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## 15th International Liquid Crystal Conference, Budapest, Hungary, July 3/8 1994

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# MEETING REPORTS

## *15th International Liquid Crystal Conference, Budapest, Hungary, July 3/8 1994 – Report from Agnes Buka, Conference Secretary*

The 15th International Liquid Crystal Conference, 15th ILCC, was held in the magnificent surroundings of the Vigado Concert Hall of the Hungarian Capital during the first and hottest week of July. The conference was organized by the Liquid Crystal Group of the Research Institute for Solid State Physics, with Lajos Bata as Conference Chairman, Agnes Buka as Secretary and Nandor Eber as Treasurer. Katalin Fodor-Csorba had responsibility for the exhibitions and Janos Szabon arranged the poster sessions.

The ILCC continues to grow in size, and this year attracted 750 participants including 60 accompanying persons from 38 countries. The largest representation of 112 delegates was from Germany followed by 86 from the United Kingdom, 84 from Japan and 75 from the USA. Scientific activities were structured around eleven main topics divided between 3 parallel sessions, and included 21 Invited Talks, 89 Oral Communications, with the remaining contributions from 940 submitted abstracts being presented as Poster Communications. Five Plenary lectures were delivered as follows. " Interfaces, fluctuations and flow effects in smectic C liquid crystals" (Noel Clark), "Films of amphiphiles and their cubic structures" (J Charvolin), "Interfaces of liquid crystals" (P Pieranski), Advances in liquid crystals for applications (D Demus), and "Recent developments in molecular theories and simulations of liquid crystals" (C Zannoni). The conference proceedings will be published in *Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals*.

The importance and equal status of Poster Communications was emphasised by scheduling the poster sessions during the mornings, with lectures in the afternoons. Because of the large number of submitted abstracts, the stand-by system for poster presentations proved to be very useful. As a consequence, all accepted posters were presented, and there were only a small number of empty boards. During the Conference, the 4 Glenn Brown Awards were presented and the successful laureates delivered talks.



*Elaine Landry at work behind the ILCS desk at the 15th International Liquid Crystal Conference held in Budapest in July. Elaine from the Liquid Crystal Institute, Kent State University, Ohio, processes membership applications and looks after the Society's accounts, as a volunteer - the Society is immensely grateful to many who like Elaine work unpaid behind the scenes: without them the Society would not function.*

A new development at the 15th ILCC was a pre-conference tutorial attended by 45 students, which consisted of presentations from G W Gray, H Spiess, A Saupe, L Lam and S T Lagerwall. This was generally considered to have been very successful, and perhaps should become a permanent feature of future ILCC's.

The social programme was as entertaining and varied as the scientific sessions, and included an organ concert in the magnificent St Mattheis's church, and an excursion along the Danube, from which the splendid water-front buildings of Budapest could be viewed. The highlight of the social activities was an visit to an equestrian centre in a small village outside Budapest. Here delegates spent a surprising Hungarian evening being entertained by spectacular Magyar horseman, folk singers and dancers, with plenty of audience participation, wine and gulash.

The 1966 16th ILCC will be held at Kent State University, Ohio, USA, hosted by the Liquid Crystal Institute.

## ***Nuclear and Dielectric Relaxation in Liquid Crystals, 29/30 March 1994, Cordoba, Argentina – Report from Daniel Pusiol, IberoAmerican Liquid Crystal Society***

**This international meeting was to encourage cooperation and exchange of ideas on the dynamics of liquid crystals.**

Contributions to the conference included "nmr relaxation studies in liquid crystals using field cycling techniques" (F Noack, Stuttgart), "Dynamics of ferronematic liquid crystals" (A M Figueirido-Neto, Sao Paulo), "Use of dielectric data to interpret nmr results" (J R Grigera, La Plata) and "Spin relaxation models in nqr" (R Zaman, Cordoba).