

IRISH MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY
President's Report 2007

Thanks: The first item to be noted in my report is to thank Maurice O'Reilly for the extraordinary job he did as President in 2005 and 2006. Two other notable Officers of the IMS whose term of office ended in 2007 are David Wraith (Treasurer) and Ann O'Shea (Secretary), they have held these positions over the last four to six years and the IMS owes a large debt of gratitude to them. Finally the Society would like to thank David Armitage, who is retiring. David has been a long-standing committee member of the IMS and served as President of the Society too.

Future fees: The Society has decided to raise its fees for 2009 for normal members from €20 to €25 with commensurate changes in other membership categories.

Membership communication: To improve communications with our members, we will be including an insert in the next Bulletin for members to update their details including e-mail addresses.

Foyles' Discount: Foyles' Bookshop in London offers IMS members a 10% discount on all orders. To avail of this offer (negotiated by David Wraith) members will need to set up an account with Foyles, see:

<http://www.maths.tcd.ie/pub/ims/Books/foylesform.pdf>

For security reasons, on your application you will need to enter your IMS membership number, the latter can be obtained by e-mailing the IMS Treasurer.

Links: The IMS has established links (via Maurice O'Reilly) with the Société Mathématique de France, these links take the form of exchanging information regarding our respective societies' activities in the others' publications and it is hoped there will be SMF involvement at the BMC in 2009 in Galway. The Society has set up a reciprocity agreement with the New Zealand Mathematical Society (<http://www.waikato.ac.nz/NZMS/NZMS.html>), which will start in 2008. In Ireland, the Society has established links with the newly founded Irish Applied Mathematics Teachers Association (<http://www.iamta.ie/>).

Website: The IMS website (<http://www.maths.tcd.ie/pub/ims/>) continues to be maintained by Richard Timoney and in 2007 he added the IMS Diary page. This page lists conferences that are being held in Ireland and is designed for conference organisers to avoid clashes.

SFI Mathematics Initiative: I twice circulated (via MATHDEP) mathematicians in Ireland asking for their views and comments on this year's SFI Mathematics Initiative. I received about 30 replies mostly from people who did not apply this year under the initiative. Consequently, I met with Dr Gary Crawley in July to discuss the opinions expressed, and his responses are on the IMS website

<http://www.maths.tcd.ie/pub/ims/business/SFIMaths2.pdf>

Annual conferences: Dr Crawley opened and addressed the IMS September conference in UCD in September 2007. The conference was well attended and featured a diverse range of talks over the two days. The IMS expressed its thanks to the five main organizers Christopher Boyd, Sean Dineen, Michael Mackey, Rhona Preston and myself for their work in this regard.

The Society also held a joint symposium with DIAS in December, which covered a range of topics in mathematics and physics over two days. The IMS would like to thank DIAS for the financial support they provided for this symposium.

Fergus Gaines' Cup: The Irish Mathematical Society awards the Fergus Gaines' Cup annually to the best performer in the Irish Mathematical Olympiad. The cup was awarded on 16th November 2006 to Galin Ganchev in St Patrick's College, Dublin and on 15th November 2007 to Stephen Dolan again in St Patrick's College.

Teaching: A special committee (chaired by Tom Carroll) produced a discussion document on service teaching of mathematics, which can be found on the IMS website. This document was developed by the standing committee on teaching and educational matters (chaired by Ann O'Shea) and may be viewed here:

<http://www.maths.tcd.ie/pub/ims/business/2007-09-CSTM2.pdf>

Brendan Guilfoyle joined both these committees and also kindly agreed to act as the Public Relations Officer of the Society.

Institute of Technology members: I have particularly been trying to recruit members from the IoT sector in 2007 and have met with some limited success. In order to attract and maintain such members it is important that the Society changes from its university focus to a more inclusive one. This would take the form of supporting IoT sector conferences financially and having IoT speakers at IMS conferences. This policy is being implemented as we now have a good representation of the IoT sector on the Committee of the Society. We are also including talks on educational matters and of more general interest at our September conference (however, more needs to be done). To address the last point I set up a sub-committee on IoT membership with Jim Cruickshank as Chairperson. He has peopled this sub-committee with four IoT members (so far) and their remit is to:

1. report back on what the IMS is expected/can do for IoT members and
2. consider the timing of our 'September' conference.

The report will be prepared for the Committee meeting in September 2008.

Conference support: The number of conference organisers applying for support from the IMS for conferences has dropped. The reasons for this may be two-fold: The IMS is not a cash-rich Society and so our average grant is only about €250 to €350, secondly conference organisers had to write a short report on the conference if they had received support. There is little the Society can do about the general level of funding, but the second condition has now been eliminated and instead organisers will just be asked to acknowledge that we helped to fund the conference and perhaps to distribute some membership forms at it.

Future meetings: Future planned meetings of the IMS are as follows:

- September 1-2, 2008, Cork IoT: IMS Conference and AGM
- December 2008, DIAS (Dublin): Joint DIAS/IMS Symposium
- April 6-9 2009, NUI Galway: Joint meeting of the British Mathematical Colloquium and the IMS
- December 2009, DIAS (Dublin): Joint DIAS/IMS Symposium and IMS AGM

- September 2010, Dublin IoT: IMS Conference and AGM
- September 2011: A non-Dublin venue is being sought for the IMS Conference and AGM
- September 2012: Tallaght IoT? IMS Conference and AGM

Russell Higgs
President of the Irish Mathematical Society
15th December 2007