

**Minutes of the Meeting
of the Irish Mathematical Society**
Annual General Meeting
4th September 2007

The Irish Mathematical Society held its Annual General Meeting from 12:00 to 13:05 on Tuesday 4th September at UCD. There were 25 members present at the meeting.

1. Minutes

After a minor adjustment the minutes of the meeting of September 2006 were approved and signed.

2. Matters arising

All matters arising were discussed under the headings below.

3. Correspondence

There were 4 items of correspondence:

- (i) A call for nominations for the Abel prize.
- (ii) A letter from Mr Frank Turpin, chair of the NCCA Board of Studies for Mathematics, in reply to a letter from the Mathematics Education subcommittee concerning the NCCA's review of post-primary Mathematics. Mr Turpin informed the society that work was on-going on a new syllabus for second level Mathematics. M. O Reilly informed the meeting that the Mathematics Education in Ireland Conference will be held on 14th and 15th of September 2007 in St Patrick's Drumcondra.
- (iii) A letter from Ms Margaret Kelly, Principal Officer in the Department of Education and Science, in reply to a request from the IMS for information on the provision of Higher Level Mathematics in post-primary schools. Ms Kelly informed the society that the Department of Education and Science did not have the information required and suggested that the society contact the State Examinations Commission. The secretary informed the meeting that this had already been done.
- (iv) A letter from Ms Mariosa Kelly of the Department of Education and Science together with a list of 58 schools where no pupil was returned for the 2005/2006 year as pursuing Higher Level Mathematics at Leaving Certificate.

4. Membership Applications

Thomas Unger, Romina Gubburro, Remo Hügli, Helena Smigoc, Nuala Curley, Sarbari Mukherjee, Declan Walsh, Ciaran O'Sullivan, Paul Robinson, Gloria Crispino-O'Connell, Martin Marjoram, Noel Gorman, Fergus Gaughran, Ciaran Taylor, Cora Stack, Fiona Watson, Dmitri Zaitsev, Madeeha Khalid, Leo Creedon, Grace Corcoran, Partrick McKenna, John Boncek, Violetta Moloney, Laurence Cuffe, Christine Horn and Richard Stafford were approved as ordinary members.

An insert will be prepared for the next edition of the Bulletin. The purpose of this insert is to allow members to update their details with the society. It is hoped that an up-to-date email list of members can then be created.

5. President's Report

The President presented an interim report on issues that have arisen this year. He thanked David Armitage for his long service to the society, he also thanked Maurice O'Reilly, David Wraith and Ann O'Shea whose terms of office have come to an end.

6. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented his report for 2006. It shows a shortfall of 466.39 €. The report was approved.

7. The Bulletin

The Editor reported that Volume 59 is ready and is being distributed. He noted that short survey articles were welcome. He asked the abstracts of PhD theses written at Irish institutions be submitted for publication in the Winter issue. It has been decided to discontinue the section on reports of conferences funded by the IMS. The committee decided to continue producing the Bulletin in print form.

8. Election to Committee

The following were elected unopposed to the committee:

Committee Member	Proposer	Secunder
S. Breen (Treasurer)	A. O'Shea	D. Wraith
S. O'Rourke (Secretary)	R. Timoney	D. Wraith
B. Guilfoyle	R. Higgs	A. O'Shea
N. O'Sullivan	R. Higgs	A. O'Shea
T. Carroll	R. Higgs	A. O'Shea
N. Kopteva	D. Wraith	G. Lessells
S. Buckley	D. Wraith	G. Lessells
A. Wickstead	M. O'Reilly	G. Lessells
S. Wills	R. Timoney	G. Lessells

As editor, M. Mathieu will be invited to committee meetings. The total number of years each existing member will have been on the committee as of 31 December 2007 will be: M. O'Reilly (6), D. Wraith (6), A. O'Shea (6), D. Armitage (5), T. Carroll (4), J. Cruickshank (5), N. O'Sullivan (4), R. Timoney (3), R. Higgs (3), N. Kopteva (2), B. Guilfoyle (2), S. Breen (1), S. O'Rourke (1).

