

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Irish Mathematical Society
Annual General Meeting
Queen's University Belfast
September 6 2014**

The meeting commenced at 13.00. There were 18 members present.

(1) **Minutes of 2013 AGM**

The minutes of the 2013 AGM were approved and signed.

(2) **Matters Arising**

The Society now has a functioning list of members' email addresses. An email message will shortly be sent to IMS members offering individuals the option not to receive a paper copy of the Bulletin.

(3) **Correspondence**

- Prof. John Miller has proposed that the society should maintain a list of its presidents since its foundation in 1976. This will be initiated in the near future.
- Prof. Graham Ellis has suggested that the Society consider signing up to the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment, which concerns appropriate use of quantitative measures of research productivity. There was general support for this move.
- M. Mathieu has received some correspondence from the European Mathematical Society about its regular activities.

(4) **Membership Applications**

Applications from the following persons have been received and were approved.

Alan Compelli	M.Sc. student, DIT
Alexander Rahm	NUI Galway
Oliver Mason	NUI Maynooth

(5) **Chairman's Business**

M. Mathieu reported that he attended the annual meeting of presidents of member societies of the European Mathematical Society in Istanbul on April 12. The venue for the 2015 meeting is yet to be decided. The 40th anniversary of the establishment of the IMS will be in 2016, and it was suggested that one way of marking this milestone would be to host the

meeting of society presidents in that year, perhaps in conjunction with a wider mathematical event. This idea will be considered at the next committee meeting in December.

M. Mathieu has written an invited article on the history of the IMS for the EMS newsletter.

Five conferences received financial support from the IMS this year.

(6) **Dissolved Mathematics Committee of the RIA**

The Royal Irish Academy has now established a Physical, Chemical and Mathematical Sciences Committee. At present this committee has 15 members including five mathematicians; it is expected that the number of members will increase to 20 in the next few weeks. The structure and operation of the new multidisciplinary committees of the RIA will be reviewed after two years.

Since these committees have not yet commenced their work, how they will serve the needs of relevant disciplinary communities remains to be seen. However there are reasons for the IMS and wider mathematical community to be concerned about current developments. One specific concern is how affiliation to bodies such as the International Mathematical Union will be managed, in the absence of a national committee for Mathematics. More generally, a committee that could be in a position to advise on matters of policy relating to mathematics would need to be geographically diverse and sufficiently broadly based to include representation across a wide range of constituencies connected (for example) to education at all levels, to research, to academia and to industry.

A. O'Farrell suggested that the mathematical community in Ireland needs to have a national committee that can appropriately serve its interests, and that the IMS is in a position to initiate the establishment of such a group. There was general support for this idea, although it remains unclear what formal status such a group might have and how it would interact with the RIA Committee. C. Stack raised a question about how the members of such a committee would be appointed and whether this has always been done in a transparent manner. It was agreed to establish a working group at the meeting, with the immediate role of considering

the evolving situation and advising the IMS on possible ways forward. This working group will initially consist of L. Creedon, M. Mackey, G. McGuire, A. O'Farrell, C. Stack and R. Timoney.

(7) **Treasurer's Report**

G. Pfeiffer circulated the Treasurer's Report for 2013. Members were reminded that some subscription fees for 2013 and 2014 remain unpaid.

(8) **Bulletin**

IMS members are encouraged to consider submitting articles of general interest to the Bulletin. Organizers of conferences that received financial support from the IMS are reminded to submit short reports to the Bulletin. Abstracts of completed PhD theses should also be sent to the editor for inclusion in the Bulletin.

(9) **Education sub-Committee**

It was proposed that the Society establish an Education sub-Committee with the following brief:

- To advise the IMS Committee on all matters concerning mathematical education;
- In particular, to suggest to the IMS Committee responses to policy documents in the field of the sub-Committee's interest;
- To act on behalf of the Society in such matters when authorized to do so;
- To liaise as appropriate with other bodies with interests in the area (for example, with sister societies and government agencies).

This proposal was approved. R. Quinlan will seek expressions of interest in serving on the Education sub-Committee, with the expectation that its proposed membership can be brought to the December committee meeting and that the sub-committee can commence its work in January 2015.

(10) **Elections to Committee**

C. Stack will conclude her current period of service on the IMS Committee on December 31 2014, and M. Mathieu will conclude his service as President on the same date.

M. Mackey was nominated by M. Mathieu for the position of President, and seconded by R. Timoney. S. Buckley was

nominated for the position of vice-President by M. Mackey, and seconded by M. Mathieu. Both candidates were elected unopposed.

The numbers of years that each continuing member will have served on the IMS Committee as of January 2015 are tabulated below.

P. Barry	1
J. Gleeson	3
B. Kreussler	3
R. Levene	1
M. Mac an Airchinnigh	2
M. Mackey	5
M. Mathieu	4
A. Mustata	1
G. Pfeiffer	1
R. Quinlan	5
J. O'Shea	1

(11) **Future Meetings**

C. Koestler announced that the 2015 IMS meeting will be held at University College Cork in the last week of August, as part of a series of events celebrating the bicentenary of the birth of George Boole.

The meeting concluded at 14.25.

Rachel Quinlan
NUI Galway