

JMC

**Joint Mathematical Council
of the United Kingdom**

Minutes of JMC Council Meeting, held at the Royal Society on 8 November 2007.

Present

Officers

Ros Sutherland	Chair
David Martin	Honorary Secretary
Adrian Oldknow	Honorary Treasurer

Members

Peter Johnson-Wilder	Association of Mathematics Education Teachers
Margaret Jones	Association of Teachers of Mathematics
June Barrow-Green	British Society for the History of Mathematics
<i>Not represented</i>	British Society for Research into Learning Mathematics
Andrew Osbaldestin	Conference of Heads of Departments of Mathematical Sciences
Colin Campbell	Edinburgh Mathematical Society
Vanessa Thorogood	Institute of Mathematics and its Applications
Elizabeth Winstanley	London Mathematical Society
Sally Barton	National Association for Numeracy and Mathematics in Colleges
Brian Robinson	National Association of Mathematics Advisors
Gerald Goodall	Royal Statistical Society
Bill Richardson	The Mathematical Association (also United Kingdom Mathematics Trust)

Co-opted members

Sue Sanders	ICMI
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Observers

Diana Coben	Adults Learning Mathematics
Margaret Brown	Advisory Committee on Mathematics Education
Tony Holloway	Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills
Stephen Stanton	Department for Children, Schools and Families
Roger Porkess	Mathematics in Education and Industry
Colin Matthews	National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics
Linton Waters	National Strategies
<i>Not represented</i>	Office for Standards in Education

Sue Merchant	Operational Research Society
Sue Pope	Qualifications and Curriculum Authority
Nick Von Behr	Royal Society (a.m.)
Michael Reiss	Royal Society (p.m.)
John Harris	SEMTA
Paul Scruton	School Mathematics Project
<i>Not represented</i>	Training and Development Agency for Schools
Bill Richardson	United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (and the Mathematical Association)

Guest

Celia Hoyles	Chief Advisor for Mathematics (England) (a.m.)
James Nicholson	BCME (p.m.)

Ros Sutherland welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Item	Action
1. Apologies Jane Jones (Ofsted) and Ken Ruthven (BSRLM)	
2. Appreciation of departing representatives Alf Brown (TDA – awaiting replacement), Duncan Lawson (HEA) and Greg Midcalf (DfES)	
3. Welcome to new representatives, alternates, guests and visitors John Marriott as new representative for HEA Stephen Stanton as new representative for DCSF Margaret Jones as alternate for John Hibbs (ATM) Sue Merchant as alternate for Paul Harper (ORS) Bill Richardson as alternate for Barry Lewis (MA) Vanessa Thorogood as alternate for Nigel Steele (IMA)	
4. Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 5 June 2007 Accepted with one correction – BCME 7 end date is Friday 9 April	
5. Matters arising from the minutes <i>Action 9 although it was requested that a copy of the CfSA proposal be circulated with the minutes developments at CfSA had superseded this and David Martin had sent an update on 12 October 2007 instead.</i>	
6. Reports from Executive (Note: the members of the executive are: Ros Sutherland; David Martin; Adrian Oldknow; Barry Lewis; Gerald Goodall and Elizabeth	

Winstanley.)

a) Chair

Ros Sutherland commented that the role of the JMC in relation to ACME was under review. JMC was an important UK wide network. Ways should be found to strengthen that network. ACME was undergoing a review so it was timely for JMC to consider issues. It seemed possible that JMC might be able to have a paid secretariat, which should make it more productive and improve response times. It was felt to be important that the Chairs of JMC and ACME should meet on a regular basis. Ros noted that she had a very worthwhile meeting with Sir Peter Williams in September. In addition, JMC should try to be more active re ACME's outer circle. A planned sequence of discussion items would be useful. Finally, Ros said that BCME 7 in 2010 was a major event which JMC should support in every way possible.

Colin Campbell reiterated his support for the UK wide aspect of JMC. Margaret Brown said that ACME and Gatsby were looking at ways of working and that Ros would be part of the outer circle. Sue Sanders commented that having a secretariat would be good so long as finances were in place. It was also said that BCME 7 would be an important milestone for Maths Education and needed major input at the 2008 summer and autumn JMC meetings.

b) Honorary Secretary

David Martin made brief comments on: The JMC Nominations Committee; the Every Child Counts initiative (JMC nominee is Lynne McClure) and that MoreMathsGrads would be dealt with under the HE item.

c) Honorary Treasurer

Adrian Oldknow had reported to the AGM and had nothing to add.

d) Chair of Nominations Committee

New Chair Brian Robinson

7. Discussion with Chief Advisor for Mathematics (England)

Celia has taken up her post as Director of NCETM and was still Chief Advisor until 30 November 2007 so it was a good time to reflect. The continuity for the Chief Advisor post was not clear nor was it guaranteed. Achievements included:-

