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Liquid Crystals Today

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SOCIETY NEWS

The affairs of the Society are discussed by the Board of Directors at meetings held during the International Liquid Crystal Conferences. To keep members informed of decisions taken, we publish below extracts from the Minutes of Officers and Board Directors Meetings held on Tuesday 25 June and Thursday 27 June 1996, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio. Copies of the full minutes can be obtained by members from the Secretary, Giancarlo Galli, by sending a stamped return envelope.

General Meeting Agenda

The agenda for the General Meeting was briefly discussed and would include:

(i) President's report concentrating on a proposal to establish a prize for senior liquid crystal researchers, as dealt with in a later Agenda issue (Minute 13), activities undertaken on defining of nomenclature for liquid crystals, as detailed in a separate Agenda item (Minute 18), and a farewell message on his retirement.

(ii) Treasurer's report on the balance in hand. The level of funds, as of 31 December 1995, stood at approximately \$37 000. It was felt that, due to the very positive budget, there should be plans for using part of the treasury to a greater benefit of the membership. However, the commitment to organizers of the next two ILCC to share both profits and losses needs to be remembered.

(iii) Secretary's report centred on the results of the elections of the new President and Vice-President – details of this appear as a separate Agenda item (Minute 5).

(iv) Membership Secretary's report consisting of a breakdown of current members and their countries. An audit at the beginning of June 1996 showed that there were 745 paid memberships from 42 countries. It was noted that membership in Japan appears to be low in comparison with the tremendous activities in liquid crystals in that country, and it was suggested that the Board should make a major effort to increase the membership in Japan, as well as elsewhere.

(v) Editor's report focused on the agreement which had been reached

between the Society and the publishers, Taylor & Francis, to produce *Liquid Crystals Today*. This agreement calls for both partners to make the Society's newsletter more successful and how this can best be achieved now needs to be considered (see Minute 12).

Elections of President and Vice President

These have been reported in *Liquid Crystals Today* 6.3.

Voting Rights of Members

The President informed the Board that, concomitant to the Presidential elections, it was realized that the current grades of membership of the ILCS should be revised.

The present grades are: student member, associate member, member, sustaining member and affiliated Society member. All members in good standing (except that student, associate, sustaining and affiliated Society members) may vote. A suggestion was made to enlarge the franchise to other members, and it was agreed that student members can vote and the Executive Committee will make a recommendation on membership as part of the review of the Bylaws agreed in Minute 3.

Questions were also raised about the voting rights of affiliated Society members and the need for reviewing the membership fee for individual members from economically distressed countries. This was discussed in a later item of the Agenda (Minute 19).

Board Membership

The President recalled that the Board of Directors consists, along with the Officers, of Regional representatives and representatives of National liquid crystal societies. While the Regional representatives are appointed by the Board to represent geographical areas of significant liquid crystal activity, the National representatives are appointed by the respective National Societies that are affiliated to the ILCS. They serve biennially and for a maximum of two consecutive terms.

Glenn Brown Awards

S.T. Lagerwall reported that 16 proposals

for the Glenn Brown Award had been received, with only one having been sent in by the original deadline of 15 February 1996, which was therefore delayed by one month. Evidently the announcements and calls for nominations are insufficiently read and the Awards Committee should develop a more efficient information policy. The theses submitted were broadly divided into four subject areas: (i) chemistry, (ii) chemistry/physics, (iii) pure physics and (iv) applied physics. In all cases, the quality of the work done was excellent, which made it difficult to come to a final selection. As a tradition, the selected laureates will present their thesis works in talks in a special session at this ILCC.

Liquid Crystals Today

D.A. Dunmur, Editor, informed the Board that there had been a proposal from Taylor & Francis Ltd. to circulate the Society's newsletter, *Liquid Crystals Today*, with the journal *Liquid Crystals*. This would have the advantage of spreading the availability of the Newsletter to many more libraries, that would be asked to keep it on display and archive it. All of the Directors approved.

D.A. Dunmur also reminded the Board that the agreement between the Society and Taylor & Francis included an aim to increase the impact and success of *Liquid Crystals Today*. To this end, the development and expansion of the Newsletter would certainly encourage librarians to display and archive the Newsletter. The view of the majority of the Directors was to keep the present format of *Liquid Crystals Today* and to find other financial sources, and it was agreed that D.A. Dunmur will explore the consequences of this decision with Taylor & Francis and will report on this to the Board for a final decision.

