

## **BRITISH LIQUID CRYSTAL SOCIETY**

### **Committee Meeting**

1.00 pm University of York, 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2005.

Present: Helen Gleeson, John Goodby, Martin Bates, Avtar Matharu, Steven Cowling, Andy Cammidge, Tim Wilkinson, Georg Mehl

Apologies: Gary Lester, Richard Miller, Cliff Jones, Nigel Mottram

1. Minutes of the meetings of 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2005 and 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2005 were approved for accuracy.
2. Matters arising (not appearing as separate agenda items)  
Two resignations were received from Richard Miller, QinetiQ, and Gary Lester, Exeter. Concern was raised about the lack of industrial input generally. One resignation received was from one of two industrialists. Lack of attendance at conferences by industrialists and industrial input into conference due to time constraints was discussed. The need to propose a change to the constitution to extend committee membership to any person from any relevant background at AGM was agreed. The use of the mailing list to canvass industrialists was agreed. The issue of reaching out to students who graduate was raised and it was agreed a BLCS reunited page be set up.
3. Annual Winter Workshop (WW) 2005  
M Hird has prepared a bid for EPSRC for support for the WW. The problem of overlap of celebration for P Raynes and R Sambles birthdays, in Bristol on 21 December, with the workshop was discussed. One speaker can be moved forward in the WW which alleviates the problem in a minor way. The society has not supported meetings in principle and the Chair will inform N Mottram and C Brown of this. The working party for the Winter Workshop has not yet met but will do so. A

report will be prepared for the next annual meeting at York AGM where a decision will be made on its future.

#### 4. GW Gray Medal

The award not made last year because the principles associated with the GW Gray award have changed. The original award in its terms of reference was to be for mid-career scientists, with no requirement to be awarded every year. In practice it has been awarded to distinguished scientists (with 3 FRS in list). The Committee supported the recognition of the prize as of international excellence and a consequent change of wording to 'demonstrating international excellence'. The fact that the medal need not be awarded annually should be publicised. In future the Society will request a citation of less than 300 words, supported by two people, and allow anyone to nominate. Nominations will go to the Chair of BLCS, who will circulate to all for comments. The award will be determined by a sub committee of officers with the Chair having casting vote ratified by more than 75% of the committee with nil response taken as yes. George Gray will be informed of the selection. The Committee was in favour of a new intermediate award for mid-career scientists.

#### 5. Lectures and Awards 2005

Young Scientist Prize: The committee were asked to encourage nominations and a request for nominations will be circulated by the end of October. The Sturgeon lecture will be proposed by the organisers of the next BLCS meeting which is the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### 6. Preliminary report on Exeter University Meeting 2004

The meeting ran smoothly however the organiser Gary Lester has now resigned from the University. The Committee send him our thanks and will enquire about the financial situation from Roy Sambles.

#### 7. BLCS meeting 2006 (AM), 2007 (GU) & 2008 (AC Norwich)

GU will be invited onto the committee

8. One-day and other meetings

Royal Society Discussion Meeting (JG), Frontiers in LX, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> December has an excellent programme with good speakers. Registration is free and attendees find their own accommodation and food. It will be publicised via e-mail circulation. A BLCS website link will be set up. The meeting will be followed by a Taylor and Francis meeting. Committee members were asked for any proposals for one day meetings especially with other societies: joint meeting with MC8 in 2008 (DB and JG).

9. Newsletter (TW)

Congratulations were expressed on a good newsletter. It was noted that 6 members returned when reminded with the BLCS newsletter. Each group is asked to nominate a contact for newsletter.

10. Membership Matters including industrial membership (JG, TW)

Merck has a large membership. It was agreed that the industrial rate be put on the web.

11. BLCS Mailing list

A BLCS mailing list (see <http://jiscmail.ac.uk>) was agreed that will be open to non-members, where update your own details and people can opt in. M Bates to have editorial control.

12. Financial update. Now transferred to AM as treasurer.

TW reported £700 profit from Cambridge meeting. AM reported that the society account will remain with Yorkshire Building Society and transfer to York. It was agreed that the annual membership rate be raised to £10.

13. Interactions with the EPSRC.

Notes of the meeting with CH were discussed. The Chair has contacted CH replacement Dr John Wand and will meet him to progress with regard to actions in

notes. HG wrote to CH requesting advice on how to address poor publicity in Spotlight and it was agreed that members inform Spotlight good news and be proactive. The problem of large grants going through was discussed. It was agreed that the committee lobby EPSRC to manage large and small bids differently. It was agreed that JG organise a brainstorming session at BLCS 2005.

#### 14. Repository for LC Theses within the UK

Agreed links to titles and abstract or thesis if link it is signed off by the supervisor .

#### 15. Dates of next meeting: 11th and 12th April 2006.

### **Actions**

1. Raise issue of membership interim at AGM (MN)
2. The mailing list be used to canvas industrial members or actions the Society can take to make it and annual meeting more relevant to them (TW)
3. A Graduate reunited page be added to the web site (TW)
4. Advice for Mike Hird on process for bid for EPSRC support (HG)
5. The terms of reference for the George Gray Medal to be updated and a new mid-career medal to be awarded (MN & HG)
6. Circulate Sturgeon Lecture by e-mail (JG)
7. Follow up financial situation re – Exeter 2005 BLCS meeting (HG to contact R Sambles)