

Joint Mathematical Council of the United Kingdom: Annual General Meeting
Minutes of the meeting held at the Royal Statistical Society on Tuesday 11 November 2014

Present

Officers

Chair	Tim Rowland
Honorary Secretary	Peter Thomas
Honorary Treasurer	Paul Harris

Representatives of Participating Societies

Association of Mathematics Education Teachers	Ros Hyde
Association of Teachers of Mathematics	Sue Pope
British Society for the History of Mathematics	June Barrow-Green
British Society for Research into Learning Mathematics	Hilary Povey
Conference of Heads of Departments of Mathematical Sciences	Catherine Hobbs
Edinburgh Mathematical Society	David Pritchard
Institute of Mathematics and its Applications	Nigel Steele (deputy)
London Mathematical Society	Alice Rogers
The Mathematical Association	Peter Ransom
Mathematics in Education and Industry	Charlie Stripp
National Association for Numeracy and Mathematics in Colleges	Sally Barton*
National Association of Mathematics Advisors	Alice Onion
National Numeracy	Lynn Churchman
National STEM Centre	Stephen Lyon
NRICH representing the Millennium Mathematics Project	Charlie Gilderdale
Operational Research Society	Charlene Timewell*
Royal Academy of Engineering	–
Royal Statistical Society	–
Wales Institute of Mathematical and Computational Sciences	–

Co-opted Members

Former Executive Secretary	David Martin
JMC International Representative	–
UK Representative to International Commission on Mathematical Instruction	–

Representatives of Observing Societies

Adults Learning Mathematics	Jeff Evans
Advisory Committee on Mathematics Education	–
Department for Education [England]	–
Department of Education [Northern Ireland]	–
Education Scotland	–
Higher Education Academy	–
National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics	Charlie Stripp (deputy)
National College for Teaching and Leadership	–
Office for Standards in Education	–
The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation	–
The Royal Society	Marie Rogerson (deputy)
School Mathematics Project	–
Sector Skills Council	–
for science, engineering and manufacturing technologies in the UK	–
United Kingdom Mathematics Trust	Bill Richardson*

Note: * Not present for the whole meeting

1 Introduction

- 1.1 **Welcome** The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 1.2 **Practical Arrangements** The procedure for emergency evacuation was announced as laid down in the contract for the booking of the premises.
- 1.3 **Apologies for absence** Apologies for absence were received from John Craig (HEA), Jane Imrie (NCETM), David Montagu (The Royal Society), Chris Sangwin (IMA), Olivia Varley-Winter (RSS) and Stephen Williamson (WIMCS).

2 Minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting, held on 5 November 2013

2.1 **Approval** The minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting were **approved**.

2.2 **Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda** None.

3 Reports

3.1 **Reception of a report on the Council's activities during the previous calendar year** The Honorary Secretary introduced the Annual Report. Alice Onion asked about the process by which the JMC's Representative to the National Maths Hubs Forum was appointed. The report was **received** with the following alterations:

pages 6/7: notes 1 and 2 should be transposed,
page 8, line 12: '2013' should be replaced by '2014' (twice),
page 8, line 24: 'Secretary' should be replaced by 'Treasurer',
page 9, line 10: 'been' should be inserted after 'had',
page 9, line 10: 'almost' should be inserted after 'NCETM',
page 9, line 13: '.' should be inserted after 'forum'.

3.2 **Approval of a revenue account for the year ending 30 September and a balance sheet showing the state of all funds under the control of the Council at the end of September last** The Honorary Treasurer introduced the accounts. There was a small deficit but there had been a couple of unexpected items, membership of CfSA and insurance, which meant that a £200 surplus had become a £200 deficit. Ros Hyde corrected the date at the head of the Treasurer's Report (page 10) from 'November 2013' to 'November 2014'. The Chair pointed out that the heading 'Officers Expenses' included the expenses of the whole of the Executive Committee as well as those of people representing the JMC at meetings of other bodies. The Honorary Treasurer said that it would be better called 'Executive Expenses' and in future he would split the category. He also observed that the higher figure this year, compared to last, was a consequence of having a special meeting of the Executive Committee in Cambridge on 10 April and the introduction of the practice of holding the Executive Committee meeting the evening before the day of the Annual General Meeting and the November Council meeting.

The Honorary Treasurer went on to describe the situation with the BCME Committee's accounts. He said that he had received no information from the Treasurer of the BCME Committee with the result that, as the BCME Committee is part of the JMC, the JMC's accounts were incomplete and the Honorary Treasurer would not be asking Council to approve the (incomplete) accounts before it. The Chair said that the matter had been discussed at length at the Executive Committee meeting the previous evening and the matter will be followed up. It was particularly important that the accounts were in order pending any application to become a CIO. Charlie Gilderdale asked whether any reason had been given; the Honorary Treasurer replied that he was not aware of any reason having been given; the Chair said that the Treasurer of the BCME Committee may not have been aware that accounts were promised in the final report by the outgoing Chair of the BCME Committee. The Chair said that it was hoped to bring a complete set of accounts to a Special General Meeting to take place immediately before the Council meeting on 10 March 2015.

Subscriptions The Honorary Treasurer said that the Executive Committee had asked him to analyse the costs of meetings and whether subscriptions were sufficient to cover those costs. The average cost per head of meetings over the previous three years (apart from 5 November 2013 which included the fiftieth anniversary celebration) was £46 giving a cost per representative per year of £138 for meetings alone. It was clear that the subscription for Observing Societies did not cover this and it was proposed to increase their subscription so it did at least cover costs, although the change might be phased in. The Honorary Treasurer presented three proposals for subscription rates for 2014/15 (with indicative rates for 2015/16), describing the options they contained; for Participating Societies they represented a 3% rise to allow for inflation. He said that the Executive Committee recommended Proposal 2. The Chair said that Proposal 2 eased the path for Observing Societies yet ensured there would be no financial advantage to a Small Participating Society to become an Observing Society.

