

BRITISH LIQUID CRYSTAL SOCIETY

Committee Meeting
Manchester Metropolitan University, 6th April 2003

Present: John Goodby, Andrew Cammidge, Avtar Matharu, Tim Wilkinson, Martin Bates, Mike Hird, Garry Lester, Nigel Mottram, Helen Gleeson.

Apologies: Maureen Neal, Richard Miller, Cliff Jones Bill Crossland.

- **Welcome to new Committee Members** Avtar Matharu, Martin Bates, Garry Lester and Nigel Mottram. The outgoing committee members were thanked for their work on behalf of the BLCS.
- **Annual Meetings.** The 2005 meeting will take place in Exeter organised by GL. Provisional dates for the meeting are 22nd to 25th March 2005. A draft budget will be brought to the next meeting, working on a break-even number of 80 attendees. GL to approach various industrial sponsors. The 2006 meeting will be at Nottingham Trent University, organised by AM who will bring provisional dates to the next meeting. G Ungar (Sheffield) has expressed an desire to run the 2007 meeting.
- **Other meetings.**

The joint meeting with IEE (WC) will take place on April 30th 2004 in Cambridge. A 1-day meeting, joint with IoP on conducting liquid crystals, organised by Richard Bushby, took place last week. This was a good meeting and MH will write a report for the Newsletter.

Rank Prize Meeting (MN) on nonlinear and chiral liquid crystals is scheduled to take place from 29th Nov to 1st Dec. 2004.

A proposal for a Royal Society Discussion Meeting has been accepted and will take place in 2005. The main themes are biological systems and new applications (JG). A proposal for a 5+5 India/UK meeting has been submitted to the Royal Society (JG).
- **Dates of Winter Workshop 2004.** Not yet defined, but will probably be similar dates to this year.
- **Date of next meeting.** This will be held at Nottingham during the week of September 14th 2004, date to be arranged by MN and AM.
- **Any other business.**

Approach by George Jackson on behalf of the Statistical Mechanics & Thermodynamics Group (SMTG) of the Faraday Division of the RSC to explore closer links with the BLCS. They organise and support conferences.

Nominations need to be sought for the SID/BLCS Ben Sturgeon Prize. Point of contact is Cliff Jones. Maureen to circulate terms of reference and seek nominations.

EPSRC matters. The Modelling Consortium network was not successful, proposal came 4th despite excellent referees' comments. There is some concern that the liquid crystal community is being misrepresented in general, with a general feeling of the

subject being too well funded and no new science being reported from referees' comments. JWG has called Clive Hayter and he has asked to come to talk to the Committee at its next meeting.

Actions.

- GL to confirm dates and provide a draft budget for the 2005 meeting to the next Committee Meeting.
- AM to suggest provisional dates for the 2006 meeting.
- MH to write a report on the one-day meeting on Conducting Liquid Crystals for the newsletter.
- Dates of Winter Workshop to be finalised and circulated (MH)
- Date of next committee meeting to be fixed (MN and AM).
- Clive Hayter to be invited to next committee meeting (JG)
- Nominations for the Sturgeon Prize (joint with SID) to be sought (MN to circulate, CJ to act as contact point)
- Links with George Jackson to be pursued (HG)