Other awards and prizes

G.R. Luckhurst raised the question of establishing a new prize, with or without a name associated with it, for distinguished, senior researchers in liquid crystal science and technology. R.Y. Dong made a motion for a vote for an award with a name associated with it. This was approved and it was agreed that the

Honours and Awards Committee will propose a framework for the new award and will circulate it to the Board Directors for approval.

ILCC 1998 and ILCC 2000

D. Guillon illustrated the progress of the organization of the 17th ILCC. This will be held in Strasbourg (France), July 1998, with A. Skoulios as the Chairman and D. Guillon as the Secretary of the Organizing Committee. An International Advisory Board and a Scientific Committee had already been set, and the Organizing Committee will consist of permanent staff from various groups in Strasbourg. According to the French governmental regulations, the official languages of the conference will be French and English, all contributed papers being presented in English. D. Guillon requested a loan of some money from the ILCS to meet the initial expenses in the organization of the 17th ILCC. The Board agreed to lend up to \$5000 as call-down facility that would be reimbursed at the end of the ILCC in Strasbourg.

S. Kobayashi outlined a tentative scheme for the organization of the 18th ILCC. This

will be held in Sendai (Japan), July 2000, with K. Okano as the Chairman and H. Toriumi as the Secretary of the Organizing Committee.

IUPAC Report on Liquid Crystal Nomenclature

G.R. Luckhurst reminded the Board that the IUPAC Macromolecular Division Commission had established a Working Group responsible for producing a report on nomenclature and notation for liquid crystals. The Working Group had indeed prepared a Report entitled 'Definitions of the basic terms relating to low molar mass and polymeric liquid crystals'. While the report had many merits, it was felt that revision would be required to make it generally acceptable to the liquid crystal community. To this end, G.R. Luckhurst had persuaded the IUPAC representatives to enlarge the Working Group to include specifically members of the ILCS with special knowledge. These new members are S. Chandrasekhar, D. Demus, J.W. Goodby, G.W. Gray, S.T. Lagerwall, O. Lavrentovich, G.R. Luckhurst and M. Schadt. It is expected that the enlarged

Working Group will produce a revised report by the end of October 1996.

Membership Fees

The question of an increase in the membership fee was discussed and it was unanimously agreed that the present fee of \$25 per year should not be increased, as it had been previously increased in Budapest, 1994.

The problem of the level of membership dues for soft currency countries was also raised, and it was realized that the amount of affiliation fees could vary significantly for different countries. It was agreed that the Executive Committee will look at the level for different countries and will outline guidelines for establishing fees for countries with hard currency problems.

V. Titov stressed that a \$5 membership fee would be acceptable for an increasing number of individual members in Russia and would enable many more researchers in that country to join the Society in the near future. It was agreed that the final decision about this will be left to the Executive Committee.

3rd Mediterranean Workshop and Topical Meeting Novel Optical Materials and Applications (NOMA)

8-13 June 1997, Cetraro, Italy

Scope

The focus of the 3rd NOMA is on novel materials that possess unique characteristics for applications in nonlinear optics, integrated optics, electro-optics, optical storage and information processing. Materials of interest include semiconductors, polymers, liquid crystals, composite materials, photorefractive and electro-optical crystals.

The Meeting will provide a forum for tutorials on the fundamentals of these materials and their role in actual optical devices and oral/poster presentations of new research results and developments. Participants will have ample time to learn of new materials and optical system applications, and involve themselves in ideas exchange and discussion.

Venue

NOMA will be held in the five-star 'Grand Hotel San Michele' at Cetraro, a small town on the coast of Southern Italy. The hotel possesses modern meeting facilities, private Mediterranean beach for swimming and outdoor dining, golf course, vineyard and cellar, swimming pool, tennis court, bars and restaurants with complete meals services. For registered participants, and their accompanying persons, the hotel offers a reduced rate per

person of Lit.115 000 (US\$75) per day that includes full board (room + breakfast, lunch, dinner) and use of conference facilities.

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