

**JMC****Joint Mathematical Council  
of the United Kingdom****Minutes of the JMC Council meeting  
held at the Royal Statistical Society  
on Thursday 13 June 2013****Present***Officers*

Tim Rowland	Chair
Gerald Goodall	Honorary Secretary
Paul Harris	Honorary Treasurer

*Executive Secretary*

David Martin	Executive Secretary
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*Representatives of Participating Societies*

Jenni Back	Association of Mathematics Education Teachers
Sue Pope	Association of Teachers of Mathematics
June Barrow-Green	British Society for the History of Mathematics
John Monaghan	British Society for Research into Learning Mathematics
David Arrowsmith	Conference of Heads of Departments of Mathematical Sciences
Colin Campbell	Edinburgh Mathematical Society
Chris Sangwin	Institute of Mathematics and its Applications
Alice Rogers	London Mathematical Society
Lynne McClure	Mathematical Association [also representing NRICH and ACME]
Charlie Stripp	Mathematics in Education and Industry
Sally Barton	National Association for Numeracy and Mathematics in Colleges
Alice Onion	National Association of Mathematics Advisers
Lynne McClure	NRICH representing the Millennium Mathematics Project
---	National STEM Centre
---	Operational Research Society
Thomas Man	Royal Academy of Engineering
Moussa Haddad	Royal Statistical Society
Stephen Williamson	Wales Institute of Mathematical and Computational Sciences

*Co-opted members*

--- JMC International Representative  
--- International Commission on Mathematical Instruction  
--- Immediate Past Chair

*Observers*

Lynne McClure Advisory Committee on Mathematics Education [also Niamh McMahon as ACME Senior Policy Advisor]  
Jeff Evans Adults Learning Mathematics  
--- Department for Education  
--- Department for Education and Skills [Wales]  
Nick Todd Department of Education [Northern Ireland]  
--- Education Scotland  
Mary McAlinden Higher Education Academy  
Jane Imrie National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics  
James O'Donoghue National College for Teaching and Leadership  
--- Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation  
--- Office for Standards in Education  
--- Royal Society  
--- School Mathematics Project  
--- Sector Skills Council for science, engineering and manufacturing technologies in the UK  
Bill Richardson United Kingdom Mathematics Trust

*Also present*

Peter Thomas, Honorary Secretary elect.

Pete Grady as an additional guest from National College for Teaching and Leadership.

Nicola Edwards (DfE) and Alison Rowland (Ofqual) for the discussion recorded as the Additional Item after Minute 17.

Ian Jones and Cathy Smith as additional guests from BSRLM.

Vinay Kathotia, guest from Nuffield Foundation.

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**1 Apologies**

Alison Clark-Wilson (MA), Lydia Showan (National STEM Centre), Matthew Harrison (RAEng), Roeland Beerten (RSS), Ros Sutherland (JMC International Representative), Duncan Lawson (Immediate Past Chair), Rosalind Mist (ACME Head of Secretariat), Dylan Jones (DfES (Wales)), Fiona Robertson (Education Scotland), Jane Jones (Ofsted), Yasmin Hossain (RS), Paul Scruton (SMP).

- 2 Welcome to new representatives, alternates and others attending**
- New representatives: there were no new representatives.
- Alternates: Thomas Man (RAEng), Moussa Haddad (RSS), Niamh McMahon (ACME Senior Policy Advisor, alternate for ACME Head of Secretariat).
- Guests: Peter Thomas (Honorary Secretary Elect), Pete Grady (NCTL), Vinay Kathotia (Nuffield Foundation).
- In addition, Nicola Edwards (DfE) and Alison Rowland (Ofqual) were welcomed for the additional item (recorded after Minute 17) on the very recent announcement by the Secretary of State on GCSE reform; and Ian Jones and Cathy Smith were welcomed for the presentation and discussion on the work of the British Society for Research into Learning Mathematics.
- 3 Appreciation of departing representatives**
- Gerald Goodall, Honorary Secretary, whose term of office would end at the conclusion of the AGM in November 2013.
- 4 Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 26 February 2013**
- Paper JMC-2013-Feb-Minutes*
- Accepted.
- 5 Consideration of any matters arising from the Minutes that do not appear on the main agenda**
- 5.1 Merger of Teaching Agency and National College for School Leadership [Minute 6.4].
- Members noted that the merged body was known as the National College for Teaching and Leadership (<http://www.education.gov.uk/nationalcollege/>).
- 5.2 There were no other matters arising under this agenda item.
- 6 Election of Honorary Secretary to serve from the AGM in November 2013**
- There had been one nomination, of Peter Thomas, who was therefore declared elected.
- Peter Thomas, who was present as a guest, was enthusiastically welcomed.
- 7 Reports from JMC Executive**
- Paper JMC-2013-June-Handbook\_22\_May\_2013*
- i. Chair**
- 7(i) 50th Anniversary of JMC in 2013
- Reported** that the sub-committee set up to plan a suitable event to celebrate the 50th anniversary, on the same day as the 2013 AGM, consisting of Margaret Brown, Chris Robson and Bernard Silverman,

