Minutes of the Meeting
of the Irish Mathematical Society
Ordinary Meeting
18th December 2003

The Irish Mathematical Society held an Ordinary Meeting at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday 18th December 2003 in DIAS.

Present: G. Lessells (President), M. O'Reilly (Vice-President), S. Dineen, T. Dorlas, P. Lynch, M. Mackey, T. Murphy, A. Solomon, R. Timoney.

Apologies: D. Armitage, E. Gath, D. Gilbert, R. Higgs, M. Mathieu, A. O'Farrell, A. O'Shea, D. Wraith.

1. Minutes
Following a query on the use of Ó in the spelling of surnames, the minutes of the meeting of September 2003 were approved and signed.

2. Matters Arising
There were no matters arising (not appearing elsewhere on the agenda).

3. Correspondence

- A reciprocity agreement with the RSME (Real Sociedad Matemática Española, www.rsme.es) was concluded and signed.
- A request for funding from B. Nolan (DCU) towards the 17th International Conference on General Relativity and Gravitation (www.gr17.com) was agreed.
- There was correspondence with institutional members of the Society regarding entitlement to nominate student members.
- A request from the Abel Committee asking for nominations for the Abel Prize was received only three days before the deadline. A member remarked that the Society had a civic duty to engage with the nomination process for this prestigious prize (www.abelprisen.no).

4. New Members

- The Hamilton Institute (Maynooth) has joined as an institutional member.

- There is a new application form for membership at www.maths.tcd.ie/pub/ims
- M. O'Reilly is to draft criteria for membership (to be considered by the Committee in the first instance).
- Agreed that formal letters of invitation to meetings of the Society would not normally be issued to facilitate members' attendance.

5. The Bulletin
The next issue of the Bulletin (no. 52) is due to appear in January 2004. The meeting complimented the Editor on his continuing excellent work on the Bulletin, and the President for his work on its printing and distribution.

6. Treasurer's Report
The Treasurer's interim report for 2003 was presented in his absence. The shortfall of 2686.54 euro was not considered any cause for alarm since it includes expenditure for the joint IMS/BMC meeting in 2004. Moreover, income for the Bulletin, spent in 2003, was received in 2002.

7. Belfast Meeting
The joint IMS/BMC meeting will take place in Belfast, 5–8 April (www.qub.ac.uk/bmc2004). The registration fee will be 40 pounds. There will be two Satellite events: a meeting of the North British Functional Analysis Seminar (NBFAS) and a Student Day, both on the 5th. The LMS has contributed 9000 pounds (including 1000 pounds to support student participation), while the IMS contribution is 2000 euro. Further details (including splinter groups) will be updated, as they are finalised, on the web-site. The President urged a good Irish representation.

8. Possible Constitutional Change
A motion will be tabled at the next meeting of the Society (in Belfast) to reduce the required number of meetings per annum from two to one.

9. Future Meetings
The next AGM of the Society will be in Belfast in April 2004. It is hoped that the 2005 meeting will be in DCU. N. O'Sullivan is to be asked to follow up on this.

10. Any Other Business

A proposal for honorary membership of the Society was made (to be confirmed at the AGM). Moreover, it was recommended that a list of honorary members be maintained on the Society's web-site.

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