Post-14 maths group set up in the DCSF

The existence of a Chief Advisor and with that The Maths Board

<p>which dealt with three main areas: whole curriculum development; pathways; functional skills - each having a long time scale.</p> <p>Other activities include: Teaching and Learning strand; golden hello; NCETM (noted that BCME dates should be on the NCETM calendar along with items from other organisations); STEM - crucial; Adult Numeracy; Early years website; Sir Peter Williams' primary survey to report in March 2008 with the final report to coincide with the NCETM annual event on June 17th.</p>	
<p>8. Application by MEI to become a Participating Society</p> <p>Roger Porkess outlined the history of MEI's involvement with JMC and the way in which it fulfilled the JMC constitution requirements for a Participating Society. He was thanked for this and voting slips were issued to participating societies to be returned at lunchtime.</p>	
<p>9. Report from ACME</p> <p>Margaret Brown spoke to her written report. On membership, Fiona Allan and Wendy Hoskins had replaced Karen Spencer and Colin Matthews respectively. It was noted that: the Level 3 mathematics review would include Further Mathematics and Free Standing Mathematics Qualifications; students might be involved in a Diploma rather than just studying a collection of A levels; maths could be considered mainly within a science diploma (although there were cases e.g. economics, which wouldn't fit); a conference was planned for 27th February (Mathematics within STEM - a policy perspective); the Gatsby funding would end in March - a review was on-going which would lead to recommendations and a submission for continued financial support.</p> <p>Celia reiterated that maths should not be placed exclusively with sciences.</p> <p>Paul Scruton expressed concern that, in relation to engineering at Level 3, maths might be marginalised as just a ninth of the module was maths and it wasn't mentioned elsewhere which might lead to a superficial treatment. This might create problems for HE entry standards.</p> <p>John Harris observed that an additional maths module (based on a Loughborough course) was welcomed by universities for engineering in its present form.</p> <p>Margaret said ACME was producing a public position paper on mathematics in diplomas.</p>	
<p>10. Report from NCETM</p> <p>In addition to the written report, Colin Matthews drew attention to: the Williams primary maths review and an NCETM grant for summer schools.</p>	

<p>There were two challenges for NCETM in the year from March 2008:</p> <p>(a) The precise role of regional coordinators. This was needed because there were inconsistencies at present. The demands were unclear and it had been thought that there would be regional advisory groups.</p> <p>(b) NCETM hoped to be a major network and, in some sense, operate as LEA advisors did.</p> <p>Celia wished to emphasise events: 20th November - small grants conference; 12th March - The Potential of ICT in Mathematics Teaching and Learning; December 2008 - with JMC and MoreMathsGrads.</p>	
<p>11. Members Item - Council for Subject Associations (CfSA)</p> <p>David Martin reported that the interim Board had met in September at which Colin Matthews had represented the mathematics subject associations. Kath Cross has been nominated by 'AMSA' an affiliation of AMET+ATM+MA+NAMA+NANAMIC.</p>	
<p>12. Higher Education</p> <p>Elizabeth Winstanley said that the diploma situation was a very active one. Adrian Oldknow said he was concerned. Elizabeth said she was encouraged by the engineering response.</p>	
<p>13. Teacher Education</p> <p>Peter Johnston-Wilder reported that recruitment levels in England stood at 84% and so was behind what was needed (in quality also). The £700 bursary for two-year course was important in attracting students. In collaboration with other subject associations a course for subject leaders was currently being prepared.</p> <p>Elizabeth Winstanley commented that the overall quality of mathematics students in HE had dipped due to the effects of Curriculum 2000, but this seemed to have been a passing phase and HE was now getting more students with better quality. It is hoped that when this cohort moves through the system, there should be a corresponding improvement in the number of applications for teacher training in mathematics.</p>	
<p>14. JMC Website</p> <p>David Martin said it would be updated soon to take account of changes.</p>	
<p>15. Update on current developments.</p> <p>a) TDA None received</p> <p>b. QCA</p> <p>In addition to the report, Sue Pope added that GCSE2 is still the</p>	

<p>working title for the second GCSE in mathematics, not Additional Mathematics.</p> <p>c. DELLS Tony Holloway announced that DELLS was now DCELLS.</p> <p>d. OFSTED Publication of the Ofsted maths report will not now be in December – Ofsted are now hoping to produce this for late spring.</p> <p>e. The National Strategies Linton Waters emphasised that the framework content was substantially unchanged. He also commented on his departure and that a new Programme Director would be announced at some stage.</p>	
<p>16. Dates of future meetings At the Royal Society Thursday 21 February 2008 Tuesday 3 June 2008 Thursday 13 November 2008</p>	
<p>17. AOB None</p>	
<p>18. Standing Committees: BCME: Update James Nicholson commented that some unexpected snags had arisen at Manchester with regard to accommodation. These were being addressed but, in the meantime, Edinburgh remained a possibility.</p>	
<p>Discussion item 1 ICME11 led by Colin Matthews, Sue Sanders and Ros Sutherland. The wish for a UK presence was still strong. The NCETM would be funding 6 teachers to participate. Applications for funds to support further teachers had been lodged with various organisations.</p>	
<p>Discussion item 2 QCA GCE Report led by Sue Pope A very lively discussion took place addressing e.g. the following questions:- Whether Further Mathematics and Mathematics should draw from the same pool of application units. Whether A-level Mathematics should be accessible to a wider group of people (e.g. grade C at GCSE like other subjects)</p>	

