

6. Subscriptions normally fall due on 1 February each year.
7. Cheques should be made payable to the Irish Mathematical Society. If a Eurocheque is used then the card number should be written on the back of the cheque.
8. Any application for membership must be presented to the Committee of the I.M.S. before it can be accepted. This Committee meets twice each year.
9. Please send the completed application form with one year's subscription fee to

The Treasurer, I.M.S.
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Minutes of Meetings of the Irish Mathematical Society

Ordinary Meeting

April 12 1990

A general meeting of the Irish Mathematical Society was held at 12.15 p.m. on Thursday 12 April 1990. There were eight present. The President, F. Gaines, was in the Chair. Apologies were received from R. Timoney.

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of 22 December 1989 were read, approved and signed.

2. Bulletin

The Bulletin is now at the printers and will be ready in about 3 weeks.

It was noted that the Celtic Studies section of the DIAS is getting a phototypesetter, which might be of use in producing the Bulletin. It is the policy of the Society to produce the Bulletin within Ireland if possible.

3. Euromath

A report from Richard Timoney was circulated.

Tim Murphy and Tony O'Farrell both expressed reservations about the structured document editor, GRIF, which has been adopted by Euromath.

4. September meeting

The mathematical meeting of the IMS is being held at DCU on (probably) Wednesday 5 and Thursday 6 September 1990. Alistair Wood is organising it. On Monday and Tuesday of that week, there will be a meeting of SEFI, and on the Friday there will be a meeting about cooperation between 3rd Level Education and Industry. Alistair Wood said it might be necessary to move the Education/Industry meeting to the

Wednesday, and to move the IMS meeting to the Thursday and Friday. He will know for definite when he gets replies from the speakers.

It was agreed to hold the September 1991 IMS meeting in UCG.

5. Correspondence

(a) EOLAS will provide travelling expenses for one speaker at the September 1990 IMS meeting, and for S. Sternberg at the TCD meeting on 24 May 1990. Tony O'Farrell congratulated the organisers of the TCD meeting on obtaining such a distinguished speaker.

(b) A letter from Richard Timoney was read, giving details of the TCD Mathematics survey.

6. A.O.B.

(a) Fergus Gaines mentioned that a recent UCD graduate is studying for a Ph.D. at TCD, whilst being employed by Hitachi at their TCD laboratory.

(b) Alistair Wood and David Simms have arranged for the The Royal Society Pop Maths Roadshow to come to the RDS from 23 to 29 October 1990. The RDS is supplying space free of charge. The admission to the Roadshow is free.

Volunteers are needed to give popular lectures. (Lectures for schoolchildren in the afternoons, and adult lectures in the evenings).

There is also a need for people (research students) to look after the exhibits. This work would be paid.

(c) Tony O'Farrell suggested holding an annual walk along the Canal from Dunsink on the 16th October to commemorate the discovery of the Quaternions.

Ordinary Meeting

21 December 1990

The Irish Mathematical Society held an Ordinary Meeting at 12:45 on Friday, 21 December 1990, in the DIAS. Fourteen members were present. The President, F. Gaines, was in the chair. The Secretary sent his apologies, and A. O'Farrell took minutes.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 12 April 1990 and 6 & 7 September 1990 were approved and signed.

2. Matters arising

R. Timoney promised a report on the TCD survey of Mathematics Graduates for the Society's Bulletin.

Satisfaction was expressed with the increased level of the Society's activities during the year, especially in relation to the visit of S. Sternberg and the September Meeting at DCU.

The proposed visit of the Royal Society Pop Math Roadshow had to be cancelled for lack of sponsors.

The first Quaternion anniversary walk went well. Professor Wayman and the Dunsink staff arranged a sherry reception and exhibit at the start, and the Academy staff arranged a glass of wine at the terminus. The weather was exceptionally fine. Eight mathematicians are known to have made the walk, and it is expected to grow as the years go by. The sesquicentenary of the invention comes in 1993, and Professor Wayman promises champagne.

3. Bulletin

R. Ryan, who is stepping down as editor, was thanked for his valuable service. J. Ward is to take over to issue number 26 (Easter 1991). In the meantime F. Gaines plans to look after number 24 (Easter 1990), which is not completed, and number 25 (Christmas 1990). It was agreed that

(a) the editorial and secretarial/technical functions should be separated,

(b) submissions in T_EX should be encouraged now and required eventually, and

(c) there should be a new section for Research Announcements in the Bulletin.

F. Gaines expressed the hope that number 24 might be available by February. He called for contributions to number 25 and subsequent issues. R. Timoney has offered to assist with number 24.

