

Minutes of the Autumn term meeting of the Joint Mathematical Council of the United Kingdom held at the Royal Society on 9th November 2006

Present at some point of the meeting were:

Officers

Ros Sutherland	Chair
David Martin	Honorary Secretary
Adrian Oldknow	Honorary Treasurer

Members

Dave Miller	Association of Mathematics Education Teachers
John Hibbs	Association of Teachers of Mathematics
June Barrow-Green	British Society for the History of Mathematics
Ken Ruthven	British Society for Research into Learning Mathematics
Tony Mann	Conference of Heads of Departments of Mathematical Sciences
Colin Campbell	Edinburgh Mathematical Society
David Youdan	Institute of Mathematics and its Applications
Elizabeth Winstanley	London Mathematical Society
Brian Robinson	National Association of Mathematics Advisers
Sally Barton	National Association for Numeracy and Mathematics in Colleges
Gerald Goodall	Royal Statistical Society
Barry Lewis	The Mathematical Association

Co-opted members

James Nicholson	BCME
Sue Sanders	ICMI

Observers

Diana Coben	Adults Learning Mathematics
Margaret Brown	Advisory Committee on Mathematics Education
Tony Holloway	Department for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (DELLS)
Greg Midcalf	Department for Education and Skills
Duncan Lawson	Higher Education Academy
Roger Porkess	Mathematics in Education and Industry
Graham Smart	National Strategies
Jane Jones	Office for Standards in Education

Nick Von Behr	Royal Society
Michael Reiss	Royal Society
Alf Brown	Teacher Development Agency
Bill Richardson	United Kingdom Mathematics Trust

Visitors / Guests

Celia Hoyles	Chief Advisor for Mathematics (England)
Colin Matthews	NCETM
John Harris	SEMTA

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from: George Paterson (Operational Research Society) and the QCA.

2. Appreciation of departing representatives

This had been dealt with in the AGM which preceded this meeting.

3. Welcome to new representatives, alternates and visitors

Sally Barton (NANAMIC); John Harris (SEMTA); Michael Reiss (Director of Education at the Royal Society).

4. Minutes of the meeting of June 6th 2006

There were no amendments.

5. Matters arising from the minutes

Item 13: It was noted that QCA were undergoing a restructuring. There had been some meetings between QCA and some JMC organisations and a further one was scheduled for 29th November 2006. An announcement of the new arrangements was expected soon. The JMC executive were concerned about the lack of mathematical expertise but would wait until the new team was known. It appeared that ACME had expressed concern but QCA had been unable to discuss the situation with ACME. In addition, the IMA had made an approach. It was considered that letters should be sent to Mick Waters and / or Tina Isaacs. MEI had made an approach but were unable to make any progress. It was suggested and agreed that all correspondence should be copied to Colin Seal (DfES).

Re AOB: Dave Miller asked what was happening with regard to the idea of a single Association across all subjects. Colin Matthews responded that a draft exists and that a paper would be given to JMC.

6. Reports from Executive

a. *Chair*

Ros Sutherland reiterated her enthusiasm for being chair of JMC and was very positive about it. Things that needed to be taken on board included: vision; strategies; and political issues. She said that the JMC has a very important role to monitor situations. As this was her first meeting as chair, she would be listening but would gradually become more proactive.

Ros was asked whether she viewed her role as applying to the whole of the UK and she said it was definitely so.

b. *Secretary*

The new secretary, David Martin said he also felt extremely positive about his new role.

c. *Treasurer*

Adrian Oldknow commented that expenses forms were available for those who were eligible. His proposal that the subscription for members remained unchanged was accepted and also that observers should pay £75 per annum. He asked that observers supply him with contact details so that he could deal with their subscriptions.

d. *Chair of Nominations Committee*

Gerald Goodall had nothing to report.

7. Discussion with Chief Advisor for Mathematics (England)

Celia Hoyles commented on the range of current activities which included: workforce developments; maths teaching; teaching and learning and NCETM; Strategies; curriculum remit with QCA; to keep maths on the post-16 agenda; Functional Maths.

The Bowland initiative is giving £2M (with matched DfES funding) to make KS3 interesting.

There is a two-day seminar on maths on 15th/16th November 2006 organised by NAGTY.

Efforts need to be made to link new ideas with existing initiatives to avoid unnecessary proliferation.

In the future, the relationship between maths and science would need to be examined.

8. Update on the work of the SEMTA

John Harris explained that SEMTA is the Sector Skills Council for Mathematics and part of the Skills for Business network led by employers. He said that the SEMTA footprint (which covered Science, Engineering, Manufacturing Technologies and Mathematics) includes 75,000 businesses and 2 million employees. He continued that SEMTA has four key goals: To reduce skills gaps and shortages; improve productivity and business performance; increase opportunity to boost the skills and productivity of the sector's workforce; improve learning supply. SEMTA provides employers with a unique forum (interacting with government and agencies) to influence and improve UK training and education infrastructure. SEMTA facilitates sector strategy groups (including one for mathematics) to inform and give employers the opportunity to influence provision and policy. SEMTA's recent work for mathematics includes: the development of functional mathematics standards; ensuring mathematics content within the new 14-19 engineering and manufacturing diplomas is sufficient and fit for purpose; working with the mathematics community to raise the profile and importance of mathematics; projects include developing mathematics learning materials, including e-learning materials; active membership of the advisory committee for the HE Academy Subject Centre for Mathematics; membership of

the project steering committee on the HEFCE funded project to increase the number of graduates in mathematical sciences.

