

## BRITISH LIQUID CRYSTAL SOCIETY

Committee Meeting

11.30pm Manchester Metropolitan University, 4<sup>th</sup> September 2003.

**Present:** John Goodby (Chair), Helen Gleeson (Secretary), Andy Cammidge, Mike Hird, Tim Wilkinson, Bill Crossland, Maureen Neal, Mikhail Osipov, Richard Miller

**Apologies:** Cliff Jones, Roy Sambles, Mary O'Neill

- **Minutes of the meeting of 8/4/03**

A correct record, apart from dates of winter workshop confirmed as 15<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> December.

- **Matters arising (not appearing as separate agenda items)**

**Web site** moves to Cambridge under TW's administration. The new site should include newsletter, constitution, minutes of AGM, committee membership & contact details of committee, annual financial report, prizes plus list of previous winners, plus links.

**Final report on Oxford Meeting:** Steve Elston has verbally informed MH that a cheque for ~£3,000 should be forthcoming, representing a welcome boost to BLCS funds.

- **Annual Winter Workshop 2003.**

15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> December 2003. Accommodation booked in the Comfort Inn in Hull City Centre @ £40 per night (40 rooms). MH will request return of forms slightly early for confirmation with hotel. Cost for PG students for 2003 will be £140 (£120 for several years previously).

- **Lectures and Awards 2003**

**Terms of Reference** for awards were circulated. It was agreed to modify Young Scientist terms of reference to include candidates normally be within 10 years of their first entering the field of liquid crystals (e.g. 1<sup>st</sup> registration for PhD) and to indicate the expectation of some independent work by candidates (new terms attached). The prize will rise to £250. This change will be reported at the AGM. Terms and conditions of the Sturgeon Lecture and Sturgeon Prize will also be checked and placed on the web (HG).

**Electronic distribution** of nomination forms. It was noted that this could improve efficiency and reduce costs. The feasibility of preparing an e-mail list is to be examined (MN) prior to proposing a change to the constitution to allow this method of distribution and to reduce the time scales for response to nomination requests from 8 to 4 weeks (HG).

- **Preliminary report on Cambridge BLCS Meeting 2003**

This was an excellent conference with approximately 120 attendees. The biggest weakness was the lack of industrial participation, perhaps because of a perception that BLCS meeting is more academic than, say, SID. This may be addressed by having a targeted session on applications in future. A profit of approximately £1,000 is anticipated. TW to send MN a list of new members. The committee records its thanks to TW and WC for their efforts in arranging this successful meeting.

- **BLCS meeting 2004, 2005 & 2006.**

2004 costings were circulated for the meeting run by MN at MMU in 2004. University accommodation is not available and hotel accommodation at the Travel Inn, with options of

single or double occupancy is proposed. This brings the total cost to £245 for staff and £180 for students and £135 and £125 for non-residents. TW will pass on web site software 2005 – Garry Lester is organising this at Exeter with Garry co-opted onto the Committee. 2006 – Avtar Matharu and Carl Brown to be asked if they would consider running this meeting at Nottingham Trent University (HFG). Another possibility is UEA

- **One-day and other meetings:**

Report on Adaptive Optics Meeting was presented by HG – a well attended half-day meeting run in conjunction with the IoP.

A telecommunications based meeting will be organised by WC with IEE during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2004 'Photonics and electronics of supramolecular materials'. Objective to bring together materials scientists & device engineers from academic and industry. Fee approx. £55 Future 1-day meetings. Richard Bushby is organising a meeting March/April on conducting liquid crystals as part of an IoP, RSC meeting. We would like the BLCS to be involved and the need to avoid clashes with other meetings was noted.

Rank Prize Meetings. HG reported on the proposal for a Rank Prize meeting to be submitted to Cyril Hilsum by October 8<sup>th</sup>). It was agreed that a suitable topic would be 'Chiral and Nonlinear Liquid Crystal Systems'.

Royal Society Discussion Meeting. A proposal has submitted for a meeting in 2004 (JG)

- **Newsletter**

8 pages ready to go, still waiting for H J Coles, GW Medal Winner background article, MN's move to MMU, AGM minutes and accounts.

- **Membership matters**

256 in total. 111 full, 29 foreign, 145 students, plus new members from the Cambridge meeting. A request from Merck for corporate membership @£25 per year for 5 years for 25 members has been agreed - a named person from the company to act as contact point. Corporate Members should be listed on the web site. Letter in accordance with data protection now goes out to all members regarding their inclusion in mailing lists.

- **Financial update.**

No significant change since last meeting. It was agreed that bursaries to aid students attending liquid crystal related meetings would be advertised on the web site. Method of application is by letter to the Chair of BLCS, details to include supervisor contact information and an abstract of the presentation at the conference. Funding is conditional on the submission of a report to the newsletter. No more than 1 bursary per group and one award during PhD. Total bursary limit is £1,000 pa, maximum of £200 per application.

- **Modelling Consortium – sub-committee of BLCS.**

Mike Hird will be interim Chair and the committee will include Nigel Mottram and Victor Huey (invited industrial rep). MH to agree with NM and VH additional membership (all must be members of BLCS) and arrange a meeting. The sub-committee must then elect their chair and arrange that a draft constitution is brought to the BLCS Committee (see section 11 in BLCS constitution). Request for Workshop to MN will be referred to the sub-Committee.

- **Retiring members – make up of future committee.**  
It was noted that significant change is due in 2004. The committee has agreed to nominate the following: MN as secretary (and membership secretary). HFG as vice chair. RM, Avtar Matharu and Garry Lester as Ordinary Members. TW agreed to act as membership secretary should MN not be reelected.
- **Any other business**  
AC reported a vehicle for meetings funded with European colleagues on supramolecular chemistry 'COST'.  
G Gray, M Schadt and W. Helfrich will be nominated for the Finnish Millennium Technology Prize.  
It was noted that success of LC community supporting each other is being emulated by others, providing strong competition. We need to continue support e.g. by nominating each other for colleges etc. offering mentoring for new academics etc, refereeing EPSRC proposals where requested to do so.
- **Date of next meeting.**  
At BLCS Annual Conference, MMU, 5<sup>th</sup> April 2004. September 2004 meeting will take up CJ on his offer of venue at Malvern.

**Actions:**

Web site to be moved (TW)  
Sturgeon Lecture & Prize Conditions to be circulated for information (HG)  
e-mail list to be looked into (MN) and if feasible, constitution change suggested (HG)  
AM and CB to be approached regarding 2006 meeting (HG)  
Date of joint meeting with IEE to be confirmed (WC)  
Rank Prize Meeting proposal to be submitted (HG)  
Article on Harry Coles to be completed (info from All)  
Wording for student bursaries placed on web (MH, HG and TW)  
Millennium Prize nomination to be submitted (JG)