

Summary of Results of the 1987 Irish National Mathematics Contest

The ninth Irish National Mathematics Contest was held on Tuesday, 3 March, 1987 and attracted more contestants this year than we've had for some years. In all, 1,832 participants from 81 schools took part, compared with 1,342 from 75 schools last year.

As in all previous years, the paper for this year's INMC was set by the MAA Committee on American Mathematics Competitions for the 38th Annual American High School Mathematics Examination, which was taken by up to 400,000 to the MAA Committee for allowing us to use their examination materials.

The new scoring system that was introduced last year was in operation again this year. This system, which is intended to reward intelligent guessing and discourage random guessing, also tends to yield higher marks of 85 marks in this year's INMC than in previous years. Altogether, 234 students scored 85 or more marks this year, while, of these, 128 scored 90 or more marks, more than twice the number who fell into this category last year. A score of 100 or greater was achieved by 22 students. We are very pleased with the enthusiastic response from the schools to our invitation to enter students in this year's contest and with the high standard attained by such a large number of contestants.

The highest score in this year's INMC was obtained by Alan Conway, High School, Rathgar, Dublin 1. Alan got 118 marks, an excellent score. Score of 114 were achieved by Patrick Browne, also of the High School, and Fergal Byrne of St. Benildus College, Kilmacud Road, Dublin 14.

The highest team score—the sum of the three highest scores of individual contestants from the same school—was achieved by St. Benildus College with a score of 328. The High School in Rathgar was second with 321 and O'Connell School, Dublin 1, a close third with 319. The winning team was composed of Fergal Byrne, Garrett O'Neill and Damian Lawlor.

A prize-giving ceremony will be arranged early in December to honour the top scorers in the INMC.

Future issues of the Bulletin of the Irish Mathematical Society and the Newsletter of the Irish Mathematics Teachers Association will carry more information about the contest.

The Fifth Irish Invitational Mathematics Contest was held on Tuesday, March 24, 1987. To keep the numbers down to manageable proportions only those with a score of 90 or higher marks in the INMC were invited to participate in the IIMC, exam materials for which were also supplied by the MAA Committee on American Mathematics Competitions. The contest was especially difficult this year, the hardest it has been since its inception five years ago. The top scorers were: Fergal Byrne of St. Benildus College, Dublin, John O'Brien of Presentation College, Cork, and Andrew Farrell, a twelve-year old from Navan, who each scored 5 out of a maximum of 15.

Finbarr Holland, University College, Cork.
Tom Laffey, University College, Dublin.

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