

Minutes of the Steering Committee of the British Liquid Crystal Society

31st March 2015

Sheffield Hallam University, Cantor Building, Room 9137.

Members Present: Andrew Masters (Chair; AM), Ingo Dierking (Vice-Chair; ID), Stephen Cowling (Secretary; SC), Carl Brown (Treasurer; CB), Verena Gortz (VG), Tim Wilkinson (TW), Doug Cleaver (DC), Rachel Tuffin (RT) and Giampaolo D'Allesandro (GD).

Absent: John Goodby (JG), Flynn Castles (Communications; FC), Nigel Mottram (NM), Mike Hird (MH) and Simon Wood (SW) all send their apologies.

Actions

- TW to contact MH about device content for BLCS Winter Workshop
- AM to provide Philip Hands with an idea of number for BLCS 2016
- All to think about one day meetings
- All to think about ideas for EPSRC Grand Challenge themes

Minutes

The committee thanked ID for his efforts as Chair of the BLCS and Vasily Oganessian for his contributions to the committee. A warm welcome was extended to GD who was elected to serve on the committee. CB, SC and FC were welcomed back for a second term as Treasurer, Secretary and Communications officer respectively and VG was welcomed back for a second term on the committee.

At the AGM the society voted in favour of having a prize committee that would vote on the BLCS annual prizes and awards. SC suggested that this committee could be comprised of former BLCS Gray Medal winners but the committee decided that this was too narrow and suggested that the pool of prize committee members should be UK based and there should be representatives from a range of disciplines.

AM had asked for the BLCS Winter Workshop to be reviewed to see if it provided a full enough programme for the diverse society. TW and GD suggested that there was too much Chemistry in the workshop programme and not enough on Theory or Devices. It was suggested that TW contact MH and offer to provide some content on devices. GD wondered if it would be possible to have the Winter Workshop programme available through the BLCS website.

AM discussed the possibility of the society organizing more one day meetings. The themes discussed were one day workshops where a small fee to cover lunch and registration would be required and also higher level educational workshops (akin to the ones that are run at the ILCC). ID indicated that there was historically little response when members were asked to propose themes etc for one day meetings. AM would like the committee to try this again despite some reservations expressed by the committee. TW indicated that he is on the SID committee and there can sometimes be a difficulty in finding time for such meetings in the calendar. AM and RT suggested that the society run an Emerging Technologies workshop.

AM would like suggestions for visiting lecturers to be proposed.

Outreach was discussed and it was felt that it would be better for the BLCS to increase its outreach profile. This notion was particularly supported by DC. The possibility of using the BLCS as a central pool of resources for outreach was discussed.

The venue for BLCS 2016 was discussed with two possibilities arising: Philip Hands at Edinburgh and Stephen Morris at Oxford. Both venues would be sounded out for availability and cost before a final decision.

ID indicated that the next two BLCS conferences would be joint between the UK and Germany and the German representatives would like to have a co-chair for each meeting.

AM was concerned about the diminishing membership and wondered if it would be possible to advertise the BLCS to a wider audience.

AM had recently had discussions with the EPSRC and it was indicated that the BLCS should make suggestions to the EPSRC about what could be of interest to the LC community in the Grand Challenge calls in the future. It was indicated that suggestions should be made representing a “Holy Grail” for the subject ie, an umbrella under which themed projects would operate. AM asked that all members begin to think about possibilities.

Stephen Cowling
Secretary

Andrew Masters
Chair