scientists from non-European countries must always be encouraged.
3. Future organizers must try to maintain the single-session format for oral presentations.
4. The International Advisory Board of the ECLCs has a maximum of 10 members and is formed by the chairpersons of the last eight conferences in the series (counting the ECLC99 as the fifth in the series), the chairperson of the last ILCC, and a representative to be appointed by the ILCS. Accordingly, the IAB of the ECLC in the year 2001 will have seven members.
5. The Scientific Committee of the ECLCs is appointed by the organizers.

As part of the Conference programme, the 308 delegates were able to visit the Minoan Palace at Knossos, and to see something of the impressive relics and artifacts in the museum of Heraklion. In spite of the overwhelming historical tradition of Crete, the Conference logo looked to the future, and introduced the concept of dolphinic molecules—asymmetric bananas with motility. Mention must also be made of the efficiency of the Organizing Committee, which ensured the outstanding success of the ECLC99. The next meeting in the series will be held at Halle, Germany in 2001.

MEETING REPORT

Molecular Physics of Liquid Crystals: Recollections and Perspectives

A Meeting to celebrate the 60th Birthday of Geoffrey R. Luckhurst

6–9 May 1999, International Centre for Scientific Culture, Ettore Majorana, Erice, Sicily

A milestone in the progress of liquid crystal science was the NATO Advanced Study Institute on the Molecular Physics of Liquid Crystals, which was held in Cambridge, UK in the summer of 1977. The meeting was initiated and jointly chaired by George Gray and Geoffrey Luckhurst. Twenty-two years on, and another meeting on the Molecular Physics of Liquid Crystals, directed by Claudio Zannoni (Bologna) and Tim Sluckin (Southampton), but held in celebration of the 60th birthday of Geoffrey Luckhurst. The venue chosen was the medieval town of Erice, perched at 750m on a peak of the western mountains of Sicily. Since 1963, Erice has been home to many International Schools in areas of natural sciences, and this meeting was one of a series on liquid crystals. The participants were former students, past and present research collaborators and scientific colleagues of Geoffrey Luckhurst, who had come from Europe, Asia and North America to mark this special occasion.

The scientific themes of the meeting were set through seven keynote lectures, which spanned the molecular physics and chemistry of liquid crystals. Introducing the scientific sessions was a keynote lecture from George Gray (UK), who, by looking back, suggested outstanding research ideas for the future in the area of liquid crystal materials. The great success of molecular design in producing mesogens with particular phase behaviour was exposed by Klaus Praefcke (Berlin, Germany) in his keynote lecture on 'Mesogens made to measure'. The importance of physical techniques in establishing the structure and properties of mesophases is paramount, and the many contributions of Geoffrey Luckhurst to magnetic resonance studies of liquid crystals is well known. It was very appropriate that a keynote lecture on the application of NMR to liquid crystals should be given by a long-standing colleague and collaborator, Jim Emsley (Southampton, UK). Another area to which Geoffrey Luckhurst has made many contributions is computer simulation. One of his former PhD students, Claudio Zannoni (Bologna, Italy), traced the impressive record of the Gay-Berne potential in describing a wide variety of liquid crystal phase types and properties. The behaviour of liquid crystals at surfaces has always been a subject of great interest and importance, and Tim Sluckin (Southampton, UK), gave an insight into what we know and what we still don't understand about interfacial effects. Not only has NMR been of immense value in probing static or equilibrium properties of liquid crystals, modern techniques of dynamic NMR are proving to be a direct route to flow and viscous behaviour. Assis Martins (Lisbon, Portugal) gave a keynote lecture on this topic which, as with the other keynote topics, was developed in other contributed talks and posters. The importance of hydrodynamic interactions in block copolymer microphase separation was the subject of the final keynote lecture given by another former student and colleague from Southampton, Dominic Tildesley (Unilever, UK). The concluding remarks delivered by Geoffrey Luckhurst espoused recollections and provided the opportunity for a characteristically robust presentation of his latest exciting research. The breadth and depth of the topics, which had all benefited in some measure from the scientific contributions of Geoffrey Luckhurst, confirmed the substantial influence that he has had on the development of liquid crystal science over the past 30 years.

Geoffrey Luckhurst and George Gray (centre) and other participants at the meeting to celebrate the 60th birthday of Professor Luckhurst. The course directors, Claudio Zannoni (standing) and Tim Sluckin (sitting) can be seen centre left.