

## **Minutes of the Steering Committee of the British Liquid Crystal Society**

**25<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

**University of Cambridge**

**Members Present:** Mark Wilson (Chair; MW), Stephen Cowling (Secretary; SC), Carl Brown (Treasurer; CB), Andrew Masters (AM), Robert Richardson (RR), Verena Gortz (VG), Vasily Oganessian (VO), Nigel Mottram (NM), and Kirsty Holdsworth (Student; KH).

**Absent:** Ingo Dierking (Vice-chair; ID) and Peter Raynes (PR) sent their apologies for not attending the committee meeting. Flynn Castles (Communications; FC).

### **Actions**

- VG to contact ILCS over affiliation.
- CB to address BLCS about the current status of the accounts.
- MW and SC to revise the bursary page to ensure that reports are more scientific.
- SC to download the information off the BLCS website regarding Young Scientist Prize. This is to be discussed at the meeting on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> with a view to rewording it to appeal to a wider range of candidates.
- MW lobby the society for suggestions for 1 day meetings.
- MW to ask society for suggestions for BLCS 2014/5.

### **Minutes**

CB explained that the BLCS account transfer had never taken place between Avtar Matharu and Ingo Dierking as Treasurer and also between Duncan Bruce and Mark Wilson as Chair. It was announced to the committee that CB, MW and SC would be visiting the bank with a view to sorting out the problem.

SC raised the issue of additional signatories being added to the account as a safeguard against these problems in the future. MW suggested that it should be vice-chair that is added. The committee all agreed that this was a wise idea.

The committee discussed the affiliation of the BLCS to ILCS. Recent changes to the ILCS laws make this an attractive proposition. MW revealed that Claudio Zanoni (Chair of ILCS) was at the conference and would discuss this at the AGM. There would be a £50 per year membership fee for the society to become affiliated. The committee voted in favour of affiliation and motioned for a general vote by the society at the AGM.

MW indicated that Ireland had bid for the ILCS and suggested that BLCS may offer its services to help organize the conference. It was felt that this was not an appropriate action unless BLCS were approached directly by Jagdish Vij for help.

FC had asked that the issue of BLCS fees were discussed at the committee. These fees (fixed at £10 per year) would be maintained as part of the conference fee. This figure has to be taken into account when conference budgets and returns are calculated.

Two recent bursaries were awarded for the ILCS and these reports have been produced and the bursaries paid. There was a concern that there is no real scientific content in the reports and it was suggested that MW and SC revisit the bursary page and consider a revision to ensure that future reports have some scientific content.

SC reported that there was some reticence this year for nominations for the Young Scientist Prize – the concern mainly centred on the issue of demonstrating independent work. Candidates were only being considered when they were well on the way to forging an academic career rather than promising PhD graduates. It was decided that SC get the information off the BLCS website and this will be discussed at the meeting of the new committee (26<sup>th</sup>).

There were 2 vacant positions on the steering committee and there were 2 nominations – Rachel Tuffin and Nigel Mottram. These nominations were to be presented to the society for a vote at the AGM.

At the previous BLCS committee (2012) the committee discussed some 1 day meetings that could be supported by BLCS. AM reported that the modeling meeting that was held at the Isaac Newton Institute was a complete success and ran cash neutral. VO reported that the EPR meeting had not taken place and would take place in the future. MW to lobby the society at the AGM for ideas and suggestions for 1 day meetings.

The idea of Anglo-German bilateral meetings was revisited. It was unclear how these meetings would take place (either through speaker “exchange” or by combining occasional BLCS with German Liquid Crystal Society meetings). If it was the latter there was a concern that there would be an increase in cost to the society. This was to be discussed further at the AGM.

MW revealed that Tim Slukin wanted to discuss a potential UK bid for the ELC. The committee agreed that it was a good idea for Tim to put his idea to the community at the AGM.

TW announced that everything was going to plan with the current meeting. MW announced that he would host the 2014 conference but would lobby the society for a host for 2015.

S. Cowling  
Secretary

Mark Wilson  
Chair