

BLCS Committee Meeting

University of York, 11 April 2006

Members present: Helen Gleeson (HG), John Goodby (JG), Andy Cammidge (AC), Nigel Mottram (NM), Tim Wilkinson (TW), Georg Mehl (GM), Martin Bates (MB), Steve Cowling (SC), Goran Ungar (GU)

1. **Apologies:** Maureen Neal (MN), Avtar Matharu (AM)
2. Minutes from the previous meetings (22th September 2005, 17th January 2006) were accepted.
3. **Matters Arising** – EPSRC LC proposal meeting
 1. EPSRC – documents sent by HG to Dr Wand. EPSRC agreed to have mock panel meeting for training LC panelists. AC – feels that there is sufficient existing training for panels. JG – need young people on the panels.

Action – MN – ask members about attending a mock panel. Including industrialists.

Comments on modified referees comments being reviewed in the future.

Action TW - Send list of current members to Dr Wand (not students)

2. Still no differentiation on the materials panel between large and small proposals. JG is requesting a possible theme for networks.

3. Not likely to change soon but will be reviewed.

4. MB producing a review of the Royal Society meeting, half done. JG - Importance of publicity of both Royal Soc and 5 plus 5 meetings. New facility called 'grapevine'.

No final report on Exeter meeting. It was noted that G Lester has left Exeter University and his efforts in organising the 2005 BLCS annual meeting were gratefully acknowledged.

Winter workshop – 28 delegates (21 ac, 7 ind) – surplus £193.49. EPSRC proposal in progress with M Hird to fund winter workshop.

It was also noted that G. Lester and R. Miller had both resigned their positions on the BLCS committee due to career changes away from LC materials and applications. The Committee noted their input over the years and expressed their gratitude on behalf of the Society.

4 The next BLCS annual meeting will be in Sheffield, 2007, proposed dates from GU were 26-28th March, Mon – Weds before Easter. Cost approx - £130pp + dinner. Up to 140 people.

The 2008 BLCS annual meeting will be at UEA in Norwich, AC to organise.

5. Flexoelectic LC materials meeting flyer was circulated for September. BLCS has been asked to underwrite meeting – BLCS does not normally underwrite one-day meetings. It would consider suggestions but need to know exactly what sort of figures are involved. Possible cap on the amount. No expenses would be paid for speakers. If underwritten by BLCS, then BLCS should retain some form of control.

Invitation to set up future meetings would be advertised on the BLCS website. (**Action TW**)

Report from Royal Society and UK/Indian meeting has lead to future funds of £6k for HG to organise future RS meeting. Detail yet to be decided.

6. **BLCS Prizes:**

Sturgeon Lecture – J. Lydon

BLCS decanter would be presented to several key members of the BLCS as they reach (or approach) significant birthdays/retirement. – H. Coles, W. Crossland, P Raynes, G Tiddy, J Lydon, R. Sambles, D. Dunmur

G Gray medal – H. Finkelman (medal has arrived after some drama)

C. Hilsum medal – 5 minted, For this year, HG has initially withdrawn from the decision process due to foreseen conflict of interest. HG nomination for the award would be subject to a proposal being put forward to the BLCS AGM (held on 11 April 2006) about committee members eligibility to be nominated for the BLCS prizes. This year there was more than one nomination, sub-group set up based on Secretary and Vice-Chair and Treasurer.

Y. Scientist – 2 excellent nominations, very difficult decision – X Zeng (Sheffield).

7. **Annual Accounts** – Congrats to AM for his recent nuptials. Report to be presented at AGM by HG. Accounts still in the black, £19k in the bank.

8. **Elections and retirements.**

Resignations from G Lester, R Miller and JC Jones. All are thanked for their input to the BLCS over their tenure as Committee Members.

TW – nominated to return.

Nomination for Vice Chair – Corrie Imrie

New Committee Member Nominees – Chris Newton and Suzanne Klein (both from HP Labs).

9. **Newsletter and web** – G Gray or JG to write newsletter article on Finkelman.