4. The European Mathematical Society

B. Goldsmith, who has been appointed our official representative to EMS, reported. The inaugural meeting of the EMS was held in Poland in October. The IMS is a founding member, in Class 1. Members will be encouraged to become individual members of the EMS. There will be an article in the Bulletin with further information.

5. Euromath

R. Timoney, Chairman of the Irish Euromath National Coordinating Committee, reported. Phase 11, the final phase is now starting. He attended an advisory Board meeting in Luminy, in July 1990, and held an NCC meeting on December 10th. It would be a mistake to underestimate what has been done. The Euromath people have 1) identified the UNIX workstation and X-windows as reasonable standards to aim for, 2) used collective bargaining power to get discounts on DEC equipment and the FIZ database (-Zentralblatt), 3) almost completed the Directory of Mathematicians. He would however question whether Euromath will succeed in making a seamless integrated system to meet all the information-technology needs of mathematicians.

A. O'Farrell, the Society's representative at the General Assembly of the European Mathematical Trust, expressed 1) the hope that some good might come of Euromath, now that R. Timoney has been invited to join the Executive Committee, and 2) the opinion that conflicts of interest in the organisation were still an unholy mess, that the research funds allocated to Euromath would be better spent on real

mathematical research, that the structural flaws in Euromath could not be cured, so that the only reasonable and honourable way for the Society was to pull out. Nevertheless, he recommended, and it was agreed, that the Society should take no action on this for a further year, to see whether things improve.

6. Elections

The following were proposed, seconded and elected unopposed:

	Proposed by	Seconded by
President		
R. Timoney,	S. Tobin,	S. Dineen.
Vice-President		
B. Goldsmith	T. J. Laffey	M. Newell.
Members of the committee:		
F. Holland	S. Dineen	A. O'Farrell.
B. McCann	P. Barry	M. Ó Searcóid.
F. Gaines	A. O'Farrell	M. Newell.
M. Ó Searcóid	F. Gaines	R. Timoney.

G. Enright, A. O'Farrell, D. Simms and R. Watson continue on the Committee, and the Bulletin editor R. Ward will be co-opted as usual. The Treasurer, D. Tipple, and the Secretary G. Ellis, also continue in office for a further year.

F. Gaines was warmly thanked for his invaluable services as President.

7. Treasurer's Report

D. Tipple presented his report. It was adopted on the proposal of R. Timoney, seconded by A. O'Farrell. It was agreed to appoint A. Pierce as auditor, and to authorise the Treasurer to fix official membership rates in other currencies, as he sees fit.

8. September meeting

R. Ryan is organising the September 1991 meeting, which is to be held in UCG on 5th and 6th September. J.-L. Loday has agreed to speak. Suggestions for other invited speakers, and offers of contributed talks are welcome. It was agreed that if necessary the Society would underwrite the full cost of the meeting from its own funds.

Members were reminded that invitations to host the September 1992 meeting should come before the Easter 1991 meeting. There was an indication that Waterford RTC might wish to host the meeting.

Whether or not the Society will continue with the fourth meeting of the past two years is conditional on the continuation of support from EOLAS.

9. Other Business

(a) The terms of the new IMS-IMTA reciprocity agreement were approved. These provide that IMS members who wish to join the IMTA may do so by contacting the IMTA and paying 50% of the usual subscription to that association. Details will appear in the Bulletin.

(a) The question of whether a uniform national points system for university entry should include extra points for Leaving Certificate Honours Mathematics, was discussed at some length. S. Tobin expressed some reservations about the propriety of giving extra points to Mathematics for faculties like Arts, and suggested that it might be better to focus on reducing the overloaded syllabus. T. Laffey quoted the remarkable statistical study done by A. Moran, which demonstrated that Mathematics deserves extra weight, in view of its exceptional value as a predictor of success, even in Arts faculties. He also stressed the likely effect of removing the Honours Mathematics bonus on the numbers taking the subject. He was especially concerned that girls' schools might stop offering Honours Mathematics, which would be severely damaging to the prospects of women. S. Dineen pointed out that the universities don't and can't control the overloading of the syllabus, and do control points. R. Timoney said that the

mathematics course should be heavier than others. M. Newell agreed, and said that Mathematics should count double. He thought it essential that mathematicians pull together on this one. A. O'Farrell stressed the value of Mathematics grades as a predictor of success, and the possible impact on the technological development of the whole country if the numbers taking Honours Mathematics fell substantially. M. Ó Searcóid proposed a PR campaign to promote Mathematics. He supported the view that the Mathematics course should be substantial, quoting the British situation. S. Dineen suggested that the RTC's should also operate a bonus for Honours Mathematics. S. Tobin was impressed by the evidence brought forward in the discussion, and agreed that a common front was appropriate on this one.

Graham Ellis,
University College,
Galway.