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Summary of the Minutes of Officers and Board Directors Meetings held on Tuesday 21 July and Thursday 23 July 1998, Strasbourg

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Society NEWS

Message from the President, Professor Atsuo Fukuda

Liquid crystal research has grown in recent years to become an exciting interdisciplinary field with important practical applications; and at the same time the inter-national liquid crystal community has also grown. Accordingly, the need for the biennial *International Liquid Crystal Conferences* (ILCCs) increases in importance. It provides a forum, promoting greater interaction between basic and applied research. Almost 1000 scientists and engineers attended the latest 17th ILCC (Strasbourg, 19–24 July 1998), exchanging scientific ideas and technological advances in every aspect of liquid crystals. We are thankful to Antoine Skoulios (Chairman), Daniel Guillon (Secretary), and all of the organizing committee members for preparing the successful conference.

The International Liquid Crystal Society (ILCS) replaced the Planning and Steering Committee (PSC) for ILCCs in 1990. Consequently, one of the major functions is to sponsor ILCCs. The Board of Directors has already decided that the next 18th ILCC 2000 will take place in Sendai, Japan. You will

see 'Invitation for Bids to Host the 19th ILCC 2002' in Society News of the ILCS home page at <http://alcom.kent.edu/ILCS>. ILCS members can usually attend ILCCs with reduced registration fees: in ILCC 98 Strasbourg, for example, the members saved FF200.00, much more than the annual ILCS membership fee, USD 25.00. If your colleagues do not hold membership in ILCS, would you encourage them to join the society? Just visit the above ILCS home page, complete the membership form, and send it electronically.

The members are supporting many other desirable and worthy ILCS activities. Some recent examples are:

- 1 New affiliations of National Societies – ROC Taiwan LCS, Japanese LCS, and German LCS were affiliated to ILCS.
- 2 Honours and Awards Committee – The first Honoured Members were installed, and the G. H. Brown Prizes, and the IOG Multimedia Prize were awarded.
- 3 Publication of *Liquid Crystals Today* as hard copy will cease, and be replaced by an electronic version.

Details are described in the Minutes of the Officers and Board of Directors Meeting held on Tuesday 21 July and Thursday 23 July 1998 during ILCC 98 Strasbourg. As before, the Minutes are summarized in *Liquid Crystals Today* and a copy are obtained from the ILCS Secretary by sending a stamped return envelope. From now on, if you ask one of the Board Members, he or she will be able to download the Minutes from the ILCS archiving web site.

During the Meetings we were forced to find a replacement for the Secretary, Professor Giancarlo Galli, and the Conference Chairman, Professor Hans-Rainer Trebin. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to them. The new Secretary is Professor Daniel Guillon from France, and the new Conference Chairman is Professor John Bechhoffer from Canada. The full list of new Board Members has appeared in *Liquid Crystals Today*, volume 8, 3.

Society NEWS

Summary of the Minutes of Officers and Board Directors Meetings held on Tuesday 21 July and Thursday 23 July 1998, Strasbourg

GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

The agenda for the General Meeting of the Society to be held on Thursday July 23, 1998 was discussed and agreed as follows:

- (i) President's Report – This is reproduced above.
- (ii) Treasurer's Report – Details were given of the present financial state of the Society; the latest balance sheet is reproduced below.

Balance 1 January 1997	46002.56
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EXPENSES

Filing fee (Ohio)	50.00	
Banking expenses	198.20	
Office expenses	949.98	
World Wide Web	921.85	
17th ILCC	5000.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES		7120.03

INCOME

Member dues	9536.00	
Interest on savings	1168.70	
TOTAL INCOME		10704.70

Balance 31 December 1997	49587.23
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Checking	8197.17	
Savings	41365.06	
Petty cash	25.00	
TOTAL		49587.23

- (iii) Secretary's Report—The results of the election procedures for President and Vice-President were reported in the last issue of *Liquid Crystals Today*, Vol. 8, No. 3. Other matters reported concerned the affiliation of both the Japanese Liquid Crystal Society and the Liquid Crystal Society of Germany.
- (iv) Membership Secretary's Report—The current membership was 935 from 47 countries, which shows an increase from the previous audit in June 1996, when there were 745 members from 42 countries. Membership applications and renewal are available through the Internet on the ILCS web-site developed by Dr T. Kosa and M. Kosa, from the Liquid Crystal Institute, Kent State University, Ohio, USA. The daily help of Mrs E. Landry and Ms B. Buck (Kent, USA) in keeping and correcting the membership list is acknowledged.
- (v) Ceremony of introducing Honoured Members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Honours and Awards Committee

Glenn H. Brown Awards

Committee Chair, Pat Cladis informed the Meeting that 20 nominations of very high quality had been received for the G. H. Brown Awards, and in the circumstances, the Honours and Awards Committee had decided this year to give the G. H. Brown awards to four young scientists. The Board of Directors discussed the desirability of restricting the number of awards, and the normal expectation will be two awards for each two-year period.

