

Joint Mathematical Council of the United Kingdom

Annual Report for 2013

This report is for the calendar year 2013 (as required by article 10.2(a) of the JMC Constitution) with supplementary information for the period 1 January to 30 September 2014. (For the period before 5 November 2013 this report draws upon the previous report by the then Honorary Secretary, Gerald Goodall.)

Membership

Where more than one name is given the representative changed during the period. Those asterisked were members of the Executive Committee.

	2013		2014
	1 Jan – 5 Nov	5 Nov – 31 Dec	1 Jan – 30 Sep
Officers			
Chair	Tim Rowland*		
Honorary Secretary	Gerald Goodall*	Peter Thomas*	
Honorary Treasurer	Paul Harris*		
Participating Societies			
	Representative		
Association of Mathematics Education Teachers	Jenni Back / Ros Hyde	Ros Hyde	
Association of Teachers of Mathematics	Sue Pope*		
British Society for Research into Learning Mathematics	John Monaghan		Hilary Povey
British Society for the History of Mathematics	June Barrow-Green		
Conference of Heads of Departments of Mathematical Sciences	David Arrowsmith		David Arrowsmith* (to 24 Apr) / Catherine Hobbs (from 24 Apr)
Edinburgh Mathematical Society	Colin Campbell (see note 1)		
Institute of Mathematics and its Applications	Chris Sangwin*	Chris Sangwin	
London Mathematical Society	Tony Gardiner / Alice Rogers	Alice Rogers	
The Mathematical Association	Alison Clark-Wilson		Alison Clark-Wilson (to 15 Apr) / Peter Ransom (from 15 Apr)
Mathematics in Education and Industry	Charlie Stripp*	Charlie Stripp	
National Association for Numeracy and Mathematics in Colleges	Sally Barton*		
National Association of Mathematics Advisers	Lynn Churchman / Alice Onion	Alice Onion	
National Numeracy (from 17 Jun 2014)	–		Lynn Churchman
National STEM Centre	Lydia Showan / Stephen Lyon	Stephen Lyon	
NRICH representing the Millennium Mathematics Project	Lynne McClure		Lynne McClure* (see note 2)
Operational Research Society	Louise Orpin (later Louise Allison, see also note 3)		
Royal Academy of Engineering (from 26 Feb 2013)	Matthew Harrison	Matthew Harrison (to 19 Dec) / Rhys Morgan (from 19 Dec)	Rhys Morgan
Royal Statistical Society	Roeland Beerten	Olivia Varley-Winter	
Wales Institute of Mathematical and Computational Sciences	Stephen Williamson		

Co-opted Members		
Immediate Past Chair	Duncan Lawson	–
JMC International Representative	Ros Sutherland	
UK Representative to International Commission on Mathematics Instruction	Chris Budd	
Executive Secretary (from 25 Feb 2014, see also note 4)	–	David Martin
Observing Societies	Representative	
Advisory Committee on Mathematics Education	Lynne McClure / Robert Barbour	Robert Barbour
Adults Learning Mathematics	Jeff Evans	
Department for Education [England]	Ian Brydon / Stephen Rogers	Stephen Rogers
Department of Education [Northern Ireland]	Nick Todd	
Education Scotland	Fiona Robertson	
The Higher Education Academy	Mary McAlinden	Mary McAlinden (to 27 Jul) / John Craig (from 28 Jul)
National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics	Celia Hoyles / Jane Imrie	Jane Imrie
National College for Teaching and Leadership (see note 5)	James O'Donoghue	
Office for Standards in Education	Jane Jones	
The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation	Janet Holloway	
The Royal Society	Rosalind Mist / Yasmin Hossain / Juliet Upton	Juliet Upton (to 31 Jul) / David Montagu (from 1 Aug)
School Mathematics Project	Paul Scruton (to 30 Sep)	(vacancy)
Sector Skills Council for science, engineering and manufacturing technologies in the UK	John Harris	John Harris (to 10 Aug) / Elinor Wallace (from 11 Aug)
United Kingdom Mathematics Trust	Bill Richardson	

Notes

Dylan Jones of the Department for Education and Skills [Wales] is invited to meetings and receives papers.

1 to 17 Oct 2014, from 17 Oct 2014: David Pritchard

2 to 31 Oct 2014, from 1 Nov 2014: Charlie Gilderdale

3 to 27 Oct 2014, from 27 Oct 2014: Charlene Timewell

4 from 1 August 2014: former Executive Secretary

5 The Teaching Agency merged with the National College for School Leadership in 2013. Council agreed at its meeting on 26 February 2013 that the merged body, the National College for Teaching and Leadership, would succeed the Teaching Agency as an Observing Society.

Executive Secretary

David Martin acted as Executive Secretary until 31 July 2014 when the position was discontinued; the JMC is very grateful to him for the work he has done on its behalf.

