

Minutes of the Meeting of the Irish Mathematical Society
Annual General Meeting
UCC August 28 2015

The meeting commenced at 11.30. There were 15 members present.

(1) **Minutes of 2014 AGM**

The minutes of the 2014 AGM were approved and signed.

(2) **Matters Arising**

- A list of past presidents of the Society has now been assembled.
- The plan to establish a “national committee” for mathematics is in abeyance for the time being, pending clarity on the necessity for such a body. The Physical, Chemical and Mathematical Sciences Committee of the Royal Irish Academy has been in existence for 18 months now and is operating on a cooperative and open basis, with matters that are of interest to a particular discipline being left mostly to the representatives of that discipline. A serious concern was that mathematics would be left without an adequate voice as a minority discipline in a much broader committee; this has not happened so far. At present there is some intersection between the RIA Committee and the IMS Committee but this is not by design. It will be important to maintain channels of communication between the two groups, and M. Mackey will write to the RIA Committee to express this on behalf of the IMS. Should it become desirable to reopen discussions towards the establishment of a “national committee”, it will be possible to do so without delay.

(3) **Correspondence**

- A request for a statement of support from the IMS for a bid to host the 2022 International Congress of Mathematicians in Strasbourg has been received. M. Mackey will respond positively.
- The National Forum for Teaching and Learning has invited the IMS to become a partner. This invitation has been accepted.
- C. Hogg of DIAS has requested that the IMS endorse the project `weusemaths.ie` which aims to raise awareness of

the versatility and applicability of mathematics. This was agreed.

- Colm Mulcahy has done extensive work on collecting and organising data for an archive on Irish mathematicians, which can be viewed at <http://cardcolm.org/AIMM.html>. He has invited the IMS to assist with the maintenance of this resource after it is established. The Society is positively disposed towards this idea but the practical details are unclear as yet. It was proposed by S. Dineen that the IMS communicate to Dr Mulcahy its appreciation of the value of this project and of the work that has been done.

(4) **Membership Applications**

Since the 2014 Annual General Meeting, applications from the following persons have been received and approved:

Patrick Browne	NUI Galway
Bernard Hanzon	University College Cork
Fionnán Howard	St Patrick's College
Claus Koestler	University College Cork
Natalia Iyudu	University of Edinburgh
James McTigue	NUI Galway
Elizabeth Oldham	Trinity College Dublin
Henry Ricardo	City University of New York
Stanislav Shkarin	Queen's University Belfast

(5) **President's Business**

The content of the President's report was already covered under Items 2. and 3.

(6) **Treasurer's Report**

The report was accepted, with thanks to the Treasurer.

(7) **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. Thanks were expressed to Gordon Lessells for his sustained efforts on the printing and circulation of the Bulletin.

(8) Education sub-Committee

The IMS has established an Education sub-committee as initially proposed by C. Stack, who was thanked for her efforts in this regard. The present membership of the subcommittee consists of:

Anthony Cronin	UCD
Ronan Flatley	Mary Immaculate College
Jim Grannell	UCC
Clare Lundon	Galway-Mayo IT
Ciarán Mac an Bhaird	Maynooth University
David Malone	Maynooth University
Aisling McCluskey	NUI Galway
Anthony O'Farrell	Maynooth University
Elizabeth Oldham	TCD
Maurice O'Reilly	St. Patrick's College
Rachel Quinlan	NUI Galway
Áine ní Shé	Cork IT
Aoibhinn ní Shúilleabháin	UCD
Cora Stack	IT Tallaght

The subcommittee is chaired by A. O'Farrell and the secretary is R. Quinlan. It has terms of reference (agreed at the 2014 AGM) and operating rules. It is currently in the process of conducting its first meeting, by email.

The following matters of relevance to education were raised.

- Ireland is a member of ICMI (the International Commission on Mathematical Instruction, a commission of the International Mathematical Union), with the Royal Irish Academy as the articulating organisation. Many countries have ICMI subcommissions, and it was suggested by M. O'Reilly that Ireland should consider establishing one.
- The 10th Congress on European Research in Mathematics Education (CERME 10) will take place in Dublin in February 2017. This is a major international event which is likely to have up to 700 delegates. The co-chairs are Maurice O'Reilly and Therese Dooley of St Patrick's College.

- M. O'Reilly will present a report on developments and activities in Mathematics Education in Ireland at the International Congress on Mathematics Education (ICME) in Hamburg in July 2016. ICME is the quadrennial conference of the ICMI. Work is proceeding on the preparation of this report, with the support of various individuals and organisations.

(9) **Elections to Committee**

Nominations were invited for the position of Secretary, commencing on January 1, 2016. R. Timoney nominated David Malone for this position, and was seconded by C. Stack. There were no other nominations and D. Malone was elected.

The numbers of years that each continuing member will have served on the IMS Committee as of January 2016 are tabulated below.

P. Barry	2
J. Gleeson	4
B. Kreussler	4
R. Levene	2
M. Mac an Airchinnigh	3
M. Mackey	6
M. Mathieu	5
A. Mustata	2
G. Pfeiffer	2
J. O'Shea	2

(10) **Future Meetings**

The IMS will celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2016. R. Timoney and V. Dotsenko have undertaken to host a scientific meeting of the Society in Trinity College Dublin on April 15 and 16, 2016. A date for the annual general meeting is to be decided and must be after July 31.

Expressions of interest in hosting the 2017 September meeting are welcome.

(11) **Any Other Business**

C. Stack raised concerns about the low levels of funding for mathematical activity in Ireland, and mentioned that she has raised this issue with Mary Mitchell-O'Connor TD, who would be willing to meet for discussions. C. Stack also proposed that the IMS consider holding an annual public lecture.

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The meeting concluded at 12.55.

Rachel Quinlan
NUI Galway