**Minutes of the Meeting**
**of the Irish Mathematical Society**

**Ordinary Meeting**
21st March 1997

The Irish Mathematical Society held an Ordinary Meeting at 12.20pm on Friday 21st March 1997 in the Synge Lecture Theatre, Trinity College Dublin. There were ten members present. The President, C. Nash, was in the chair. Apologies were received from D. Armitage, K. Houston, E. Gath and A. Wickstead.

1. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 20th December 1996 were approved and signed.

2. **Matters arising**

2.1 J. M. Golden announced that the dates for the 1997 September Meeting have been changed to Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th September.
2.2 D. Hurley will be making arrangements to have the proposed IMS Mathematics Olympiad Trophy sculpted in time for the next Olympiad prize-giving ceremony in September 1997.
2.3 The treasurer reported that there had been a minor error in the interim financial report that was previously circulated. This has been corrected in the final report for 1996.

3. **Bulletin**

The editor of the Bulletin, R. Gow, announced his intention to retire from that position in 1998. Those possibly interested or having suggestions should contact R. Gow. The chairman thanked R. Gow for his work on the bulletin.
R. Gow and G. Lessells were congratulated for having the bulletin ready on time.
R. Timoney asked if the contents of the bulletin should be made available on the World-Wide-Web. A discussion was held as to whether this might diminish the circulation of the bulletin itself.

It was suggested that a six month delay between circulation of the bulletin and WWW appearance might prevent such a possibility. It was remarked that one of the AMS journals is now available free on the WWW and that the WWW would increase international access to the bulletin contents. It was decided to raise this issue again at the December meeting.

4. **Treasurer's Business**

The treasurer presented his financial report for 1996. R. Timoney proposed to accept the report. This was seconded by P. Mellon. The treasurer reported that the Society's finances are healthy, that arrears in EMS subscriptions are now being paid, £800 has been set aside for the 1997 September meeting, and that £600 per year for the next 3 years will pay the Society's contribution to the 1998 IMS/LMS Joint Meeting.

5. **September Meeting**

J. M. Golden reported that arrangements are under way for the 1997 September Meeting on Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th September and that the timetable is soon to be circulated. There will be five main speakers. Topics will include history of mathematics, mathematical education, applied mathematics and computer science. The meeting will be held in the Aungier Street College and car parking will be available. The location of the banquet is still under discussion. Information on the meeting will be put on the WWW by R. Timoney. Approximately nine half-hour talks will be scheduled later.

6. **Any other business**

**Joint IMS/LMS Meeting in 1998** The IMS coordinators are R. Timoney and D. Hurley. It was reported that organization is well under way, although the venue has not yet been fixed. Cambridge and London were suggested as venues. Provisional dates for the meeting are 22-23 May 1998. It was noted that this might clash with a proposed meeting on Theoretical Physics in Dublin. C. Nash offered to check this out.

**HEA Cut in University Equipment Grant** A letter from N. Buttimore suggested that the Society respond to the HEA's proposal to cut the research equipment budget to universities by 60%. Information on the proposed cut was circulated by the Irish Research Scientists Association. This matter was discussed. It was felt that such a cut would have a large impact on the mathematical sciences. It was suggested that the importance of mathematics in computer science might be a good plank for the IMS to use in any lobbying. M. O'Reilly mentioned that IMS support for the importance of mathematics in the computer science sector would be most welcome from the point of view of those mathematicians working in Regional Technical Colleges.

D. Hurley suggested that the Society prepare a position paper to support the importance of mathematics in computer science. T. Murphy agreed to formulate this position paper with help from M. O'Reilly. C. Nash agreed to try to find out the precise details of the HEA's proposed cut.

The meeting closed at 1.05pm.

Pauline Mellon
University College Dublin.