Until 31 March 2014, the JMC received financial support from ACME for this position; the JMC is very grateful for that support.

Minuting Secretary

Bill Richardson acted as Minuting Secretary for the Council meetings on 26 February and 13 June 2013; the JMC is very grateful to him for his work in this capacity. The position of Minuting Secretary was subsequently discontinued.

Meetings

The JMC continues to be very aware of the radical nature and vast scope of the changes to the school and college mathematics curriculum that is underway, especially in England through the National Curriculum Review and the reviews of GCSE and GCE AS/A-levels, as well as developments with other qualifications and initiatives such as Core Mathematics. This was reflected not only in the formal presentations noted below, but also in many other aspects of the general business of Council. Commentary from JMC representatives from other jurisdictions within the United Kingdom suggested increasing divergence between policy in England and elsewhere. JMC and its member societies were actively involved in the processes of disseminating and commenting on the various proposals. JMC intends to continue to be fully involved in these matters.

2013 The Annual General Meeting was held on 5 November 2013, this was followed by a meeting of the Council which included a celebration of the JMC's fiftieth anniversary; the Executive Committee met the previous evening. The Council also met on 26 February 2013 and 13 June 2013; meetings of the Executive Committee preceded the Council Meeting. All meetings were held at the Royal Statistical Society in London apart from the Executive Committee meeting on 4 November 2013 which was held at the Institute of Education in London.

26 February 2013 The Royal Academy of Engineering was admitted as a Participating Society; consideration was also given to an application from National Numeracy to become a Participating Society. Council agreed that following the merger of the Teaching Agency merged with the National College for School Leadership the merged body, the National College for Teaching and Leadership, would succeed the Teaching Agency as an Observing Society.

There was a presentation *Looking back and looking forwards* on the work of NCETM, led by Celia Hoyles and Charlie Stripp, followed by a lively and enthusiastic discussion. This meeting also had a further presentation and discussion on current developments led by Stefano Pozzi (DfE), accompanied by Nicola Edwards (DfE).

13 June 2013 Peter Thomas was elected unopposed to serve as Honorary Secretary from after the AGM in 2013 to that in 2016. Council decided that a letter should be written to the Secretary of State, expressing concern at the proposed changes in England to AS/A-level assessment and the serious effects that appeared likely on uptake of AS/A-level Mathematics and, particularly, Further Mathematics.

A presentation and discussion on current developments with particular reference to an announcement two days previously by the Secretary of State on GCSE reform took place; it was led by Nicola Edwards (DfE) and Alison Rowland (Ofqual). There was also a presentation and discussion of the work of the British Society for Research into Learning Mathematics, led by John Monaghan and colleagues.

5 November 2013 Council was informed that at its meeting the previous day the Executive Committee had decided to dissolve Nominating Committee and take on responsibility for its work; the Nominating Committee was chaired by Sally Barton; the other members were David Arrowsmith, Alison Clark-Wilson and Sue Pope. Council decided that a letter should be written to the Secretary of State (it was subsequently decided that it should be sent to the Chief Regulator), asking that the changes to GCSE Mathematics in England to be made for first teaching from September 2015 should be delayed by a year to allow for them to be better prepared and to allow them to be informed by the final report on the GCSE Mathematics Linked Pair Pilot. In response to this representatives of the JMC were invited to meet with Glenys Stacey on 10 February 2014. At the conclusion of the preceding AGM, the JMC expressed its gratitude for his work on its behalf to Gerald Goodall at the end of his term of office as Honorary Secretary.

The afternoon session was given over to a celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the JMC. The session was chaired by Sir Peter Williams and the speakers were Professor Sir Bryan Thwaites (The origins of JMC), Dr Sally Barton (Extracts from the archives), Professor Margaret Brown (Developing a JMC vision), Professor Chris Robson (Influencing Government) and Professor Tim Rowland (JMC now and a look to the future). The JMC is very grateful to ACME and the RSS for their generous support of the event. The JMC is also very grateful for the work of David Martin, Sally Barton and Paul Harris in organising the event. A permanent record of the event is to be found in the *Bulletin* of the BSHM.

2014 The Council met on 25 February 2014 and 17 June 2014; meetings of the Executive Committee preceded the Council Meeting. The Annual General Meeting and a further Council meeting will be held on 11 November 2014 with a meeting of the Executive Committee on 10 November 2014. The Executive Committee held an extraordinary meeting on 10 April 2014 to review the JMC's governance and practices following the cessation of financial support for the position of Executive Secretary. All meetings are held at the Royal Statistical Society in London, apart from the Executive Committee meetings on 10 April 2014 (at the Centre for Mathematical Sciences, Cambridge) and 10 November 2014 (at International Hall, London).

