

JMC

**Joint Mathematical Council
of the United Kingdom**

Minutes of JMC Council Meeting, held at the Royal Society on 5 June 2007.

Present

Officers

Ros Sutherland	Chair
David Martin	Honorary Secretary
Adrian Oldknow	Honorary Treasurer

Members

Peter Johnson-Wilder	Association of Mathematics Education Teachers
John Hibbs	Association of Teachers of Mathematics
Tony Mann	British Society for the History of Mathematics
Ken Ruthven	British Society for Research into Learning Mathematics
Andrew Osbaldestin	Conference of Heads of Departments of Mathematical Sciences
Colin Campbell	Edinburgh Mathematical Society
Nigel Steele	Institute of Mathematics and its Applications
Vanessa Thorogood	Institute of Mathematics and its Applications
Elizabeth Winstanley	London Mathematical Society
Sally Barton	National Association for Numeracy and Mathematics in Colleges
Lynn Churchman	National Association of Mathematics Advisors
Brian Robinson	National Association of Mathematics Advisors
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
Elaine Ajayi	Department for Education and Skills
Roger Porkess	Mathematics in Education and Industry

Pete Griffin	National Centre for Excellence in Teaching Mathematics
Linton Waters	National Strategies
Jane Jones	Office for Standards in Education
Paul Harper	Operational Research Society
Sue Pope	Qualifications and Curriculum Authority
Nick Doran	Qualifications and Curriculum Authority
Michael Reiss	Royal Society (a.m.)
Nick Von Behr	Royal Society (p.m.)
John Harris	SEMTA
Alf Brown	Training and Development Agency for Schools (a.m.)
Bill Richardson	United Kingdom Mathematics Trust

Guest

Celia Hoyles	Chief Advisor for Mathematics (England) (a.m.)
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Ros Sutherland welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Item	Action
1. Apologies Duncan Lawson (MSOR); Paul Scruton (SMP); Helen Orr (MoreMathsGrads).	
2. Appreciation of departing representatives Sue Pope for AMET – now returning as a QCA representative	
3. Welcome to new guests, representatives, alternates and visitors Pete Griffin as guest for NCETM Paul Harper as new representative for ORS Peter Johnson-Wilder as new representative for AMET Tony Mann as alternate for June Barrow-Green (BSHM) Sue Pope as new representative for QCA Lynn Churchman as visitor for NAMA	
4. Minutes of the meeting of 15 February 2007 There were two minor corrections	
5. Matters arising from the minutes None.	
6. Reports from Executive (Note: the members of the executive are: Ros Sutherland; David Martin; Adrian Oldknow; Barry Lewis; Gerald Goodall and Elizabeth Winstanley.)	

<p>(a) Chair</p> <p>Ros Sutherland reported that the Executive had discussed a request from WALMATO for funding a conference planned in honour of Robert Recorde. It had been decided that JMC was unable to provide financial support and that Gareth Roberts would be informed accordingly.</p> <p>Ros also reported that both the Treasurer and the Secretary were willing to continue in post for a further year but that others could be put forward. Any nominations were required by 30 September. Other members of the Executive were willing to continue.</p> <p>(b) Honorary Secretary</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p> <p>(c) Honorary Treasurer</p> <p>The JMC expenses form was circulated to those entitled to claim.</p> <p>(d) Chair of Nominations Committee</p> <p>Nothing to report</p>	<p>Inform Gareth Roberts of funding decision (David Martin)</p> <p>Put forward any further names for Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer by 30 September 2007 (All)</p>
<p>7. Discussion with Chief Advisor for Mathematics (England)</p> <p>Celia Hoyles said that there were just a few items that she wished to comment on.</p> <p>She noted that ongoing curriculum development by QCA included: Pathways, Functional Mathematics and Diplomas.</p> <p>The TDA were active in promoting training for non-specialist teachers of mathematics and also recruiting Higher Level Teaching Assistants for Science and Mathematics</p> <p>The MoreMathsGrads project was underway and she hoped that it would produce good results and work with other groups in mathematics.</p> <p>Celia commented on the Bowland Initiative which has provided grants for the development of 23 case studies [to develop thinking, reasoning and problem solving skills in Key Stage 3 pupils see www.bowlandmaths.org.uk] (with matching DfES funding). The scope of the studies was not completely clear but it seemed as though they were not restricted to England. The outcomes would be available on the Web.</p> <p>The project ‘Every Child Counts’ (funded by the Treasury) is to be aimed at Key Stage 1 to provide highly trained maths support for individual learners on a 1 to 1 basis.</p> <p>The STEM initiative was noted as being high on the Government</p>	