Honoured Members

The new award of Honoured Member Status of the ILCS had already been discussed and approved by the Board of Directors. P. Palffy-Muhoray moved that conference fees for the ILCC should be waived for the Honoured Members; and this was unanimously approved. This year four Honoured Members would be appointed: Professor S.Chandrasekhar, Professor P.G.de Gennes, Professor G.W.Gray and Professor A.Saupe.

IOG Multimedia Award

This new award had been established by IOG, Inc., to recognize the best Web site devoted to liquid crystals research and applications. The prize consists of US\$500.00 and a free copy of the CD ROM 'Liquid Crystals Interactive' published by IOG, Inc. The Committee considered 3 applications, and the award was made to Dr Muller (Dr. Heppke's group, Germany) for his home page describing recent advances in the research of liquid crystals with banana-shaped molecules.

Publications Committee

The Editor, D. A. Dunmur presented a report to the Board on the current status of the Newsletter *Liquid Crystals Today*, with a recommendation that the publication should be published in electronic format from a date to be decided. Details of recommendations have already appeared in *Liquid Crystals Today*, Vol. 8, No. 3. The substantial support to the Society from Taylor & Francis, publishers of the *Liquid Crystals Today*, was recognized and greatly appreciated by the Board of

Directors. Plans to recruit a new Editor and Assistant Editor for the electronic version of *Liquid Crystals Today* were approved by the Board of Directors.

Conference Committee

The next ILC Conference will be held at Sendai, Japan. There have been no bids for the future ILC conferences.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS FOR 1998–2000

The full list of new Officers and Board Members was published in *Liquid Crystals Today* Vol. 8, No. 3, with the following amendments. Professor Noel Clark (University of Colorado at Boulder) will replace Professor C. Rosenblatt as a US representative. Professor H.-G. Kuball was elected as a regional representative for Germany, not as a delegate for the German Liquid Crystal Society.

AFFILIATION OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Since the last Meeting of the Board of Directors, the affiliation of the ROC Taiwan Liquid Crystal Society and the The Japanese LCS has already been approved (see ILCS web-site ILCS-BD@CPIP.KENT.EDU).

The affiliation of the newly founded German Liquid Crystal Society (GLCS) was approved. The GLCS will soon nominate its representative for the Board of Directors, but for a transitional period of two years there will be three representatives from Germany. This number will be reduced to a maximum of two at the next elections.

FUTURE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

18th ILCC 2000

S. Kobayashi and T. Uchida were invited to give an update on the next ILCC to be held at the Sendai International Center, Sendai, Japan, 24–28 July 1998. The Organizing Committee consists of K. Okano (Honorary Chair), S. Kobayashi (Conference Chair), T. Uchida (Executive Chair), H. Yokoyama (Program Chair), N. Koide (Treasurer), H. Toriumi (Secretary), T. Ikeda (Publishing) and S. Naemura (Publicity). The International Advisory Board and the Scientific Committee have already been established, and the first circular will be sent early in February 1999. Current information will be available on the web-site of the Conference: <http://wwwsoc.nacsis.ac.jp/jlcs/ILCC2000>

Invitations to bid for Future ILCC

The board decided that the bids from institutions interested in hosting the 19th International Liquid Crystal Conference, to be held Summer 2002, are now invited. Interested parties should send a letter of intent to or request information from John Bechhoefer, Conference Committee Chair (johnb@sfu.ca). by 1 December 1998; full proposals will be due early in 1999.

ILCS RESOURCES

The President drew attention to the current resources of the Society, and invited discussion of possible ways

in which these resources could be used for the benefit of the Society membership. Various proposals were discussed, and it was agreed that limited support could be provided for the development of the electronic Liquid Crystals Today, and the ILCS web-site, with archive facilities now available for the Board members. The question of sending someone to perform office tasks for the Society to the next International Liquid Crystal Conferences was discussed. No satisfactory answer was found to the problem, and it was decided to continue the discussion by email. A majority of the Board agreed that support could be provided for an administrative assistant for the ILCS to attend the next international conference. The board agreed to implement the procedure to pay membership fees online via the web site of the Society.

