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## Liquid Crystals

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### Editorial

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## Editorial

Since the journal *Liquid Crystals* was first published in 1986, it has grown in stature within the community of scientists working in the field. The recognition which the journal now enjoys as one of quality has been achieved through a combination of the high standards operated by the publishers Taylor & Francis Ltd and by the editors Professors G. R. Luckhurst and E. T. Samulski who began the journal and continued in office until 1992. Their dedication to the journal during that period is acknowledged by both the publishers and the new editors—the writer and Professor Noel Clark.

As a way of establishing the name of the journal, *Liquid Crystals* has in the past undertaken the publication of the Proceedings of some of the International Liquid Crystal Conferences which occur every 2 years. This does incur penalties however, for proceedings must be published as additional issues, since the normal journal has had a fixed allocation of pages each year to meet the demand of high quality papers. As happened with the Pisa Proceedings, more acceptable, fully refereed papers may become available than can be accommodated in the pages allocated to the Proceedings. These then have to go in the normal journal and so consume the limited page allocation. The consequence has been the generation of a queue of accepted papers waiting to appear, i.e. unacceptable delay times between acceptance and appearance in print. The editors, editorial board members, the publishers, and obviously the authors themselves have viewed this unsatisfactory, developing situation with great concern.

Consequently, the following actions, presented to and agreed by the editorial board at the meeting in Budapest, have been set in place. First, the journal will no longer undertake to publish conference proceedings as part of its normal volume sequence. The journal is now established and internationally recognized. Secondly, the need for an extended annual page allocation to improve publication time is obvious. Beginning with volume 18, the journal's format will be changed to American A4 to allow greater flexibility of illustrative material and a 26 per cent increase in the number of printed pages (over 500 more each year).

This will result in a much improved lead time to publication and will be supported by editorial action to ensure refereeing that will result in acceptance only of papers of quality representing significant advances in the fundamental understanding and the applied science of liquid crystals.

It is hoped that these decisions and their consequences will result in you, our readers, being better satisfied over speed of publication, while maintaining justifiable pride in the journal which publishes your work.

GEORGE GRAY