all members of the high-energy community, from graduate students to senior researchers, participate in the Conferences by making a presentation, attending the sessions, and exchanging ideas with colleagues.

The BEACH conference this year included beauty and charm as well as the strange sector, with a goal of mapping new achievements in flavour physics within the last two years. The special emphasis was on the results from the Tevatron and B-factories. These allowed tests of unprecedented precision of the Standard Model predictions in both the weak and strong sectors of Heavy Flavour physics. They have also opened new perspectives for Flavour research in both the discovery and exploration of physics beyond the Standard Model.

A substantial part of the presentations were devoted to the LHC scientific programme and to demonstrations of the technical preparedness of LHC experiments. Complementing the beauty programme at the LHC, new experiments, dedicated to studies of strange hadrons, were presented. A special scientific session was devoted to future perspectives for flavour physics, such as the long term LHC flavour programme and considered potential detector and luminosity upgrades. Several presentations were given about the possibilities for new dedicated facilities for beauty and strange measurements. The full agenda of the conference as well as the presentations are available at the URL address: <http://indico.cern.ch/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=a056809>

Lancaster benefits from being within 30 miles of one of Britain's most beautiful regions - the Lake District National Park, and so, on Thursday, an excursion was arranged. The first stop on the itinerary was to Sizergh Castle, a mediaeval castle set in extensive gardens. The weather was excellent and allowed delegates to enjoy a relaxing stroll through the house and grounds, and a traditional English "afternoon tea" in the tea-rooms.

Following this, delegates enjoyed a coach excursion through the southern Lake District, providing stunning views of the fells and lakes, and of Morecambe Bay. The excursion ended at the Low Wood Hotel on the banks of Windermere, where the Conference Dinner was held; aided by excellent food and wine and convivial company, lively conversations on physics flourished.

The success of the Conference was evident and we can announce that BEACH-2008 will take place in Columbia, hosted by University of South Carolina.

Guest Editors:

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Maria Smizanska

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