<p>agenda and it would be a good idea if there was input from the JMC. Finally, Celia observed that NCETM was now one year old and that she was very honoured to be the new director and she hoped that all the societies represented on the JMC as well as the JMC itself would work with NCETM to make sure sustainable CPD for teachers of mathematics is put in place.</p> <p>In conclusion, she said the mathematics community had and would continue to need government support. Many new initiatives had been introduced and we all needed to ensure constructive coordination.</p> <p>Ros Sutherland asked how the JMC could engage with STEM.</p> <p>Sue Sanders commented that Celia had covered several major activities in England and asked if these were to extend to other parts of the UK.</p> <p>Adrian Oldknow asked for information about the Bowland case studies. Celia agreed to pass a list to David Martin. [These are on the above Bowland website]</p> <p>Ros endorsed Sue Sanders' wish that activities should be extended beyond England.</p> <p>Margaret Brown commented on 'Every Child Counts' saying that she hoped that it would draw on research in recovery programmes (contact person Denise Walsh).</p>	<p>Details of Bowland Case Studies to David Martin (Celia Hoyles)</p>
<p>8. Discussion of role of JMC and relationship with ACME</p> <p>Ros opened this discussion by observing that there were good links between JMC and ACME. She noted that improving impact was important and wondered whether ACME was attempting to take too much on and was in danger of becoming over-stretched. JMC was an important forum for many organisations which occupied niches within mathematics education and that it should try to be more proactive in its dealings with ACME. An associated question is how JMC fits with NCETM.</p> <p>Colin Campbell commented that both ACME and NCETM had been set up to deal with English issues whereas JMC had a UK wide brief. In addition, it was observed that JMC membership was not tied to government policy and that members could (and were) able to think more creatively.</p> <p>Margaret Brown felt that JMC could usefully feed more in to ACME which did have the money and the time.</p> <p>Lynn Churchman reminded the meeting that from its inception, ACME was intended to be small and lean in order to provide a rapid response. It was never intended to be 'representative'.</p> <p>Adrian Oldknow commented that JMC was limited by having little</p>	

funding at its disposal. With greater funds at its disposal, JMC might well be able to do much more to assist in the coordination of a range of activities.

Paul Harper asked for clarification on just how JMC fed into ACME. Ros listed three formal links: JMC had a role in the appointment of members to ACME; JMC has a role in searching for a new chair for ACME; and, ACME publications were reviewed by a panel whose membership included the chair of JMC. Brian Robinson suggested that the JMC Nominations Committee should identify a new chair for ACME but Gerald Goodall disagreed as it was too big a task with very wide implications. Celia Hoyles remarked that ACME needed a replacement for Sir Peter Williams at the start of 2008 - not far off! (The chair of ACME is not a mathematician but a user of mathematics. The requirement was a minimum of 10 days per annum, which was a considerable commitment for someone of the necessary calibre.)

Tony Holloway expressed the hope that there might be possible spin offs from ACME and JMC. He asked that JMC approach the Welsh Assembly to ask about initiatives.

Lynn Churchman asked if it was felt that the Outer Circle of ACME had appropriate coverage? This prompted the question as to who were its members. Margaret Brown said that a review was ongoing.

Peter Johnson-Wilder asked how views from bodies could be put to ACME. It was noted that whilst JMC could be used as a channel, it was perfectly acceptable to contact ACME directly.

9. Council for Subject Associations – update and discussion of relationship to JMC, ACME and others

Barry Lewis explained the background to this topic. There used to be informal links between Subject Associations (SAs) and the DfES.

Lord Adonis (Minister for Schools) was very much of the opinion that teachers should be members of a subject association and was prepared to provide initial funding. Barry described the ideas which were being put forward:-

There was a document which had been produced to say what a CfSA could do. It had been emphasised that DfES funding would be for at most for three years and that such funding would need to cover CfSA employees. After that was exhausted, it was up to SAs to pay. This was seen to be a sizable problem. Another strand was to set up a Primary Schools Joint Membership organisation as, given the range of SAs, it was prohibitively expensive for a school to join them all.

(it was requested that a copy of the CfSA proposal be circulated with the minutes.)

