

Committee meeting of the British Liquid Crystal Society

20th March 2020

Present: Susanne Klein (Chair, SK), Georg Mehl (Vice-Chair, GM), Mamatha Nagaraj (Secretary, MN), Giampaolo D'Alessandro (Treasurer, GD); Timothy Spencer (Communications, TS), Dwaipayan Chakravarthi (DC), Philip Hands (PH), Alfonso Martinez-Felipe (AMF), Damien Gardiner (DG), Rebecca Walker (RW).

Apologies: Cliff Jones (JCJ); Garry Lester (GL)

1. **Chair statement:** SK noted that actions from the last meeting are completed.
2. **2019 BLCS workshop:** DC gave a detailed update on the 2019 BLCS winter workshop and reported that the 1st BLCS workshop at Birmingham was a success. There were around 35 attendees, excluding speakers. The workshop was compact, had a great venue and received good overall response. GM added that the workshop was very well organized. DC mentioned that for the next 2021 workshop, it is likely that a late December or early January session will be arranged. The committee discussed future directions for the workshop and the possibility to invite and allow international attendees and industrial parties, and its monetary implications. GM explained that in the past years EU attendees were allowed to attend the workshop. SK suggested to include a fee for industry participation.
3. **Applications for new members of the committee:** Considering the COVID-19 circumstances it was decided that another round of advert for the positions will be sent out before the next BLCS annual conference.
4. **Treasurer's report:** GD gave an update on the BLCS bank account and the profit and expenditure of the past financial year.
5. **2020 BLCS conference:** AMF gave a detailed overview of the situation of the 2020 BLCS conference due to COVID-19. It was thought that September 2020 is a potential date to move the conference to if the situations improves and lock-down is lifted. However, it was recognised that if situations do not improve then the conference will be postponed to April 2021. It was decided that the committee will reassemble in June 2020 to evaluate the situation.
Actions: AMF & SK to make sure that the sponsors are on-board if the conference is moved to September 2020. SK to ask the student who have applied for the bursary to reapply next time as the conference will not happen in April 2020.
6. **2020 BLCS Medal winners:** Due to the unrepresented circumstances it was decided that this year's medal winners will be announced on the conference webpage and the award ceremony will be conducted at the next BLCS conference.