

British Liquid Crystal Society

Minutes of the BLCS Committee Meeting
17th March 2008, University of East Anglia

1. Present:

Corrie Imrie (Chair), Martin Bates (Secretary), Avtar Matharu (Treasurer), Andrew Cammidge, Georg Mehl, Goran Ungar, Chris Newton, Tim Wilkinson, Peter Raynes.

Apologies: Helen Gleeson (Vice-Chair), Stephen Cowling, Susanne Klein.

2. Retirements

HG was thanked for her four years service as Chair/Vice-Chair. AC, GM, GU and SC have completed their current terms as ordinary members and were also thanked.

3. Report on BLCS Conference 2007 Sheffield

Goran Ungar reported that 110 delegates attended the BLCS 2007 meeting in Sheffield. A profit of £1645.18 has been returned.

4. Report on Winter Workshop 2007 Hull

Mike Hird reported that a total of 37 delegates, including 2 industrial, attended the Winter Workshop in Hull. MAB to write to MH to thank him for his effort and the continual success of this workshop and encourage him to request further funds from EPSRC with the society's backing.

5. Nanoparticle meeting 2008 Manchester

Ingo Dierking ran a one day meeting in January 2008 which was well received. A profit in excess of £2k was made. The final return will be passed to the Society. MAB to write to ID on behalf of the committee to thank him for running this successful meeting and for donating the profits to the Society.

6. European Conference on Liquid Crystals 2011

CI will propose to the AGM that the BLCS should support one bid from the UK to host the ECLC in 2011. The BLCS meeting that year should run as usual or possibly in a slightly modified format or date, if the bid is successful. CI to ask for host cities to bid for the meeting. CI to contact Daniel Guillon about the bidding process.

7. Lectures and Awards 2007

Sturgeon Lecture – Ben Feringa

GW Gray Medal – Helmut Ringsdorf

Cyril Hilsum Medal – Sally Day

Young Scientist – No Award

8. Elections to committee and retirements

There are two nominations for Vice-Chair, one nomination for Treasurer and six nominations for ordinary members. Elections for Vice-Chair and four ordinary members will be held at the AGM.

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1. Statement from Chair

Helen Gleeson was thanked for her four years service as Chair/Vice-Chair. Andrew Cammidge, Georg Mehl, Goran Ungar and Stephen Cowling have completed their current terms as ordinary members and were also thanked. Ingo Dierking was thanked for running the successful meeting on nanoparticles in January 2008, and for donating the profit to the Society. Mike Hird was thanked for the continual success of the Winter Workshop.

2. Nominations 2009

Members were urged to think about nominations for the Society's prizes and awards, as well as nominations for committee membership, in 2009.

3. European Conference on Liquid Crystals 2011

Members agreed that the Society should back one bid from the UK to host the ECLC in 2011. Proposals to host the conference would be sought later in the year.

4. Treasurers Report

A. Matharu presented Society accounts. Cash at bank rose to £22,425.22 representing a 7.73% increase on the previous year. Student members were encouraged to apply for travel bursaries.

5. Elections to committee and retirements

Duncan Bruce was elected as Vice-Chair.
Avtar Matharu will remain as Treasurer for a further three year term.
Owen Lozman, Ingo Dierking, Sharon Jewell and Georg Mehl (2nd term) were elected as ordinary members.

6. Communications Officer

Members backed a motion that the roles of Newsletter Editor, Membership Secretary and Web Manager be formally combined in to a Communications Officer position. This will be open to nominations for the first time in 2009.

7. Newsletter

Tim Wilkinson urged members to submit articles and conference reports for the BLCS newsletter.

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Corrie Imrie (Chair), Duncan Bruce (Vice-Chair), Martin Bates (Secretary), Avtar Matharu (Treasurer), Georg Mehl, Chris Newton, Tim Wilkinson, Peter Raynes, Owen Lozman, Sharon Jewell, Ingo Dierking.

Apologies: Susanne Klein.

2. New members

New members (Duncan Bruce, Owen Lozman, Sharon Jewell, Ingo Dierking) were welcomed to the committee.

3. Planning for BLCS Conference 2009 Bristol

Chris Newton reported that, as no accommodation is available in university rooms, a preliminary booking of 60 double and 24 twin rooms has been made a Bristol Travelodge for 6-8 April 2009, about 10-15 minute walk from HP labs. These will cost £82 per head per night. HP will sponsor the meeting by providing the conference facility free of charge. CN and SK will approach the new lab manager to enquire whether HP will also be able to cover catering costs for the lunches.

Poster board hire will cost approximately £150 per six posters. CN and SK to check how many HP already own, and possibly explore other options for the poster session.

HP cannot take direct payments, so payments for delegates will be made directly to the Society, via the Treasurer.

MAB will contact Daniel Guillon to confirm dates of ECLC 2009 to ensure no clash.

CN and SK to approach further sponsors for the BLCS 2009 meeting. MAB and ID to pass on details of previous sponsors of meetings to CN.

** ECLC 2009 will be held Sunday 29 March to Friday 3 April, the week before BLCS. **

4. BLCS 2010

Carl Brown (Nottingham Trent) was approached about holding the BLCS meeting, but the problem of available accommodation at the university has been flagged. ASM to check with CB that the meeting will definitely not go ahead. Georg Mehl has offered to host the meeting at Hull. Committee has agreed to this, pending the response from CB.

** Carl Brown has responded, and has declined the meeting. George Mehl has been approached to host BLCS 2010 in Hull **

5. Winter Workshop 2008/09

This will go ahead as usual in Hull, but with a change of dates (Jan 2009) due to a shift in term times. Mike Hird will be encouraged to apply for further

funds from the EPSRC as this is the last workshop funded under the current sponsorship agreement.

** Mike Hird has now confirmed the dates as 7-9 January 2009 **

6. One day meetings

Following the success of two recent one day meetings, BLCS will sponsor a one day meeting each year. The Society will offer £500 to help keep attendance costs low, with the organisers to source further funds from other sponsors as normal. Any profit should be returned to the Society. MAB will ask for proposals for meetings at the closing remarks of BLCS 2008 and TW will email members not present. Proposals should be about one page, and key speakers should be identified.

7. European Conference on Liquid Crystals 2011

The BLCS will support one bid for the 2011 ECLC. MAB to announce a bidding process at the closing remarks of BLCS 2008 and TW will email members not present.

8. Materials Chemistry Forum

BLCS has the opportunity to send a representative to Materials Chemistry Forum. This should be someone from committee to ensure the Society's views are represented. Georg Mehl will take this role.

9. Bursaries

Mark Wilson has requested 3 £200 bursaries for students to attend an RSC discussion meeting that he is arranging. The Society will agree to these, so long as each student obtaining a bursary is a member of the Society, presents a poster on their work and writes a report for the BLCS newsletter, as for other bursaries. MAB to write to MW to confirm this.

10. Materials Chemical Forum 2010

This event is looking for interest groups to host a session at the MACRO 2010 World Polymer Congress. MAB to check dates of ILCC Krakow 2010 for the possibility of a clash. Possibilities for sessions backed by the Society to be circulated by email before a decision is made.

11. Date of next meeting

September / October 2008, York.

Martin Bates 20th March 2008.