Minutes of the Meeting
of the Irish Mathematical Society

Ordinary Meeting
22nd December 1999

The Irish Mathematical Society held an Ordinary Meeting at 12.30 p.m. on Wednesday 22nd December 1999 in the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, 10 Burlington Road. There were 12 members present. Apologies were received from 3 members. The President, D. Armitage, was in the chair.

1. Minutes of the September 1999 meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted and signed subject to the following two corrections. Some of the historical talks given at the Society's September 1999 Conference will be included in an RIA-sponsored publication tentatively entitled *Mathematicians with Irish Connections*, to be published by UCD Press (and not in the RIA Proceedings, as stated). The Society has not yet paid £1200 to the LMS as its contribution to the joint 1998 meeting: the Minutes should record *which is due*, rather than *was spent*.

2. Matters arising from the Minutes

In response to a point raised by A. Solomon, it was agreed that in future the names of those who offer apologies for non-attendance of Society meetings should not be included in the published version of the minutes, but that the names should be recorded in the Minute Book, along with the names of those who have attended.

In connection with the possibility of a meeting of the British Mathematical Colloquium in Belfast in 2004, D. Armitage reported that a final decision on the venue should be made by the BMC committee in April 2000. The Committee of the IMS has recommended that the Society would be prepared to provide financial support for the planned BMC meeting in Belfast as a joint meeting *within our means* but without naming a specific amount of money to be made available.

3. Membership applications

Rev. L. Montague Coward (Sheffield) was approved as a new member of the IMS.

4. Proposals for honorary membership

Three ordinary members of the Society may propose candidates for honorary membership of the Society, and the proposals will then be discussed by the Committee and presented to the next Society meeting for a vote. There are no specific criteria for honorary membership.

5. The Bulletin

M. Mathieu has volunteered to take over the editorship of the Bulletin from R. Gow, who has served as editor for 6 years. He was elected to the position by acclaim and will begin his term of office in October 2000.

6. Treasurer's report

The Society has bought a savings certificate to the value of £2000 as an investment. As noted in item 2 above, the £1200 has not yet been paid to the LMS.

A letter from M. Mathieu has been received on the subject of holding All-Ireland Algebra Days. The Committee has recommended that the Society provide start-up funds of £250 for a first Algebra Day in Belfast. A motion that the Society agree to this recommendation was proposed by R. Timoney and seconded by A. O'Farrell, and the motion was carried.

7. Joint meeting with Edinburgh Mathematical Society

A joint meeting of the Society with the Edinburgh Math. Soc. has been proposed, with a possible venue of Strathclyde University in November 2000. The Committee declined this proposal as unsuitable. A suggestion was made that the Society's September 2001 meeting might be made a joint meeting with the EMS. (Negotiation in connection with an expanded Galway group theory meeting with the EMS has been put in motion.)

8. Membership Secretary

T. Murphy has suggested a drive to increase Society membership. Although under the terms of the Society constitution he cannot be made an official Membership Secretary without amending the constitution, D. Armitage proposed and A. O'Farrell seconded a motion that T. Murphy adopt the duties of a Membership Secretary, and this motion was passed.

9. Election of Officers

The following were elected, unopposed, to the Committee:

Position	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Secretary	R. Higgs	S. Dineen	G. Lessells
Treasurer	K. Hutchinson	S. Dineen	G. Lessells
Ordinary Members	T. Murphy M. Mathieu F. Holland D. Ó Sé	D. Armitage R. Timoney S. Dineen E. Gath	S. Dineen N. Buttimore G. Lessells M. O'Reilly

Although, he has already served 6 consecutive years on the Committee, R. Gow was co-opted to the Committee for the duration of his editorship of the Bulletin.

10. New local representatives

E. Gath suggested that, as part of his duties as Mambership Secretary, T. Murphy might try to revitalize the Society's local representative system He also suggested that, in an attempt to stimulate membership of the Society outside the universities, free copies of the Bulletin might be sent to Institutes of Technology.

11. Future ordinary meetings of the IMS

There was some discussion of the best times to hold meetings of the Society to improve attendance. S. Dineen suggested that the AGM of the Society, with election of officers, should be held at the September meeting. Such a change will require an amendment of the Society's constitution.

A. O' Farrell gave details of the September 2000 meeting of the Society at Maynooth. This will be a 3-day meeting, with the third day being devoted to presentations by postgraduate students. Abstracts of proposed talks will be canvassed and invitations to talk will then be made.

12. Any other business

There was no further business. The meeting closed at 2.45 pm.

Rod Gow
University College Dublin