was now supported by a group convened by Executive Secretary consisting of himself, Honorary Treasurer and Sally Barton. The progress that had been made so far was outlined. Honorary Treasurer had already found much interesting information in the JMC financial records held by him, which went back to the start of JMC. Sally Barton would go through the more general JMC archive which was held at LMS. As well as current members of JMC, it was hoped that many former Officers would be present. A professional photographer would be hired for the event.

June Barrow-Green suggested that a report of the event and the general background of 50 years of JMC be published in the BSHM *Bulletin*. This was felt to be an excellent suggestion.

Chair commented that there could be no question of ordinary JMC business continuing into the afternoon at the November meeting. As the corresponding meeting in November 2012 had already been found to be unpleasantly rushed, consideration was being given to starting the AGM earlier than usual, say at 10 00 or 10 30, with the Council meeting at 11 00. This would require the meeting of JMC Executive, normally held at the start of the day, to take place the previous evening. The financial consequences of this were being investigated.

## **ii. Honorary Secretary**

7(ii) Honorary Secretary had nothing to report.

## **iii. Honorary Treasurer**

7(iii) Honorary Treasurer had provided a report which had been circulated to all representatives and which is attached as **Appendix 1** to these Minutes. He spoke briefly to this report. A few subscriptions for the current year were still outstanding (and were being followed up), but on the whole the financial position looked better than at the corresponding stage last year. There might turn out to be a small surplus for the year, due mainly to unbudgeted additional subscriptions from organisations that had joined JMC, but careful management would still be required to maintain financial stability.

## **iv. Executive Secretary**

7(iv) Members **welcomed** a further update of the JMC Handbook prepared by Executive Secretary, which had been included as an agenda paper as a matter of record.

## **v. Chair of Nominations Committee**

7(v).1 Sally Barton outlined the general procedures by which the

Nominations Committee carried out its work, noting in particular that it was not necessarily required that a JMC nominee be a current representative who normally attended Council.

7(v).2 **Reported** that Executive Secretary was attending the BCME Planning Committee as JMC nominee.

7(v).3 **Reported** that Ian Jones had attended a KS4 Sampling Project meeting called by STA (Standards and Testing Agency). He had furnished his own notes of the meeting to JMC Executive. Formal Minutes had not yet been received. Enquiries would be made as to when these were to be issued. They would be circulated to JMC on receipt.

**8 JMC International Representative** In the absence of Ros Sutherland, there was no report.

**9 UK Representative to ICMI** In the absence of Chris Budd, there was no report.

-- **Additional item re Minutes 8 and 9** **Commented** by Chair that both the JMC International Representative and the UK Representative to ICMI were roles relating to international matters. They had been set up as independent positions for good reasons, but circumstances had evolved and it might now be appropriate for the roles to be redefined or combined. Executive Secretary was leading a small group considering the situation.

**10 BCME 8 (to be held 14-17 April 2014)** *Paper JMC-2013-June-BCME*  
The paper was accepted. There was little comment, due to the comprehensive nature of the report. Bill Richardson added that matters were well in hand. A Planning Committee meeting was due on 19 June and, among other matters, was likely to discuss delegate rates. Sue Pope emphasised the invitations to contribute, as set out in the paper.

