

Minutes of the Committee of the British Liquid Crystal Society

11.30am Nottingham Trent University, 14th September 2004

Present: John Goodby, Atvar Matharu, Helen Gleeson, Mike Hird

Apologies: Cliff Jones

1. **Minutes of the meeting of 6/4/04** were agreed as a correct record with the date amended. The Chair thanked the outgoing Secretary for her excellent work.
2. **Matters Arising** (Other than those appearing as later agenda items)
GL to be asked to circulate a draft budget for comment before the next meeting in December 2004.
The dates of the Winter Workshop have been finalised and circulated(MH).
MH has written a report on the one-day meeting on Conducting Liquid Crystals for the newsletter.
The dates of the next two committee meetings have been fixed with an additional meeting in December.
Clive Hayter could not attend the meeting but had agreed to attend the December meeting.
Nominations for the Sturgeon prize (joint with SID) were circulated, CJ to act as contact point
Following some discussion it was agreed that we write to Clive Hayter with regard to the perception of the lack of success in applications to EPSRC by the community as a basis for discussion at an additional meeting in December
3. **Annual Winter Workshop 2004** A paper was tabled by MH re the Annual Winter Workshop summarising the attendance, costs and profits from the Workshop. The cost continues to rise and the first deficit was sustained in 2003. In order to maintain the Workshop which has wide participation a proposal was made to reduce in future to one night plus two part-days to reduce cost. This will be discussed at the December meeting. The workshop this year will run from lunchtime Monday 20th December to lunchtime Wednesday 23rd December.
4. **Lectures and Awards 2004** Sturgeon Lecture: to be notified by GS. GW Gray: nomination forms to be sent out in November
Young Scientist: nomination forms to be sent out in November
It was agreed that the list of previous winners for both be added to the web pages and noted that the nomination forms on the web pages need to be updated. It was proposed that TW be asked to advertise society awards more widely to the IOP, RSC, and in appropriate Journals and HG to the EPSRC. The need for a marketing officer was raised.
5. **BLCS Meeting 2004** It was reported as a successful conference with about 100 delegates. There had been positive feedback on the science and on the organisation. A hotel was used which raised the cost for academic staff but had little effect on student costs since rooms were shared. Fewer students attended than expected. Some supervisors indicated that this was due to the costs of the international and national meetings together although the Society does offer support for the international meetings

6. **BLCS meeting 2005 (GL), 2006 (AM) & 2007** GL was requested to circulate a budget for the meeting and information re the Sturgeon lecturer before the December meeting. AM reported that the 2006 meeting will be held on the Clifton campus with halls accommodation, catering, and other facilities on site and with easy road, rail and air links. The 2007 meeting will be organised in Sheffield by Goran Ungar.
7. **One-day and other meetings** The Rank Prize mini symposium (NM and MN), Chirality and non-linearity in liquid crystals, at Grasmere from 29th November to 2nd December 2004 now has a website www.rankprize.org with details of the programme. The Royal Society Discussion meeting (DB, RS, HC and JG), The Future of liquid crystals beyond displays, will take place in 2005.
8. **Newsletter** The newsletter has been circulated and thanks were sent to TW for all his efforts. Copy is now required for the next newsletter. JG volunteered to produce a Christmas card for the committee members as part of the drive to raise awareness of the Society and its work.
9. **Membership matters** There are currently 263 members. The database is still being developed and so post will be used as well as email to contact members in 2004-05
10. **Financial update** An error was corrected in the total expenditure reported at the annual meeting which should have stated £ 22,328.77 total not £ 22,025.21. The Society remains in profit
11. **Links with STMG** were reported to still be in negotiation
12. **Any other business** The date of the next meeting is **December 15 at 11 am at Nottingham**

Actions

- AM to suggest provisional dates for the 2006 meeting
- Links with George Jackson to be pursued (HG)
- Letter to be sent to Clive Hayter (JG, MN) and he be invited to an additional meeting in December (MN)
- Length of Winter Workshop to be determined
- HG to write to Clive Hayter re recent Society lectures and awards
- TW to write to journals and learned societies re recent Society lectures and awards
- MN to provide TW with list of complete Society lectures and awards for the web page
- The need for a marketing officer to be discussed