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Message from the President, Professor Atsuo Fukuda

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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