

**Minutes of the Meeting  
of the Irish Mathematical Society**  
Annual General Meeting  
2nd September 2008

The Irish Mathematical Society held its Annual General Meeting from 12:00 to 13:00 on Tuesday 2nd September at Cork Institute of Technology. There were 22 members present at the meeting.

**1. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of September 2007 were approved and signed.

**2. Matters arising**

The President clarified that the new membership rate in sterling would be £20 rather than £18 in light of the adverse conversion rate to the €.

**3. Correspondence**

There was only routine correspondence.

**4. New Members**

*Institutional member:* St Patrick's College, Drumcondra.

*Ordinary members:* Mary Hanley, Conor Muldoon, Norah Daly, David Barrett, Christina Naughton, Francesca O'Rourke, Kevin Jennings, Garry Plunkett, Claas Roeber, Gavin Bradley, David Henry, George Wyatt, Sarah Mitchell, Kevin Murphy.

*Student member:* Jo Anne McLoughlin (NUIG).

**5. President's Report**

The President presented an interim report on issues that have arisen this year. He thanked Sinéad Breen for her efficient work as Treasurer over the year, and Richard Timoney for maintaining the IMS website. He also thanked Gordon Lessells and Martin Mathieu, respectively, for their sterling work on producing and editing the Bulletin.

**6. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer presented her report for 2007. It shows a surplus of 2,142.07€. It was noted that there were relatively few applications for funding conferences this year. The report was approved.

### 7. The Bulletin

The Editor reported that Volume 61 is ready and is being distributed. He noted that there were few research articles from Irish mathematicians, though he received many submissions from other parts of the world, and he encouraged members to submit articles to the Bulletin. The section on announcements of conferences will be discontinued as the Society's on-line diary is a better medium. He suggested that the section on Departmental News be revived, and should include retirements and new appointments.

### 8. Election to Committee

The following were elected unopposed to the committee:

Committee Member	Proposer	Secunder
J. Cruickshank (President)	R. Higgs	M. Mathieu
S. Wills (Vice President)	J. Cruickshank	S. O'Rourke
C. Stack	R. Higgs	R. Ryan

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 2008 will be: J. Cruickshank (6), T. Carroll (5), N. O'Sullivan (5), R. Timoney (4), R. Higgs (4), N. Kopteva (3), B. Guilfoyle (3), S. Breen (2), S. O'Rourke (2).

The following will then have one more year of office: T. Carroll, N. O'Sullivan.

### 9. EMS Membership

The President noted that there were currently only 16 members of the European Mathematical Society with addresses in Ireland. He encouraged IMS members to join the EMS, noting that the membership rate for existing IMS members will be 24€ next year.

### 10. David Armitage retirement

M. O'Reilly represented the Society at a dinner to mark David Armitage's retirement, and conveyed the Society's thanks for his service to it.

### 11. Visit of John Curran

It was noted that John Curran, a member of the New Zealand Mathematical Society, was visiting Ireland, and it was suggested that he be invited to speak at seminars.

### 12. Adoption of Service Teaching Report

This report was formally adopted by the meeting without objection. Cora Stack had made a written submission suggesting that the report could have a wider scope, and could go further to emphasise the benefits of a rounded mathematical education. Maurice O Reilly emphasised the importance that the report be implemented. The President agreed to disseminate the report to the heads of Irish universities and IoTs.

He thanked the Committee for Service Teaching of Mathematics and the IMS Subcommittee for Educational Issues for their work.

### 13. Any Other Business

There were four other items of business.

- (i) **Irish Mathematical Trust** Maurice O Reilly and Stephen Buckley attended a meeting to examine the possibility of setting up an Irish Mathematical Trust. Such a body would play a leading role in second-level mathematics competitions including publicity. A group is looking into the financial, legal and other arrangements required for setting up the Trust.
- (ii) **Institute of Technology Subcommittee** Jim Cruickshank chaired a subcommittee to consider the role that the IMS can play for mathematicians in the IoT sector. He presented his report to the meeting. The report highlights the fact that there are many mathematicians in the IoT sector with PhDs but who are no longer active in research or who feel isolated, and who might be encouraged or supported by greater interaction both with the university sector and between institutes. It was noted however that many mathematicians in the IoT sector are not interested in research, seeing their role as primarily a teaching role. Such mathematicians might welcome a greater emphasis on mathematics education in the IMS meetings. Finbarr Holland suggested the possibility of IoTs and universities in different regions jointly organising colloquia.

It is anticipated that there will be an ongoing discussion on this matter.

- (iii) **Future Meetings** There will be a joint BMC/IMS meeting in NUI Galway on 6-9 April 2009. It was suggested that the next AGM take place in Dublin, possibly in TCD, after 31 July.
- (iv) **Thanks to Outgoing President** Russell Higgs was warmly thanked by the meeting for his tireless work as President of the Society over the last two years.

Shane O Rourke  
CIT.

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