

Minutes of the Steering Committee of the British Liquid Crystal Society

26th March 2013

University of Cambridge

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

Absent: Ingo Dierking (Chair; ID) and Peter Raynes (PR) sent their apologies for not attending the committee meeting.

Actions

- SC to check with John Goodby about payment arrangements from Edinburgh 2002.
- MW to coordinate with Tim Slukin over the ELC bid. Once initial discussion have been carried out MW to contact SC.
- MW to discuss models for Anglo-German meetings with Helen Gleeson.
- MW to make arrangements for BLCS 2014 and to circulate the information to the committee.

Minutes

The committee welcomed RT and NM onto the committee. It was noted that MW would act as chair due to the absence of ID.

The issue of a bid for the European Liquid Crystal Conference (ELC) was discussed. The society had voted in favour of a bid at the AGM. The main question centred on the financial risks that would be required to take on the ELC. AM indicated that in organizing conferences for Thermodynamics they had only been required to pay a small deposit upfront.

SC was asked to check with the past organizers of the ILCC in Edinburgh 2002 what they were required to do.

AM indicated that Thermodynamics 2009 had used facilities at Imperial and UCL. There was a possibility that the society could approach John Seddon and George Jackson to get more information).

The committee was unaware who sat on the ELC committee to decide where conferences were to take place. MW was asked to find out from Tim Slukin.

In general the committee were keen on the idea of a bid and there was an inclination towards London as a venue (MW volunteered to discuss this further with Tim Slukin initially and then include SC)

The Anglo-German meetings had been given some degree of support at the AGM. The committee discussed potential ideas how this could be arranged. Various models and scenarios were put forward:

RR – Could we size down BLCS and morph it into ELC for 1 year?

NM – German session at the BLCS and a British session at the German LCS.

MW – Year 1 – everyone in the UK (Anglo-German)

Year 2 – normal meetings (BLCS and German LCS)

Year 3 – everyone in Germany (Anglo-German)

Year 4 – normal meetings (BLCS and German LCS)

MW was going to discuss these ideas further with Helen Gleeson who expressed some strong views on these meetings.

Next BLCS meeting would be held in Durham (MW to organize). Cost to be sorted asap and dates to be set. Tim Slukin offered Southampton as a possible venue for 2015.

The Young Scientist Prize was discussed in full as a follow up to the discussions from the committee meeting 25th March 2013. After some discussion the committee decided that the wording of the nomination call was ok and did not restrict applications.