

Minutes of the Meeting of the Irish Mathematical Society
Annual General Meeting
August 27 2013

The 2013 Annual General Meeting of the Irish Mathematical Society took place at NUI Maynooth at 13.50. There were 30 members present.

(1) **Minutes of 2012 AGM**

The minutes of the 2012 AGM were approved, with two minor amendments.

(2) **Matters Arising**

Further to Item 10 of the AGM minutes (Discussion Boards), it was noted that MathDep now operates separate subscription lists for announcements and for discussions.

(3) **Correspondence**

- R. Quinlan has been contacted on a number of occasions by Fáilte Ireland, who seek to form partnerships with academics who may be interested in trying to bring major international events (such as the International Congress of Mathematicians or International Congress on Mathematical Education) to Ireland.
- M. Mathieu drew the members' attention to the European Mathematical Society programme of joint weekends, organised in partnership with member societies and with some financial support from the EMS. More information can be found on the EMS website, and anyone potentially interested in organising one of these events is invited to contact M. Mathieu in the first instance.
- M. Mathieu has received an email from the EMS highlighting the benefits of individual membership, which include a reduction to the registration fee for the European Congress of Mathematicians and access to Zentralblatt für Mathematik.
- The European Mathematical Society has requested assistance with the dissemination of an invitation to members of scientific communities to sign a petition concerning impending reform of the Russian Academy of Sciences.
- The Society agreed to adopt a reciprocity arrangement with the Moscow Mathematical Society.

(4) **Membership Applications**

One application, from Ciarán O’Connell who is a mathematics teacher in Cork, has been received and was approved.

(5) **Chairman’s Business**

M. Mathieu gave an interim report; his full report for this year will appear in the Winter 2013 issue of the IMS Bulletin.

M. Mathieu represented the IMS at the annual meeting of presidents of societies affiliated to the EMS, which took place in April 2013 in Aarhus, in conjunction with one of the EMS joint weekends mentioned above. Topics discussed at the meeting included the publishing code of practice, the outlook for research funding including the Horizon 2020 project, and a report on the work of the EMS Publication Committee. The next such meeting will take place in Istanbul in April 2014.

The twelve members of the Executive Committee of the EMS Council met in Belfast in April 2013. The IMS hosted a dinner for the committee members, and M. Mathieu gave a presentation on the history and work of the IMS.

The IMS has supported six conferences this year. Organizers of these conferences are invited to send short reports to A. O’Farrell for inclusion in the Bulletin.

A discussion took place on the subject of the recent succession of cuts to the IReL (Irish Research e-Library) and its impact on the the mathematical research community. The following points were amongst the contributions.

- It is essential to raise awareness of the importance of this issue in our own community and also with our libraries and institutional managers.
- One of the grounds for decisions on cuts is usage statistics; although our usage statistics may be lower than some other disciplines, access to the research literature is of great importance for our work.
- Mathematicians have higher interest in older articles than practitioners of some other disciplines do, and access to archived material continues to be important for us after the expiration of subscriptions.

- Material published by dedicated mathematics publishers is under greater threat than that of organisations such as Elsevier and Springer, which are involved in a wide range of scientific subjects.
- One proposal is for institutions to set up funds to cover the costs of individual downloads, rather than maintaining expensive general subscriptions to resources that are underutilized on the whole while being important to some researchers.

S. Buckley undertook to draft a letter to express the views and concerns of the mathematical research community and the IMS.

(6) **EMS publishing code of practice**

The EMS ethics committee has prepared a code of practice, which was approved by the Executive Committee of the EMS in October 2012 and came into effect on November 1st, 2012. The EMS has asked its member societies to adopt this code as policy.

It was agreed that the IMS will do so. The full text of the code of practice can be found at http://www.euro-math-soc.eu/comm_ethics.html.

(7) **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report for 2012 was presented by M. Mathieu on behalf of S. Breen, and accepted by the meeting.

(8) **Bulletin**

The Summer 2013 edition of the IMS Bulletin has just been issued.

A. O'Farrell drew members' attention to the fact that the IMS has numerous exchange agreements for the Bulletin with societies and journals across the world. Details of the exchange agreement are now available online and linked from the IMS homepage; this information is maintained by Anthony Waldron of NUI Maynooth.

There was a discussion on the question of whether we should consider moving to electronic-only publication of the Bulletin. M. Mathieu and A. O'Farrell will liaise about conducting a poll of the membership on this question.

It was pointed out that communication with the membership

is not particularly easy, and that it would be useful to set up an e-mail list of all members.

(9) **Elections to Committee**

S. Breen, S. Buckley, C. Hills, A. Wickstead and S. Wills all conclude their current service on the Committee at the end of 2013. M. Mathieu thanked these members for their work.

The following were elected unopposed to the committee.

| | Proposed by | Seconded by |
|------------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1. Götz Pfeiffer (Treasurer) | M. Mathieu | G. Lessells |
| 2. Anca Mustata | M. Mathieu | M. Mackey |
| 3. Rupert Levene | M. Mathieu | R. Timoney |
| 4. Paul Barry | A. O'Farrell | M. O'Reilly |
| 5. James O'Shea | A. O'Shea | M. Mackey |

As of January 1, 2014, the number of years that each continuing member will have served on the IMS Committee is:

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| J. Gleeson | 2 |
| B. Kreussler | 2 |
| M. Mac an Airchinnigh | 1 |
| M. Mackey (Vice-President) | 4 |
| M. Mathieu (President) | 3 |
| R. Quinlan (Secretary) | 4 |
| C. Stack | 5 |

(10) **Future Meetings**

The 2014 September meeting will be held in Queen's University Belfast, on September 5th and 6th 2014.

The 2015 meeting will be held in University College Cork.

The venue for the 2016 meeting is undecided.

(11) **Any Other Business**

The death of Trevor West of TCD in October 2012 was noted with regret. A meeting in his honour will be co-organised and co-hosted by the Royal Irish Academy and Trinity College Dublin on December 6th 2013. All are welcome to attend.

The meeting finished at 14.57.

Rachel Quinlan
NUI Galway