Early consideration of possible venues for BCME 9 in 2018 was again noted. Bill Richardson stated that the current Planning Committee was well aware that it had no authority to make any reservations, but some approaches from potential venues had been received and would be passed on to the next Committee.

**11 Reports received from JMC Organisations** **i. Association of Mathematics Education Teachers**  
*Paper JMC-2013-Feb-AMET*

The paper was received.

Jenni Back wished to lay special emphasis on all the points in the paper, which were of much concern to AMET. Point 1 referred to the rapidity of the change to the School Direct route for provision of ITE and gave reasons for AMET's concern; James O'Donoghue responded for NCTL that the concerns were recognised and he would be happy to respond to any direct questions. Point 2 referred to direct approaches made to some people by NCTL apparently with the intention of promoting the School Direct route over mainstream PGCE courses. James O'Donoghue responded that these approaches were merely intended to draw attention to the School Direct route in a neutral manner; *all* routes to teacher training were promoted by NCTL. Nevertheless, the approaches were no longer being made. Point 3 concerned the bursary scheme, for which there were as yet mixed outcomes. Point 4 concerned continuing liaison with other organisations.

Discussion turned to SKE (subject knowledge enhancement) courses. The courses seemed to have been effective but provision had not been sustained and data on them had been patchy. Provision of SKE courses was not now to be restricted to universities and there was concern as to the expertise of some other potential providers and what procedures would be in place to check this. There was also concern at a shift towards on-line provision; this had its uses, but face-to-face provision was much preferred.

James O'Donoghue responded that some reform of SKE provision was needed, as restricting SKE funding to particular providers was not viewed as "best practice" in government generally, nor was there a perceived necessity for it to be delivered solely by teacher education providers. The recently announced NCTL consultation was intended as a start of discussions.

Finally, Jenni Back turned to the Westminster Education Forum, which (with other similar organisations) was increasingly used by DfE and other bodies for the dissemination of policy information. To considerable support, she argued that this was not an appropriate route, due mainly to issues of having to pay to attend events and of needing to have time out of school to attend. While she appreciated that large free events were no longer sustainable, she felt that policy staff should be readily available to all through some form of open-access media such as government websites.

## **ii. Mathematical Association**

*Paper JMC-2013-June-MA*

The paper was received. Lynne McClure commented that it had been hard to respond to the multitude of recent major consultations. She also noted that a new website would soon be commissioned. Bill Richardson emphasised forthcoming conferences.

## **iii. Mathematics in Education and Industry**

*Paper JMC-2013-June-MEI*

The paper was received.

Charlie Stripp drew attention to the extreme difficulty of placing AS/A-level Mathematics and Further Mathematics in what appeared to be the new A-level structure. Despite many attempts, no satisfactory way could be seen. He had very serious concerns that this would impact deleteriously on uptake of Mathematics and, perhaps especially, Further Mathematics.

Strong support was forthcoming. Any changes should be gradual and controlled, in the hope of avoiding unintended consequences. In the meantime, it appeared necessary to seek derogation for Mathematics/Further Mathematics from the new regulations. Serious funding issues also arose, especially in respect of Further Mathematics which was usually (and rightly) studied as a fourth A-level.

**Resolved** that JMC Executive be delegated to send a letter to DfE on behalf of JMC drawing attention to these concerns.

**Post-meeting note.** The letter was sent on 17 July 2013. It was copied to all JMC representatives.

#### **iv. National Association of Mathematics Advisers**

*Paper JMC-2013-June-NAMA*

The paper was received. Alice Onion highlighted salient points.

#### **v. NRICH representing the Millennium Mathematics Project**

*Paper JMC-2013-June-NRICH*

The paper was received. Lynne McClure highlighted salient points. In particular, she mentioned enthusiastically a new grant from the Templeton Foundation for work on mathematics and creativity.

#### **vi. Institute of Mathematics and its Applications**

There was no paper or formal report, but Bill Richardson enquired whether the teacher training scholarships were subject to an age limit. Chris Sangwin replied that he did not think they were.

