

EDITORIAL

Once again this issue of the Bulletin presents contributions of a new kind. Rachel Quinlan wrote a detailed account of Ireland's participation in the 47th International Mathematical Olympiad in July 2006, which I enjoyed a lot reading. Of course, we all know about the IMO—in general. But did you know about the nitty-gritty of the various selection procedures for the olympiad problems; that the problems will be posed in English, French, German, Russian and Spanish; or that 498 contestants from 90 countries participated? I certainly did not and found her account very valuable indeed.

As part of the Hamilton Year 2005 a panel discussion on “The interface between mathematics and physics” was organised by DIT and the RIA; an account by Brendan Goldsmith who chaired it is contained herein, and I found several of the statements of the panellists well worth reading.

The new section on abstracts of PhD theses conferred by Irish universities has been started; only five were submitted and all five were accepted. Thanks go to the students who stuck to the instructions! It is interesting to see the variety of topics of these theses and this may be the main benefit to the Bulletin's readership: to find out what kind of mathematics attracts PhD students in Ireland these days. Of course, this section of the Bulletin will only be successful if the abstracts will continue to come in—and maybe in even bigger numbers.

Sadly no survey article was ready for publications this time; but I hope this will change for the next issue.

—MM