25 February 2014 The Council agreed arrangements for the Bursaries Committee for bursaries for ICME13 in 2016.

The afternoon discussion was led on behalf of ACME by Robert Barbour. It looked at *The Medium-Term Perspective* and sought to inform ACME's attempt to be less reactive and more proactive, assisting in determining the agenda for its future activity. This discussion took the place of the customary November ACME-led discussion which had been displaced by the fiftieth anniversary celebration.

17 June 2014 National Numeracy was admitted as a Participating Society. Paul Harris was elected unopposed to serve for a further term as Honorary Treasurer from after the AGM in 2014 to that in 2017. Council was informed that the Executive Committee would bring forward proposals for the JMC to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and that the JMC had taken out insurance cover for its activities. It was agreed to hold an open call for the Chair of the BCME Committee (which will prepare for BCME9 in 2018). Following the open call, David Martin was appointed by the Executive Committee as Chair of the BCME Committee.

The afternoon session began with a presentation by Roger Porkess on his report *A world full of data* which was funded by the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries and the Royal Statistical Society. The report considered the statistics present in A Level subjects other than mathematics. He stressed the prevalence of statistics and the gap between how statistics is experienced in mathematics in school and the needs beyond. There was then a second presentation by Vinay Kathotia on *The Mathematics-Related Work of the Nuffield Foundation*. He described the many projects in mathematics education which the Nuffield Foundation had carried out, from Nuffield Primary Mathematics which began in 1964 to the latest project on Applying Mathematical Processes.

BCME Committee

The eighth British Congress of Mathematics Education (BCME8) was held on 14–17 April 2014 at the East Midlands Conference Centre, University of Nottingham. The BCME Committee which organised this event in collaboration with ATM and MA was chaired by James Nicholson. The JMC is very grateful to him and to all whose efforts made the event such a notable success. There were 466 delegates registered who were able to hear three plenary lectures (by Lord Winston, Jill Adler and Malcolm Swan) as well as attend many talks, presentations and workshops, including a research strand organised by BSRLM.

Working Groups

A Working Group on Primary Mathematics chaired by Lynn Churchman, which had been established during the 2010–2011 session, continued with some activity during the early part of 2013. No formal report was prepared, but arrangements were made to pass the Group's key findings to ACME.

ACME

The JMC has continued to interact strongly with the Advisory Committee on Mathematics Education, to mutual benefit. Liaison included regular meetings between the JMC Executive Secretary and the ACME Secretariat. In addition, JMC is represented formally by its Chair, or his deputy, at the termly ACME meetings when the DfE is present. JMC also carried out its usual functions in respect of appointment of new members to ACME and review of publications.

JMC was pleased to receive pre-publication drafts of the ACME Annual Report at its meetings on 13 June 2013 and 17 June 2014. In 2014, a discussion of the report was held with representatives from ACME at the Executive Committee meeting preceding the Council meeting; this was felt to be a welcome development and is to be repeated in future.

The Royal Society is reviewing the governance arrangements for ACME in discussion with JMC. It is intended that a memorandum of understanding between The Royal Society and JMC concerning the governance of ACME will be agreed by March 2015.

Representation

Joint Ministerial STEM Advisory Group The JMC is represented on this group, by the Chair (or his deputy). Meetings of the group were co-chaired by Elizabeth Truss (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Education and Childcare, DfE) and David Willetts (Minister of State for Universities and Science, BIS).

NCETM Advisory Group The JMC is represented on this group, by the Chair. Early in 2013 Celia Hoyles who had been Director of NCETM almost since its inception stood down; she has been succeeded by Charlie Stripp. The DfE is continuing to fund NCETM, at a lower level than previously, until at least 2015.

National Maths Hubs Forum Tony Cotton represented the JMC at the first meeting of the forum on 18 June 2014; subsequently Lynne McClure has been the JMC's representative on the forum.

Council for Subject Associations The JMC joined the CfSA on 28 April 2014 and is represented on it by Alison Clark-Wilson.

Numeracy Forum Sally Barton has been the JMC's representative on the forum since its first meeting on 2 December 2013.

AQA Stakeholder Reference Group for GCSE Mathematics Reform David Martin was the JMC's representative on this group which met from February to April 2014.

OCR Mathematics Consultative Forum The JMC was represented on the forum by Gerald Goodall (until 5 November 2013) with David Martin as his alternate and successor.

The JMC has also been represented at various one-off meetings over the period.

Websites

The JMC's website and electronic document archives have for many years been hosted by the Open University; the JMC is very grateful to the OU and its staff for this support. At its meeting on 10 April 2014 the Executive Committee decided that the JMC should manage its website directly to allow for the more frequent and rapid updating of content; a new website has been established at www.jmc.org.uk and provision made for a BCME website at www.bcme.org.uk. The document archives will continue to be hosted by the OU.