**Post-meeting note.** Chris Sangwin has subsequently confirmed that it is indeed the case that there is no age limit.

#### **12 Report from ACME** *Paper JMC-2013-June-ACME*

The paper was received, with the explanation that it was ACME's "Annual Report" for 2012–2013, headed as DRAFT. The financial information

(Section 6.2) would be available in July 2013 post-audit. It was especially noted that Niamh McMahon and Phoebe Harris had recently been appointed to full-time positions within the ACME Secretariat, as Senior Policy Advisor and Policy Advisor respectively.

Lynne McClure added that interviews for three new members of ACME itself had been held on 2 May 2013. Announcement of the successful applicants had to wait, as was usual, for formal confirmation from the Council of the Royal Society.

The ACME Conference on 9 July 2013 was full and with a waiting list. Tim Rowland enquired whether there should be a place for JMC to be represented as such at these events. This would be looked into.

The CPD Project would be launched on 6 August 2013 at the DfE.

Many other points from the paper were highlighted. Members were reminded that ACME always appreciated sight, for information, of other organisations' responses to consultations, even if only as drafts.

**13 Report from NCETM**

*Paper JMC-2013-June-NCETM*

The paper was received. Jane Imrie drew attention to a small but important typographical error: page 2, paragraph 2, line 3 should commence with "Stage 1 to Key Stage 3" (not to Key Stage 2). [**Secretarial note.** This has been corrected in the copy of record held in the JMC archive.]

It was noted that the external evaluation of NCETM, led by staff from Sheffield Hallam University, was in progress.

**14 Update on current developments**

**i. Northern Ireland**

*Paper JMC-2013-June-NI*

The paper was received. Nick Todd added that it appeared that Northern Ireland had entered a period of rapid change and might well be travelling in a different direction from that outlined in recent DfE announcements, which might have consequences for inter-recognition of qualifications.

He also commented that the Best Practice Survey referred to in the paper was now likely to be published in the late autumn of 2013.

**ii. Ofsted**

*Paper JMC-2013-June-Ofsted*

In the absence of Jane Jones, the paper was received.

### iii. National College for Teaching and Leadership

*Paper JMC-2013-June-NCTL*

The paper was received.

Alice Onion enquired about the "membership" status of the former National College part of the NCTL. James O'Donoghue and Pete Grady said they would look into this.

See also discussion in Minute 11(i).

#### 15 Reports from meetings

15.1 Minutes from the meeting of the OCR Mathematics Consultative Forum held on 21 February 2013 "focusing on the mathematical and statistical needs of other subjects" had only very recently been received and would be circulated to all JMC organisations. [**Post-meeting note.** This was done shortly after the meeting.]

15.2 Bill Richardson had arranged for copies of the 2011–2012 UKMT Yearbook to be made available to all present.

#### 16 Any other business

None.

#### 17 Dates of future meetings

All meetings will be at the Royal Statistical Society, 11 00 start, unless and until there is an announcement to the contrary.

Tuesday 5 November 2013 (immediately following the JMC AGM, **starting time of AGM to be confirmed** (see Minute 7(i))

Tuesday 25 February 2014

Tuesday 17 June 2014

## ADDITIONAL ITEM

### Presentation and discussion on the announcement on GCSE reform by the Secretary of State on Tuesday 11 June 2013

Nicola Edwards (DfE) and Alison Rowland (Ofqual) attended for this item.

It was explained that DfE and Ofqual were running two consultations on GCSE reform. Information had been circulated on 11 June 2013. The DfE consultation would close on 20 August and focused on subject content and assessment objectives. The Ofqual consultation would close on 3 September and focused on regulatory matters. DfE and Ofqual asked that respondents to both consultations let both parties know they had done so. Organisations would be welcome to meet DfE representatives in the meantime.

The subject content would maintain the focus on problem solving. There would be continuity across Programmes of Study for the Key Stages leading up to GCSE. Assessment Objectives would seek to place greater emphasis on mathematical reasoning and problem solving.

From the regulatory point of view, the new GCSE was intended to be open to the same proportion of the cohort as the current GCSE. Tiering would be retained in mathematics (and in science); the system of tiering had not yet been decided, suggestions would be welcome. The grading system would be from 8 to 1, these being intended to be different from the current A\* to G. All examinations would be "linear" (i.e. no modular structures), and coursework and controlled assessment would only be used in subjects where considered essential. Assessment questions were expected to feature an increase in problem solving rather than small discrete tests of particular items of knowledge. Ofqual would review assessment systems annually. A major concern would be whether different subjects were genuinely comparable with each other.

