

BRITISH LIQUID CRYSTAL SOCIETY
Committee Meeting
University of Cambridge, 7th April 2003, 12.30pm

Present: Mike Hird, Bill Crossland, Maureen Neal, Mary O'Neil, John Goodby, Andy Cammidge, Roy Sambles, Helen Gleeson.

Apologies: Richard Miller, Sally Day, Mikhail Osipov.

1. Minutes of the meeting of 12th September 2002

Correct recording of proceedings.

2. Matters arising (not appearing as separate agenda items)

Meeting for 2004 - HFG & MN to liaise – the BLCS meeting will take place at either Manchester or Coventry.

Note - The success of the ILCC should be noted as a highlight of 2002/3.

Note: The secretary was congratulated on her promotion to Professor at Manchester.

Web site (HG): Tim Wilkinson to liaise with Mark Wilson with the aim of taking over responsibility for the web site.

Final report on Oxford Meeting (RS) – A transfer to BLCS of £4,227 profit is anticipated (unconfirmed). A further transfer of membership fees of £693 (for 33 new members) will also be made. This represents a welcome boost to the accounts.

Final report on UCL Meeting (SD) – Accounts are not yet finalised but it is expected that the conference will break even.

Report on Winter Workshop 2002 (MH) – figures not yet finalised, but it is expected to show the usual few hundred pound surplus. Total of 44 attended, 6 industrial delegates, 10 non-residential, 4 'continental' attendees.

One day meeting (MO'N) – 35 people attended and the meeting will make a small profit (<£100).

3. BLCS meeting 2003

104 delegates are registered which is above the break-even point. The low numbers of industrial participants (almost none) is noted. There is a large percentage of simulation papers.

4. Lectures and Awards 2003 (RS and JG)

Sturgeon Lecture this year is by I C Khoo on photorefractive effects in LCs.

GW Gray Medal 2003: Harry Coles

Young Scientist Prize 2003: Owen Lozman (Richard Bushby's group - Leeds)

In both cases unanimously awarded. Professor Gray will award both the 2002 and 2003 GW Gray medals at the Conference dinner on 8/4/03.

5. Annual Accounts (MH)

These are detailed in the appended document produced by MH. A decline in funds is noted, caused by lack of income from meetings together with bursaries to students to attend the Edinburgh meeting (which it was felt was an excellent use of society

funds). It is anticipated that the balance should return to the usual level with income from the Oxford meeting. Given the money in bank (approx £20k), the committee felt it should consider awarding more bursaries to young members to attend meetings. The balance is now held in an interest-bearing account at 3.5%. A note was made that with JWG taking over as Chairman, 2 people from same School will be signatories on account – do we need to take measures to ensure no vulnerability?

6. Elections to the Committee and retirements (HG)

Sally Day and Cliff Jones retire. Three nominations for Ordinary Members include Tim Wilkinson, Cliff Jones and Avtar Matharu. It was noted that 2 industrialists are required on the committee. There is no strict definition of 'industrialist' and the Committee takes this to mean anyone who has direct commercial interests.

7. Newsletter (WC)

Last one was in October, next one is due that will include information on the 2 GW Gray medals, a meeting report, the opening of COMIT/Faraday, the new CMMPE (centre for molecular materials, photonics and electronics at Cambridge. Other items of interest were noted from LCToday. MO'N to produce a paragraph for one-day meeting on photoluminescence, MH to produce a short report of the Winter Workshop.

8. Membership matters (MN)

121 full members, 146 students, i.e. 267 in total – student numbers have increased. We now also have several overseas members (China, Czec Republic, Bangladesh, India etc.)

9. Any other business

No other urgent business.

Actions from this meeting.

- Various committee members to provide information for the newsletter.
- TW to liaise with Mark Wilson regarding the web site.