

BRITISH LIQUID CRYSTAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the Committee meeting
Exeter University, 22 March 2005

1. **Present** H. Gleeson, M. Neal, J. Goodby, A. Matharu, M. Hird,
T. Wilkinson, A. Cammidge, W. Crossland, R. Miller, N. Mottram,
G. Lester.
Apologies C. Jones.
2. **Minutes** of the meeting of 14th September 2004 were agreed as a correct record
3. **Matters arising**
The Manchester Metropolitan Meeting produced a profit of over £2000 despite using a hotel for delegates' accommodation.
The Winter Workshop had smaller numbers attend with 20 delegates and a consequent deficit accrued. It was agreed to set up a small working group to ways forward for next year. Membership was agreed to be HG and TW plus others as determined by MH. The possible combination of COMIT and BLCS training event was discussed. The desire to maintain an altruistic approach to train students was agreed.
The Rank Prize Meeting went very well with 10 key people from Japan, USA etc plus 20 PhD students. Rank and the organisers were pleased with meeting as were the people who took part. It was reported that the student's participants want to set up a website for the presentations.
In future BLCS Committee members were encouraged to consider applying for support from Rank.
4. **BLCS meeting 2005**
A considerable number of proposed talks from students had been received.
5. **Lectures and Awards 2005**
The Sturgeon Lecture was awarded to Bill Crossland.
GW Gray Medal 2005 award was postponed for one year.
Young Scientist Prize 2005 received two strong nominations and was awarded to Sharon Jewell.
6. **Annual Accounts**
It was noted that we are awaiting a cheque for Manchester Metropolitan University for the 2004 BLCS conference and from Cambridge University for the 2003 Conference.
It was noted that membership subscriptions are down
A loss for the Winter Workshop of £852.33 was reported

A balance of £14675.19 General Fund plus £5824.99 Sturgeon Fund was reported
Only five applications for student bursaries were received and all were approved
at £200 each.

7. Elections to the Committee and retirements

Mike Hird and Bill Crossland were thanked for their work for the Society.
It was noted that we require the election of Treasurer. The election of two
ordinary members was approved

8. Membership of EPSRC Electoral College

It was determined that this would be raised at the AGM.
Letters of support for consortia from BLCS would be considered.

9. Discussion with EPSRC Programme Manager for Materials, Clive Hayter.

The basis of the discussion to take place over dinner around recent funding of
liquid crystal research with the perceived low success rate was considered.
Membership, expertise, organisation and operation of the panel were raised as
items for discussion.
The relevance of Photonics as the only 'home' for liquid crystals was raised
with Functional materials was offered as an alternative.

10. Newsletter and Web site,

The need for a Marketing Officer was reiterated
MH agreed to send students reports required for student bursaries to TW
NM agreed report to TW on the Rank prize Meeting
MN agreed to report on the Manchester Metropolitan Meeting

11. Membership matters & e-mail list

Membership was reported to be down to 164 including 48 full plus 20 corporate
numbers at Merck. It was agreed we consider approaching companies for
corporate membership and link this to bursaries for students named by them.

12. Any other business: none reported.

Actions

- Convene working Group on the Winter Workshop: MH
- Ask all members for names of contacts in industry: HG.
- Write to members asking them to rejoin: TW
- Reports for newsletter from MH(student bursaries), NM (Rank Prize), MN
(BLCS 2004).