Jeff Evans asked about the rationale for having Observing Societies, the elasticity of demand and the distribution of types of society; was there a need to have a category for Observing Societies at all? Alice Onion said there were two types of Observing Societies: public bodies (for which it was appropriate) and others such as ALM. The Chair said that an application from the UKMT, an Observing Society, to become a Participating Society, would be considered at the Council meeting immediately following this general meeting, if passed this would leave ALM in a small minority among the Observing Societies. The Chair emphasised that he very much wanted ALM to be part of the JMC; if it were to become a Participating Society then it would be in a position to enter into a conversation with the Honorary Treasurer to come to an accommodation which addressed its exceptional

circumstances. Lynn Churchman asked the Executive Committee to re-think the definition of an Observing Society. Sally Barton observed that the criteria for becoming a Participating Society used to be much more restrictive but that was no longer the case.

The Chair drew the discussion to a close and put Proposal 2 to the meeting; it was **passed** without opposition. Therefore, the rates for 2014/15 (and indicative rates for 2015/16) will be:

Type of Society	2014/5	2015/6
Large Participating	£670	£690
Medium Participating	£330	£340
Small Participating	£155	£160
Observing	£131	£164

Budget The Honorary Treasurer presented the budget for 2014/15. Alice Rogers asked the extent of the insurance cover and whether members of the Council were considered to be trustees; the Honorary Treasurer replied that it covered meetings and trustee indemnity insurance but not BCME; he noted her concerns about liability.

4 Membership of the Council

4.1 **Approval of the list of Participating Societies and Observing Societies** The list of Participating Societies and Observing Societies was **approved**.

4.2 **Formal announcement of the result of the election of the Honorary Treasurer** The election was announced of Paul Harris as Honorary Treasurer to serve for three years from the close of the Annual General Meeting.

4.3 **Appointment or re-appointment of co-opted members** Chris Budd (UK Representative to the International Commission on Mathematics Instruction) and David Martin (Chair of the BCME Committee of the JMC) were **co-opted** as members of the Council to serve for one year from the close of the Annual General Meeting. (David Martin withdrew during the discussion of this item.)

5 Membership of the Executive Committee

5.1 **Election of two members of the Executive Committee** The election was announced of Sue Pope as an elected member of the Executive Committee to serve for one year from the close of the Annual General Meeting.

5.2 **Announcement of any co-options to the Executive Committee** The Chair announced that Sally Barton had accepted an invitation by the Executive Committee to serve as a co-opted member of the Executive Committee for one year from the close of the Annual General Meeting (to fill the vacancy for the second elected member). He also said that the Executive Committee had identified two others it wished to invite to serve as co-opted members of the Executive Committee but they had yet to be approached.

6 Alteration of the Constitution

6.1 The Chair and the Honorary Secretary introduced the following motion:

That the Council shall seek to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, thereby incorporating it (so it may enter into contracts in its own name rather than those of its trustees), giving it the protection of limited liability (rather than the unlimited joint and several liability borne currently by its trustees) and the status of a registered charity.

The motion was **passed** without opposition

6.2 The first motion having been passed, consideration proceeded to the following two matters.

6.2.1 Consideration of a draft of proposals for the alteration of the constitution to be presented to a Special General Meeting to be held on 10 March 2015 before the meeting of the Council, in preparation for an application by the Council to the Charity Commission to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

The Honorary Secretary explained that more time was needed to prepare a draft constitution for the CIO and that a draft would be brought to a later meeting.

6.2.2 The Chair and the Honorary Secretary introduced the following motion for the alteration of the constitution:

Preamble

1 This motion is to allow for the expeditious conversion of the Council into a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

- 2 This motion is to avoid undue delay which any alterations to the proposals might occasion. It is unlikely that any proposed constitution approved at one meeting could be submitted to the Charity Commission and its decision be received in time for any further alterations to be put to the next meeting if three months' notice was still required.
- 3 It is recognised that this proposal reduces the opportunity for consideration within societies but if on a given occasion a member considers that one month has been insufficient time to consider a proposed alteration then it is open to that member to vote against the proposed alteration and ask for the it to be put again to the next meeting.

Proposal

That article 11 of the constitution which presently reads

The Council shall have power to change this Constitution provided that:

- (a) any motion of annulling, altering or adding to any section shall be considered at an Annual General Meeting or a meeting called specially for that purpose;
- (b) notice of such a motion shall be given, together with the notice convening the meeting, not less than three months before the date of the meeting;
- (c) the terms of the motion shall be given in full in that notice;
- (d) the motion shall be supported by two-thirds of the members present and voting at the meeting concerned.

shall from end of this Annual General meeting read:

The Council shall have power to change this Constitution provided that:

- (a) any motion of annulling, altering or adding to any section shall be considered at an Annual General Meeting or a meeting called specially for that purpose;
- (b) notice of such a motion shall be given, together with the notice convening the meeting, not less than one month before the date of the meeting;
- (c) the terms of the motion shall be given in full in that notice;
- (d) the motion shall be supported by two-thirds of the members present and voting at the meeting concerned.

The motion was **passed** without opposition

7 Any other business not elsewhere on the agenda

None

8 Conclusion

The meeting concluded at 11 a.m. with two minutes silence.
