

Committee meeting of the British Liquid Crystal Society

14th April 2022

Present: Nigel Mottram (Chair, NM) Susanne Klein (Vice-Chair, SK), Mamatha Nagaraj (Secretary, MN), Giampaolo D'Alessandro (Treasurer, GD), Dwaipayan Chakrabarti (DC), Philip Hands (PH), Rebecca Walker (RW), Joseph Cousins (JC).

Apologies: Timothy Spencer (Communications, TS), Garry Lester (GL), Alfonso Martinez-Felipe (AMF), Damien Gardiner (DG), Waqas Kamal (WK)

1. **Chair statement:** NM noted that actions from the last meeting are completed. Discussed about BLCS to put a statement on the website regarding Russia-Ukraine situation.
2. **Treasurer's report:** GD gave an update on the BLCS bank account and the profit and expenditure of the past financial year. Discussed about better ways to pay for the Sturgeon lecture. GD will keep a record of the expenditure under Sturgeon lecture. Considering the COVID closures and its implications on the BLCS budget, NM suggested helping future conference organisers to subsidise student fee to attend the BLCS conference.
3. **2022 BLCS annual training workshop:** DC gave an update on the upcoming 2022 BLCS annual training workshop to be held in Uni. Birmingham in June. The committee discussed future directions for the workshop in light of DC's EPSRC grant finishing in June 2022. Several aspects of future grant submission including time of submission, addressing referee comments, and industrial participation were discussed.
4. **BLCS student bursary requirements:** NM noted the confusion in wording of the current BLCS student bursary fund. The committee agreed to change the wording to make it clearer that the students should be registered at UK universities to apply for funding. The committee agreed to increase the value of the fund in line with increase in cost of attending conferences. TS will advertise these to the community and upload documents on the website.
5. **BLCS distinguished visiting lecture scheme:** NM provided a summary of recent discussions at BLCS regarding rejuvenating the BLCS distinguished visiting lecture scheme. GD will send out the wording for the scheme. The committee discussed the details such as the value of the fund and routes to advertise the scheme.
6. **Suggestions by the awards committee:** After the January 2022 round of nominations and selections for the BLCS awards, the awards committee made a couple of suggestions including reintroducing unsuccessful nominations. The steering committee discussed these suggestions in detail. MN will report to the awards committee regarding the outcomes of the steering committee discussions and implement future changes to the nomination process. NM and TS will work on having a dedicated page for oral and poster winners on the BLCS website to accommodate the requests by ECRs during the conference.
7. **Publicising BLCS society activities:** A number of ideas were discussed regarding BLCS's social media presence and presence on international platforms and routes to achieve these. NM will work with TS on software packages that will allow posting BLCS matters to wider audience. The committee agreed to have a social media coordinator on the committee and involve the student member of the committee in this. SK as the 2022 BLCS conference organiser will write

an article about the conference in liquid crystal journals. TS and NM will work on creating repositories of BLCS events photographs on the BLCS website.

8. **New members to the steering and award committees:** MN will send out a round of advert to fill the vacancies at the steering committee. As Prof David Dunmur has completed his term at the awards committee, possible replacements were discussed.
9. **2022 and 2023 BLCS conference:** SK gave a detailed report on the 2022 BLCS conference held at Bristol. The committee thanked SK for their efforts in putting a face-to-face conference together after the COVID closures. Potential bids for 2023 conference and the next steps were discussed.