Minutes of the Steering Committee of the British Liquid Crystal Society
23rd March 2016
John McIntyre Conference Centre, Edinburgh.

Members Present: Andrew Masters (Chair; AM), Georg Mehl (Vice-Chair; GM), Stephen Cowling (Secretary; SC), Carl Brown (Treasurer; CB), John Goodby (JG), Verena Gortz (VG), Doug Cleaver (DC), Rachel Tuffin (RT) and Giampaolo D'Allesandro (GD), Cliff Jones (CJ), Tim Wilkinson (TW), Philip Hands (PH) and Sarah Gray (Student).

Apologies: Mike Hird (MH), Stephen Morris (SM) and Timothy Spencer (Communications, TS)

Actions
- Review the constitution regarding numbers required for voting and also regarding changing from voting at the AGM to online voting (AM)
- Update the constitution regarding early career researcher membership on the steering committee (AM, GM)
- Update membership list based on attendance at a BLCS sponsored event (TS)
- Collate a list of meeting suggestions from the community (SC)
- Send TS information on research groups in the UK regarding what they do (ALL)
- Minor amendment to the ToR for the Prize Committee so the steering committee knows who has been nominated and for the chair to get full report from the prize committee. (AM)

Minutes
New members were welcomed onto the committee (GM, CJ, SM and SG) and the outgoing members were thanked for all their contributions (Ingo Dierking, John Goodby, Nigel Mottram and Simon Wood).

Discussions took place regarding the update of membership of the British Liquid Crystal Society. It was the general consensus that membership should count for anyone that has participated in a BLCS sponsored event (including the one day meetings that took place in Oxford on Future Technologies and in Southampton on NTB phase alongside the BLCS Winter Workshop). Membership shall last for 3 years from the year of attendance.

The issue of an extremely poor turnout for the voting this year was highlighted and the question was raised whether the voting actually reached quorate or not. AM was asked to check the constitution. During this discussion it was also highlighted that the constitution had not been amended to include the student representative. AM asked to amend the constitution to take into account up to 2 student representatives. CJ highlighted that there were 2 students that had stood for election in the current voting and asked why could both students be allowed onto the committee. It was decided that this was a good idea and Rachel Bean was co-opted onto the committee to serve alongside SG. It was also recommended that the two student representatives organize a student led meeting that the BLCS would support.

The date for the next BLCS meeting in Germany was highlighted as 3rd April 2017.

The committee was asked by AM whether there were any suggestions for more one day meetings for the year. All suggestions were to be sent to SC for collation.

CJ wanted to know if the BLCS could improve its website for those in the LC community by including a little bit of information on the expertise and scope of the groups. It was decided that for this to progress all groups and group heads should provide a little information to TS. This may involve all members of the committee contacting groups to obtain this information or encouraging them to give TS the information.

TW was unhappy with the BLCS prize awards for 2016 and wanted more information on what decisions were made by the Prize Committee (Peter Raynes FRS, John Goodby FRS and Mark Warner FRS). The majority of the committee wanted to know in the future who is nominated for each award and for the chair to receive a report from the prize committee on their decisions. AM to amend the ToR document.

Due to the poor numbers for the Young Scientist Prize RT asked if it were possible to extend the call beyond the UK. Unanimously the committee voted against this because the prize is for the BLCS Young Scientist.

 SC highlighted that a meeting in honour of John Goodby would be held later in the year (most probably in September before the term begins).

Stephen Cowling　　　　　Andrew Masters
Secretary　　　　　　　　Chair