

## **Minutes of the Steering Committee of the British Liquid Crystal Society**

**3<sup>rd</sup> April 2012**

**University of Strathclyde**

**Members Present:** Mark Wilson (Chair; MW), Ingo Dierking (Vice-chair; ID), Stephen Cowling (Secretary; SC), Carl Brown (Treasurer; CB), Flynn Castle (Communications; FC), Andrew Masters (AM), Peter Raynes (PR), Verena Gortz (VG), Vasily Oganessian (VO), Nigel Mottram, and Kirsty Holdsworth (Student; KH).

**Absent:** Robert Richardson (RR) sent his apologies for not attending the committee meeting.

The committee expressed their thanks to the outgoing members for their contributions to the society, especially Duncan Bruce (former Chair), Martin Bates (former Secretary; MB) and Tim Wilkinson (former Communications; TW), and also welcomed the new members of the committee (SC, CB, FC, AM, VG, VO and KH)

### **Actions**

- FC to arrange transfer of website access from TW
- SC to get all of the society records from MB
- SC to find a copy of the current constitution of the BLCS and distribute to the committee and FC for update on society website
- CB to coordinate with ID and Avtar Matharu for transfer of BLCS bank accounts to CB.

### **Minutes**

One of the duties of the communications officer is to publish the society newsletter. SC agreed to send an article to FC for the next newsletter. The committee discussed updating the society mailing list based on attendees at the conference and also upon the wider national liquid crystal community. An email would need to be distributed asking “do you want to be on this mailing list?”

MW raised the issue of representation on the ILCC committee as Corrie Imrie (former society chair) was on the committee and wondered whether it was more pertinent for a current committee member to represent the community. ID indicated that he is already on this committee so it was agreed that Corrie was ok to remain on the committee.

The issue of the application process for student bursaries was raised by VG. MW indicated that all of the relevant information is on the BLCS website and that the students would receive the bursary once the communications officer receives a report for the newsletter. The society aims to provide 4-5 bursaries per year but uptake is currently lower than this figure.

The issue of 1-day meetings was discussed since there have not been any for a number of years. The society has previously supported these meetings and so the committee discussed various possibilities while indicating that perhaps the society should set aside £500 to help bring in “top-class” speakers to enhance meetings.

AM indicated that he is also a member of the RSC group on Statistical Mechanics and wondered if it would be possible to arrange a joint meeting. MW indicated that the timing of the meeting would need to be considered – initially it was suggested that the meeting would need to be before the end of the year but January was the preferred date.

VO has already acquired money from EPSRC for a 1-day meeting on theoretical modeling and suggested that the society could help finance the meeting. Dates in August and September were discussed but it was indicated that September may be more suitable to avoid clashing with ILCC. ID also indicated that VO should seek additional sponsorship for the meeting (eg, Merck and Sharp). VO was asked to circulate possible dates to the committee.

MW and AM have money as part of one of their current projects to arrange a half-day meeting on Chromonics. MW indicated that they may come back to discuss this meeting with the committee at a later meeting.

AM queried if it was possible to arrange for guest speakers from abroad akin to the CCP5 model. Guest speakers would be invited where the society would pay for their air fare while the local institutions that would like the guest speaker would be responsible for local costs (eg, rail fare, hotels etc). There would be a requirement that a number of institutions would want the guest speaker. The committee indicated that the cost would need to be carefully controlled, eg, by limiting costs of flight to economy travel. PR suggested naming the scheme "BLCS distinguished visiting lecturer".

The committee agreed that this was a good idea but the number would need to be limited. An initial target to trial this idea was set at 2 visitors within the next year. MW proposed Peter Collins who is on sabbatical leave during 2013.

AM also wondered if it would be possible to arrange for specialized tutorials to be held the morning prior to BLCS annual meetings. The committee expressed concern that this was what the BLCS Winter Workshop was for but AM wanted more advanced tutorials focusing on a specific topic. No final decision was agreed but the committee agreed to consider this and think about potential ideas to take this forward.

The date of the next BLCS annual meeting is set for 25-27 April in Cambridge and it was agreed that TW would be a co-opted member of the committee while he plans and arranges the conference.

S. Cowling  
Secretary

Mark Wilson  
Chair