The following will then have one more year of office: R. Higgs (President), J. Cruickshank (Vice-President), R. Timoney.

9. Fee Increase

The Treasurer proposed that subscription rates should be raised. The rule change was passed unanimously. The new rates are: Ordinary member: 25 € (or 18 £); Student, Reciprocity and Retired members: 12.50 €; AMS reciprocity members: 15 \$; Life members: 300 €; Institutional members: 160 €. The fee increase will come into effect in January 2009.

10. Report from the Committee for Service Teaching of Mathematics

A discussion document on service teaching of Mathematics was circulated. The document recommends:

1. that the IMS puts down a marker that service mathematics is important to Irish society, in order to counter any perception that the IMS does not currently give service mathematics sufficient attention;
2. that the IMS plays a more active and prominent role in the area of service teaching of mathematics and, in particular, that

service mathematics become a special interest group within the IMS;

3. that the IMS makes the point repeatedly that fourth level education in many areas is predicated on students' solid foundations in the fundamentals of mathematics and that this can only be achieved if mathematics is taught by mathematicians;
4. that the IMS agrees that the teaching of service mathematics alone at most of the institutes of technology represents a lost opportunity to reach a critical mass in mathematics at these institutes and to build viable and identifiable groups of mathematicians with common interests and goals.

The document will be made available on the IMS website. It will also be circulated via mathdep. Comments on the document should be sent to A. O'Shea who agreed to consult with the Committee for Service Teaching of Mathematics and the Mathematics Education subcommittee and to produce a policy document on this subject by Christmas 2007. The policy document will be circulated in advance of the 2008 AGM. The members of the Committee for Service Teaching of Mathematics were thanked for their work.

11. SFI Mathematics Initiative

The President met with Dr Gary Crawley of SFI in July 2007. An account of the meeting can be found at

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

12. Links

M. O Reilly has attended two SMF meetings and it is hoped that a representative of the SMF will speak at the IMS/BMC meeting in 2009. The President has drafted a reciprocity agreement between the IMS and the New Zealand Mathematics Society and is waiting for a reply. There is now a link to the Irish Applied Mathematics Teachers Association on the IMS website and a representative of the IAMTA may speak at the DIAS meeting in December 2007.

13. Website

The calendar of events for mathematical activities in Ireland is now up and running.

14. Public Image Issues

B. Guilfoyle is the PRO for the society.

15. IMO

Stephen Dolan won a bronze medal at the 2007 IMO. J. Cruickshank will write a short report on the competition for the Bulletin. G. Lessells was thanked for organising the Irish team's training camp in UL each year. The Fergus Gaines cup will be presented to Stephen Dolan in November.

16. Future Conferences and Meetings

The 2008 meeting will be held in the Cork Institute of Technology. The 2009 meeting will be a joint meeting with the BMC in Galway and will be held from 6–9 April. The 2010 meeting may take place in DIT. The 2007 DIAS Winter Symposium will take place in December, however dates are not yet known. The next general meeting will be held in CIT in 2008. It was noted that the 2009 AGM will be held at DIAS.

11. Any Other Business

- (i) The treasurer received an email from consultants to Fáilte Ireland encouraging the IMS to host the 2016 Congress of the European Mathematical Society.
- (ii) M. O Reilly plans to conduct a survey of the membership. He asked for volunteers and will report to the December committee meeting.
- (iii) P. Kirwan reminded the meeting that Maths Week 2007 will take place in the week beginning 15 October.
- (iv) R. Watson informed the meeting of his intention to set up the Irish Mathematical Trust. The main purpose of the trust would be to coordinate mathematics competitions at second level. A committee member will be chosen to liaise with R. Watson on this matter.

Ann O'Shea,
NUI Maynooth

These minutes still need to be approved by the next AGM.