9. Report from ACME

A number of points were made by Margaret Brown. It was understood that GCSE2 was not to be a requirement for A Level and that it is GCSE1 which is the requirement. Further clarification is needed.

There is to be a Functional Maths conference on either 6th or 7th February, 2007.

ACME is allowed to have a representative on the Functional Maths reference group.

10. Report from NCETM

Colin Matthews handed out copies of the NCETM delivery plan followed by a powerpoint presentation which included: Mission Statement; How do we work? (not a take over); Who do we work with? (e.g. STEM - John Holman).

The launch had happened in June but at present there was a restructuring taking place due to the departures of David Burghes, Ted Graham and Rob Smith. Janie Imrie was acting director and there were two assistant directors: Colin Matthews and Norma Honey. However, Colin stressed that it was business as normal and that there was to be an announcement in the TES due on Friday (10th November 2006).

He also reported that the development plan included an international conference in the middle of February.

Colin invited Michael Reiss to comment as to the way in which the M in STEM was being progressed.

Colin reminded members that use of the portal required registration and an e-bulletin would be sent to those who were registered. He asked that JMC would install a web-link from its site to NCETM.

11. Members Item

David Martin and Colin Matthews led a discussion as to how best JMC member organisations could work with NCETM. There had been a meeting on 25th May 2006 of stakeholders. A stakeholder could be an interested organisation or a partner of NCETM. For example, the Further Maths Network is a partner. NCETM would make a base line provision but has access to a wider network. The issue would be revisited at the JMC meeting next February.

Ken Ruthven noted that there were issues relating to capacity, resources and funding, particularly for small voluntary organisations such as BSRLM.

Colin (colin.matthews@ncetm.org.uk) would welcome responses and suggestions to enhance his draft paper "Towards a National Centre Local Professional Development offer" by 1st December 2006

12. Standing Committees:

a. *BCME*: Update

James Nicholson commented that the proposal from Manchester seemed very good and that five BCME reps were meeting in Manchester on 15th November 2006. He asked JMC members for ideas on two aspects: sponsorship and plenary speakers.

Ros Sutherland endorsed these comments and the merit of a large event.

b. *IMCI*: Update

Sue Sanders observed that ICME 11 (Mexico 2008) should provide an impetus for BCME 7 (2010).

13. Higher Education

There was nothing to say about this ahead of the discussion item.

14. Teacher Education

Dave Miller was pleased that there had been an announcement that funding for the first year of those on a two-year scheme was to be available but that the uptake of such courses might well decline. There was a joint proposal (AMET, ATM, MA, NAMA & NANAMIC) on subject leadership.

15. International Affairs

Sue Sanders was attempting to get funding to support UK representation at ICME 11 (Mexico 2008). She also noted that there was still no website in operation.

16. Operational Research

George Paterson had asked for comments on the OR paper.

17. JMC Website

David Martin asked if there were any questions. Graham Smart said he was most impressed with the JMC site.

18. Updates on current developments

a. *TDA*

Alf Brown commented that there was an increase in the uptake for maths ITT (1996 compared with 1697) with about 500 following employment-based routes. He also said it was a tough year for maths ITT. There are problems relating to sufficient school placements but that TDA was committed to 2-year courses.

Tony Mann commented that in a group of his students nearly half were planning to teach.

Sue Sanders commented that it would be helpful if OfSTED were to make reference to school placements in reports which might encourage more schools to be involved.

David Youdan was concerned as to whether there would be enough teachers to manage GCES2 and Functional Maths. It was noted that overall rolls were falling but that teacher numbers were being maintained.

b *QCA*

There was a written report.

c. *DELLS*

Tony Holloway added a few comments to his written report.

d. *OFSTED*

Jane Jones reported that the HMCI annual report was due 22nd November 2006. It was in a new style and tried to be in keeping with the current 'every child matters' agenda. Members were urged to comment on this new style of report and to criticise if necessary. It was agreed that this annual report should be considered at the JMC meeting on 15th February 2007.

e. *The National Strategies*

There was discussion of SIPs. The primary framework was done. The improvement at KS 3/4 was welcome.

19. Dates of future meetings:

- a. Thursday 15th February 2007
- b. Tuesday 5th June 2007
- c. Thursday 8th November 2007

20. AOB

None

Discussion Item

HEFCE funded Project 'More maths graduates'

Duncan Lawson provided a powerpoint presentation which covered:

Mission; Timing; Widening Participation; Budget; Relevance (fighting a decline; lack of awareness of opportunity for maths graduates).

The proposal will be piloted initially in three English regions: West Midlands; Yorkshire and Humberside; London.

The overall aim is to widen participation and to increase the supply of mathematics and science graduates.

The objectives include:

- emphasising career opportunities;
- getting pupils to understand the purpose of mathematical study ;
- developing teacher's enjoyment and confidence;
- increasing the scope of maths in HE.

The Project personnel will be a Project manager and an HE curriculum developer at the centre. In the regions there will be project officers for careers and for the subject; an administrator; a regional consultant and a local HE person.

The next stage is to make these appointments.