Minutes of the Meeting
of the Irish Mathematical Society

Ordinary Meeting
3rd September 1999

The Irish Mathematical Society held an Ordinary Meeting from 12.10 to 1 p.m. on Friday 3rd September 1999 in Trinity College Dublin. There were 21 members present. The President, D. Armitage, was in the chair. Apologies were received from Charles Nash.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of December 1998 were approved and signed.

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3. Correspondence/Membership Applications

A letter from the National University of Ireland concerning the Travelling Studentship was discussed. It was agreed that at a future suitable date the Society would contact the relevant Heads of Department, so that we could all present a united approach to objecting to the present arrangements.

A letter from the Royal Irish Academy resulted in Eugene Gath being congratulated for his service, on behalf of the Society, on the National Committee for Mathematics. Subsequently Kevin Hutchinson was elected as the Society's new member of this Committee.

A letter from the Edinburgh Mathematical Society was discussed, and it was agreed that the Irish Mathematical Society strongly approves of holding a joint meeting with them in the future. The time, venue, and content will be the subject of further discussions between the Societies.

Correspondence between McVitie's Ireland and the Society was read out. The initiative of McVitie's in giving "Free Maths Stuff for Schools" was welcomed.

The following have been approved as Members of the Irish Mathematical Society: Dr Pat Muldowney, Magee College, University of Ulster; Mr Brendan O Sullivan; Dr T Simonthy R Fuad, University of Northern Sumatera; Dr Andrew Butterfield, Department of Computer Science, Trinity College Dublin; Professor Mohamed Akkouchi, University Cadi Ayyad, Marrakech; Dr Götz Pfeiffer, National University of Ireland, Galway; Mr James Gahan; Dr Colin Turner, University of Ulster; Dr Clifford Nolan, University of Washington; Dr Maria Meehan, Dublin City University; Dr David McSherry, University of Ulster.

The following are the nominees of the Institutional Members: D. Ryan, T. Unger, S. McGarraghy, M. Venkova, M. Hanley, all from University College Dublin; A. Sanabria-Garcia, C. List, S. Kelly, C. Mac an Bhaird, J. Love, all from National University of Ireland, Maynooth; K. Duffy, D. Malone, J. Harris, A. Musgrave, E. Prodanov, all from Trinity College Dublin.

4. The Bulletin

It was reported that material is not being received regularly for the Bulletin, and that the Editor, Roderick Gow, has served the Society in this capacity for a long time.

Various ideas were raised concerning the Bulletin:

(i) a special issue should be produced for 2000, perhaps surveying open problems in mathematics;

(ii) that the historical talks at the (current) Irish Mathematical Society Conference should be gathered together to form a number of small articles.

Richard Timoney reported that some of the material from the talks above would appear in the Mathematical Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy, but agreed to solicit articles from the speakers.

It was also suggested that a poster be produced promoting the Irish Mathematical Society.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented his report for 1998, which was approved and signed. The accounts do not show a debit of £1,200, which was spent in connection with the joint Irish/London Mathematical Society meeting.

6. September Meetings

The September meeting of the Irish Mathematical Society is to be held in Maynooth in 2000, with the 2001 venue still to be decided.

7. Irish Mathematical Society Ordinary Meetings

It was decided to continue holding Ordinary Meetings of the Irish Mathematical Society in September and December.

8. Any other business

The British Mathematical Colloquium may possibly be held in Queen's University, Belfast in 2004. The financial feasibility of making this a joint meeting with the Irish Mathematical Society is to be investigated.

Three items were suggested for the Committee to consider at its next meeting:

(i) that funds in the Society's accounts be invested to gain a higher return than at present;

(ii) that the position of Membership Secretary should be created on the Committee;

(iii) that the long-standing local representatives be replaced by fresh ones.

Russell Higgs
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