A widespread discussion included the following points.

Alice Onion queried the role of Ofqual as both regulator and developer. It was emphasised that a key role of Ofqual is to regulate the awarding bodies. Query was also made about maintenance of standards over time, in particular how the new 8 to 1 system could be compared with the old A\* to G. It was commented that a change should be better differentiation at the top though perhaps with less at the bottom.

Charlie Stripp queried how Ofqual could regulate awarding bodies in regard of the *spirit* of the new qualifications rather than merely obeying the letter of the law. This was agreed to be important. Respondents were invited to include the point in the Additional Comments part of the consultation.

Stephen Williamson enquired whether there had been any dialogue with Wales or Northern Ireland. It was replied that there had been information sharing but the system in England was now going down its own route.

Vinay Kathotia enquired how the experts who had led the content development were selected. The reply was that DfE had sought individuals with proven track records in this area.

Sue Pope was concerned that this should be a *real* consultation and that the outcomes were not already pre-determined. It was emphasised that responses, with evidence, were *welcome*.

David Martin commented briefly that the new assessment objectives appeared satisfactory but the proposed statistics content was thin.

## DISCUSSION ITEM

### **Presentation and discussion on the work of the British Society for Research into Learning Mathematics (BSRLM), led by John Monaghan, Ian Jones, Cathy Smith and Sue Pope**

It was noted that Alison Clark-Wilson had also been due to lead part of the presentation, but she had had to send her apologies. Her work was covered by others.

It was explained that BSRLM (<http://www.bsrlm.org.uk>) was a national organisation for people interested in research in mathematics education. Regional groups of people in this field had started informally around 1970; a Midlands group and a London group had come together in 1985 to form BSRLM. It now had about 420 members, covering interests from early years to undergraduate and beyond, and covering many theoretical frameworks for such research. BSRLM saw its role as nurturing research; it did not take public stances on topical matters. There was a formal constitution setting out aims, governance and so forth.

It was normal for there to be three Day Conferences each year, with maybe around 20 or even up to 40 papers in the day. These conferences were peripatetic to try to ensure good access for researchers wherever they might be working. There was also a one-day event for new researchers each year.

Publications included Informal Proceedings of meetings, published electronically as soon as possible after each Day Conference; and a tri-annual refereed journal *Research in Mathematics Education* published by Routledge. As well as papers, this carried summaries of some presentations at Day Conferences.

In addition, BSRLM had a Special Interest Group in the British Educational Research Association (BERA) and ran a mini-conference within the BERA Conference each year.

After the presentation and some general questions, small-group discussions were invited on two questions: what are the important issues around learning mathematics in the UK today, and is it (i) desirable, (ii) feasible, to compile a UK register of expertise (research and scholarship) in specific areas of mathematics education? Brief verbal reports on the discussions were made.

## APPENDIX 1

### Honorary Treasurer's report

#### Income and Expenditure since 1/10/12

Income	Budget	Actual		Expenditure	Budget	Actual
Subscriptions	7,536.00	<b>7,566.00</b>		Exec Sec	8,000.00	<b>3,839.05</b>
ACME Grant	7,000.00	<b>7000.00</b>		Officer Exp	880.00	<b>507.09</b>
Interest	0.00	<b>1.95</b>		Meetings	5,000.00	<b>2,835.66</b>
				Working Groups	650.00	<b>0.00</b>
ICME		<b>2,400.00</b>		ICME		<b>600.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,536.00</b>	<b>16,967.95</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,530.00</b>	<b>7,781.80</b>

The accounts so far for 2012/13 are presented above.

At the time of writing (3 June 2013) the above table shows the income and expenditure for the year 2012–2013. Two member societies have not paid their subscriptions and a number of observer societies/organisations have not paid their subscriptions. The subscription income is greater than the budgeted value due to new societies and organisations joining the JMC whose subscriptions were not included in the budget calculations.

Note that there is no budget for the ICME funds as these represents transactions left over from last year, and when combined with last year's ICME financial activity these will show a zero balance.

Bank Account Balances:	Current Account	£10,410.62
	Deposit Account	£5,737.40