Copy of CfSA proposal circulated with minutes (**David Martin**)

<p>10. Report from ACME</p> <p>Margaret Brown reported that at present, ACME was extremely busy and in danger of being overwhelmed. The committee was concerned that it was being consulted by government at too late a stage after strategic decisions had been made. Current work included: GCSE2 and Pathways with QCA; a role as an enrichment and enhancement advisory group with DfES; and involvement with STEMNET (the successor to SETNET).</p> <p>Lynn Churchman commented that ACME had taken over the representative role which had been carried out by JMC.</p> <p>Margaret reported that there were to be two new members to replace Karen Spencer and Colin Mathews and that the names would be announced soon.</p>	
<p>11. NCETM</p> <p>There were two papers for the meeting. In addition, Peter Griffin emphasised that NCETM was keen to have links with existing groups. He also mentioned that a NCETM event on 20 June 2007 would celebrate the first year of its existence.</p>	
<p>12. Standing Committees</p> <p>BCME: James Nicholson provided a brief reminder of the current state of play: BCME 7 was to be held in Manchester starting at lunchtime on Tuesday 6 April 2010 and ending at lunchtime on Friday 9 April 2010 (the week following Easter). Ideas for Plenary Speakers were needed about 18 months before the event (i.e. in autumn 2008). The committee were scheduled to meet again in October 2007 and make a 'hard hat' tour of the site. It was noted that by 2010, Ros Sutherland would have completed her term as chair of JMC and that her successor would need to be briefed on the required role, in particular, to open the event.</p>	
<p>13. Higher Education</p> <p>Over and above the submitted paper, Ros commented about concerns about the drop out between years one and two,</p>	
<p>14. Teacher Education</p> <p>There were one or two extra comments:</p> <p>It was noted that teachers who trained in Northern Ireland but took up post in England were eligible for the 'golden hello'.</p> <p>New standards had been agreed.</p> <p>There were concerns over the move to M level within PGCE courses.</p>	
<p>15. International Affairs</p> <p>There was an ICMI visit to the UK in June 2007. Sue Sanders will be</p>	<p>NCETM be asked to</p>

<p>meeting the group. There was a UK nomination for the ICMI executive.</p> <p>ICME 11: There is a functional website, it is rather sluggish and a clearer idea of how an ICME operates might be found from the ICME 10 website. Negotiations were still ongoing about a UK presence. Money was still being looked for. There were 30 bursaries given for ICME 10. Overall, there was a good, positive feel about it. It was agreed that NCETM be asked to spread information.</p>	<p>spread ICME information (Sue Sandres)</p>
<p>16. JMC Website Nothing to report.</p>	
<p>17. Update on current developments.</p> <p>(a) TDA Alf Brown commented that TDA was concerned over reduced take up. There are courses for non-specialists (i.e. aspiring teachers with a limited mathematical background) due to start in June 2007 and that places were still available.</p> <p>(b) QCA There was a brief discussion of the 3:6:9:12 GCE A'level assessment model and related issues.</p> <p>(c) DELLS Report submitted.</p> <p>(d) OFSTED Jane Jones gave a Powerpoint display (which would, in due course, be available on the JMC website). Points were made about the 2005-06 report and Jane also looked ahead to the 2006-07 report. Ken Ruthven regretted the downgrading of subject-specialist reporting by OfSTED. Over many years the specialist reports (or specialist sections within, or supplements to, the HMCI Annual Report had provided an invaluable resource to researchers in gaining an informed perspective on the current state of mathematics education across the school system. Margaret Brown advised that comments should be given to the HMCI.</p> <p>(e) The National Strategies Report submitted.</p>	<p>Comments on new style reports to HMCI (All)</p>
<p>18. Dates of future meetings The next three meetings will be on Thursday 8 November 2007, Thursday 21 February 2008 and Tuesday 3 June 2008 at the Royal Society.</p>	
<p>19. AOB</p>	

<p>Ros reported that there was a request from MEI to upgrade its status from Observer to Participating Society. It was agreed that discussions should take place at the November meeting.</p>	<p>MEI request on November 2007 agenda (David Martin)</p>
<p>MoreMathsGrads – discussion</p> <p>The project manager Helen Orr was unable to be with us but Nigel Steele was able to give us an overview in her absence.</p> <p>MoreMathsGrads was launched on 23 April 2007. With the project manager in place interviews are proceeding for other positions. There is to be a project evaluator; and, an advisory ‘outer torus’ is being set up for which JMC representatives are invited to join.</p>	<p>JMC representatives invited to join ‘outer torus’ (All)</p>