BYLAWS REVIEW

Since the establishment of the Bylaws of the Society, a certain number of regulations have been approved in the last years by the Board of Directors: the Membership Secretary is an Officer that was introduced at the Board of Directors Meeting in Pisa 1992 (23 June, Tuesday, Minute 4). A new grade of Honoured Membership was established at the Board of Directors meeting in Budapest 1994 (7 July, Thursday, minute 19). The Board of Directors Meeting in Kent 1996 (25 June, Tuesday, minute 6) agreed that student members can vote, and the present Board of Directors approved the proposal to extend the term of the President and Vice-President to four years (instead of two years originally). The present Vice-President, J. W. Goodby agreed to take responsibility for the review and modifications of the ILCS Bylaws.

The 17th International Liquid Crystal Conference was held in Strasbourg, France from 19–24 July 1998. It was organized by all colleagues in Strasbourg involved in liquid crystal research with Antoine Skoulios as Conference Chairman, Daniel Guillon as Secretary, Stephane Méry and Paul Masson as Treasurers. This year, the ILCC attracted 897 participants, including 52 accompanying persons, from 38 countries. The largest representation of 130 delegates was from Japan, followed by 118 from Germany, 115 from France, 94 from the UK and 77 from the USA. The scientific activities were structured around 10 main topics divided between 3 parallel sessions and 841 posters. The scientific report which follows has been written by Professor G. W. Gray and contains most of the highlights which were indicated to him by different experts on each of the conference topics.

During the time of the Conference, several awards were made.

The International Liquid Crystal Society distributed four Glenn Brown Awards to young scientists for outstanding work during their PhD research. The recipients were **Dr Martin Bates** (Computer Simulation: An Aid to the Experimentalist), **Dr Eileen Korenic** (Colorimetry of Cholesteric Liquid Crystals), **Dr K. Miyachi** (Molecular Rotational Motion about its Long Axis and Antiferroelectricity in Liquid Crystals) and **Dr E. A. Soto Bustamente** (Achiral Antiferroelectricity in Liquid Crystalline Materials. A New Approach)

The IOG Multimedia Award established by IOG Inc. to recognize the best Web site devoted to liquid crystals was attributed to

MEETING REPORT

on the 17th International Liquid Crystal Conference 19–24 July 1998, Palais des Congres, Strasbourg

Report by
**Antoine Skoulios
and Daniel Guillon**

Dr Müller (Dr Heppke's group, Germany) for his home page describing recent advances in the research on liquid crystal materials with banana-shaped molecules.

The best poster prize established by Wiley-VCH Publishing was attributed to the poster 'Study of XB2 phase of banana-shaped molecules by dynamic light scattering' (by A. Rastegar, Th. Rasing, I. Musevic, S. Rauch and G. Heppke).

The ILCC98 was noteworthy as the occasion of the first induction of Honoured Members of the International Liquid Crystal Society. This new award recognizes outstanding contributions to liquid crystal science. The first scientists to be honoured were Professor S. Chandrasekhar, Professor P.-G. de Gennes, Professor G. W. Gray and Professor A. Saupe. Three of the new Honoured Members attended the ILCC98, and were presented with certificates at a ceremony during the Conference.

ILCC98-Scientific Review by George Gray

An important aspect of the Strasbourg Conference was the excellent ambience of the Conference Centre. There we had an abundance of circulation space, the posters were not crowded together, enabling ready access, viewing and discussion, and the provision of coffee bars with areas to sit and talk facilitated interaction amongst delegates. The preparation of an overview of the scientific content of the Conference was made difficult by the number of presentations. With close on 100 lectures held in three separate parallel sessions, an average of 210 posters presented on each of four days, and 4 Plenary lectures, I could only hope to give a very general impression of the science of the meeting, although in preparing this report I did seek reactions from a number of other delegates.

The quality of the Plenary and Invited Lectures was very high, and credit must be given to A. Skoulios and D. Guillon, the International Advisory Board and the Scientific Committee of the Conference for their choice of speakers. This high quality also extended generally to the posters, and the judges had a hard time choosing the best from 800+ poster presentations.

The meeting got off to a fine start with the opening Plenary Lecture by Nobel Laureate Professor Jean-Marie Lehn who spoke eloquently and informatively on Perspectives of Supramolecular Chemistry. This is an area of growing interest in the liquid crystal field as researchers probe the range of possibilities for molecular self-assembly of a supramolecular kind.

Following this excellent launch of the Conference, the three other Plenary Lectures given on subsequent days were memorable, and by their content reflected areas of burgeoning interest and activity of liquid