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

**Ordinary Meeting**
23rd December 1997

The Irish Mathematical Society held an Ordinary Meeting at 12.15pm on Tuesday 23rd December 1997 in the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, 10 Burlington Road. Eleven members present. The President, C. Nash was in the chair. Apologies were received from D. Armitage, M. Clancy, D. Hurley and P. Mellon (Secretary).

### 1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of March 1997 were approved and signed.

### 2. Matters arising

It was agreed that rather than having an I.M.S. Mathematics Olympiad perpetual trophy sculpted, a cup will be purchased instead. This will cost between £200 and £300.
It was noted that there have been substantial changes to the situation regarding possible cuts by the H.E.A. of the research equipment budgets of the universities. An amount of £300m. has been allotted to technology in second and third-level education.

### 3. Correspondence/Membership Applications

Subsequent to a letter received from an unemployed member seeking a reduction in the membership fee (which was approved by the committee), it was agreed that the issue of a special membership rate for unwaged members will be put on the agenda of the next Ordinary Meeting of the Society.

### 4. The Bulletin

R. Gow, editor, reported that there is still a need for articles for future issues.

R. Gow stated that his term as editor is coming towards its end. He will edit the Easter issue and hopes that a new editor will be in place by then.
The Society expressed its gratitude to Dr Gow for his efforts in putting and keeping the bulletin on a regular footing over the past number of years.
It was noted that the Christmas 1997 edition of the Bulletin is now available and is being distributed by G. Lessells.

### 5. Election of Officers

It was noted that E. Gath, R. Gow, P. Mellon (Secretary), J. Pulé (Treasurer) and A. Wickstead have reached the end of their two-year terms of office on the committee.
An election took place to fill the five vacant committee positions. The nominations were as follows:

| Position | Nominee | Proposer | Seconder |
|---|---|---|---|
| Treasurer | K. Hutchinson $\frac{3\dagger}{2}$ | J.Pulé | D.C. Nash |
| Secretary | R. Higgs | C. Nash | M. Newell |
| Ordinary Members | N. Buttimore<br>R. Gow†<br>J. Golden $\frac{\dagger}{2}$<br>T. Murphy | C. Nash<br>E. Gath<br>S. Tobin<br>R. Timoney | R. Timoney<br>M. Newell<br>M. Newell<br>M. Newell |

Note: following the election of K. Hutchinson as treasurer, an additional vacancy arose for the position of ordinary member. Since there was only one candidate for each position all six nominees were deemed elected.
Each † denotes a previous two-year term of office.

It was noted that C. Nash (President), D. Armitage (Vice-president), M. Clancy, D. Hurley and G. Lessells each has one more year remaining in their current term of office.

**6. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer presented the interim report for 1997. The surplus for the year stands at £507.63. The arrears in E.M.S. subscription have now been paid in full.
It was noted that the membership form and the bank standing order form are both available at the I. M. S. web-site *www.maths.tcd.ie/ims* It was agreed that the I.M.S. members should be more pro-active in the recruitment of new members. It was agreed that the membership list should list members by institution.

**7. September Meeting 1998**

The Society noted its gratitude to Dr Golden and the organizers at D.I.T. for a well organized 1997 September meeting with a good program.

It was reported that the plans for the 1998 September meeting at the University of Ulster, Coleraine are at an advanced stage. Five main speakers have accepted invitations. The on-going details of arrangements are available on the I.M.S. web page.

**8. Joint I.M.S./L.M.S. meeting**

A joint meeting of the I.M.S. and London Mathematical Society will take place in Burlington House, London on 22nd and 23rd May 1998, with the title *Complex Analysis and Dynamical Systems*. The following have agreed to speak: Linda Keen (CUNY), Anthony G. O'Farrell (Maynooth), Bodil Branner (Technical University of Denmark), Ricardo Perez-Marco (Orsay, Paris), Shaun Bullett (Queen Mary and Westfield College, London), Jean-Christophe Yoccoz (Orsay, Paris). R. Timoney and D. Hurley are the I.M.S. local organizers and Shaun Bullett is the L.M.S. local organizer. The I.M.S. is contributing £1,200 which is one-third of the total cost. R. Timoney is seeking some financial support from the British Council.

**9. Any other business**

M. Newell announced that the *Groups in Galway* conference will celebrate its 21st birthday in 1998. He will write to the Treasurer seeking some financial support from the I.M.S.

It was agreed that future editions of the I.M.S. Bulletin will be included in the I.M.S. web-pages maintained by R. Timoney at *www.maths.tcd.ie/ims*. They will be in postscript or Adobe pdf format. R. Timoney also noted that information about EMIS (The European Mathematical Information Service), offered by the EMS, is now mirrored at the TCD web-site *emis.maths.tcd.ie/EMIS*. This includes about 15 electronic journals.

N. Buttimore noted the recent success concerning the equipment budgets of the universities, was due in some part to lobbying T.D.s by mail. He noted that T.D.s now have e-mail accounts.

There was some discussion about the recent situation in DCU., whereby mathematics is now being taught to first and second year Engineering students from outside of the School of Mathematical Sciences. Since the current situation is still under review at DCU, it was agreed that Society will await further developments before deciding on possible action. The Society will keep in touch with its members in DCU.

The meeting closed at 12.55p.m.

Eugene Gath
University of Limerick.