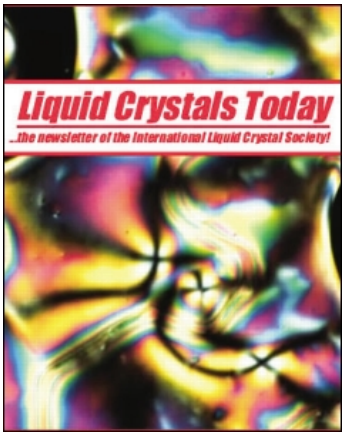

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Table Discussions organized and chaired by A. Strigazzi, F. M. Leslie, and E. G. Virga. Plenty of time was allowed also for informal discussion. Twenty-two participants attended the Workshop.

S. Faetti (Pisa) and G. Barbero (Torino) gave an overview from different perspectives of some new theories which describe the surface properties of nematics. P. Galatola (Torino) presented a molecular model to illustrate the effect of surfaces in inducing distortions in the bulk nematics. Within the Round Table Discussion on Surfaces P. Ponti (Torino) talked about the orienting effect of Langmuir-Blodgett multilayers and C. Papenfuss (Berlin) talked about films and phase boundaries within a continuum theory of two-dimensional liquid crystals. P. Schiller (Halle) described some instabilities in hexatic liquid crystals with tilted molecules. T. Carlsson (Göteborg) reviewed some recent work on the continuum modelling of flows, both in smectics A and C. G. Capriz (Pisa) talked about permeation in smectics, suggesting connections with diverse phenomena such as granular continua and avalanches. A. Strigazzi (Torino) proposed a simple model to explain the transitions observed in hexyl-cyclohexane-carboxylic acid when both the dimer concentration and the twist anchoring vary. G. Blake and G. McKay (both from Strathclyde) presented different models to account for the compressibility of layers in smectic Cs. The former was concerned with the most general form of the free energy allowing also for moderate changes in the tilt angle independent from the layer thickness, while the latter put forward a special energy and attempted to solve a specific equilibrium problem, under the assumption that the tilt angle and the layer thickness are related to one another. F. M. Leslie (Strathclyde) put in the same perspective on both the flow alignment phenomena expected to be exhibited by biaxial nematics and those long known for uniaxial nematics. P. Biscari (Milano) proposed a continuum theory for a class of elastomers. W. Muschik (Berlin) applied his mesoscopic theory of liquid crystals to biaxial molecules. R. Rosso (Milano) explored the biaxial structure of hedgehogs, showing in particular how these defects could be metastable against biaxial perturbations. S. Stallinga (Nijmegen) proposed a unified elastic theory for liquid crystals, which applies to smectics and canonics, as well as to biaxials. G. Guidone Peroli (Pisa) presented a model which tells when point defects in a capillary tube are attracted by the meniscus and when they tend to coalesce. A. Sonnet (Berlin) analysed some twisted director configurations by use of an appropriate twist tensor. E. G. Virga (Napoli) employed a geometric construction, much reminiscent of Wulff's, to find the equilibrium confocal textures of a smectic A confined between two parallel plates. G. Galatola showed another extension of Wulff's construction, which had proved useful in the study of two-dimensional domains formed in monolayers. A de Meyere (Gent) illustrated a direct minimization of energy functionals for ferroelectric smectics. Finally, P Teixeira (Amsterdam), who closed the Meeting, presented a cell dynamics model to describe the formation of liquid crystals in polymer-dispersed phases.