

SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF THE 1986 IRISH NATIONAL

MATHEMATICS CONTEST

The eighth Irish National Mathematics Contest was held on Tuesday, February 25, 1986, and attracted 1,324 entries from 75 schools. By comparison, 1,630 students from 86 schools took part last year.

As has been the case since the inception of the INMC, the paper used for the contest was supplied to us by the MAA committee on American Mathematics Competitions and was used also for the 37th Annual American High School Mathematics Examination which was taken by nearly 400,000 students throughout the world on the same day. Contestants had 90 minutes to answer 30 multiple choice type questions, which ranged from easy to extremely difficult. (Copies of the paper are available from the undersigned on request.)

A new grading scheme was in operation this year: the total mark assigned to an individual contestant was five times the number of correct answers plus two times the number of questions unanswered. The effect of this was to increase scores, while still leaving the maximum score at 150. The rationale for the change was to make the computation of scores easier, to enhance the validity of the score as a measure of mathematical ability and knowledge and, most of all, to discourage random guessing. Only intelligent guessing will be rewarded under the new scheme!

As a consequence of the new scoring formula, a lot more students scored 80 or better than in previous years. The cut-off mark for the Roll of Honour was set at 90, and 56 students registered this or higher. The top score was 105, and the names of the top ten students appear below.

This year's winner is:

Søren Pedersen,
Ashton School,
Blackrock Road,
Cork.

Team scores were considerably higher as well. O'Connell School, Dublin 1, took first place, with 293. Second place went to Blackrock College, Co. Dublin, who recorded 292 and Marist College, Athlone, took third place with 291.

The top scorers will be presented with prizes in December.

IRISH NATIONAL MATHEMATICS CONTEST 1986

Roll of Honour

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Score</u>
1 Søren Pedersen	Ashton School, Blackrock Rd, Cork	105
2 Eoin Ó Brolcháin	Blackrock College, Blackrock, Co. Dublin	103
3 Kieran Barry	Marist College, Athlone, Co. Westmeath	101
4 Michael McCauley	O'Connell School, Dublin 1	101
5 Brian Crawford	Sligo Grammar School, The Mall, Sligo	100
6 Mark Forsyth	Wilson's Hospital, Multyfarnham, Co. Westmeath	100
7 Barry Martin	C.B.C. Monkstown, Co. Dublin	100
8 William Whyte	Newpark Comprehensive School, Blackrock, Co. Dublin	100
9 Leonard Brennan	O'Connell School, Dublin 1	99
10 Eamonn Moore	Patrician College, Ballyfin	99

Finbarr Holland

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INVITATIONAL MATHEMATICS CONTEST

The Fourth Irish Invitational Mathematics Contest was held on Tuesday, March 18, 1986. Invitations to participate in this were extended to all those who had scored 85 or better in this year's INMC. Examination materials for this were also supplied by the MAA. This was an essay-type examination. Contestants had three hours in which to answer 15 questions with positive integral solutions. Partial credit was not given: a question was either marked right or wrong. Score cards were returned on behalf of 80 of the invitees.

William Whyte, who attends Newpark Comprehensive School, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, was the top scorer in this contest. William scored 8, and is to be commended for his performance.

Finbarr Holland

ERRATUM

On page 8 of Bulletin No. 16 the name of one of our new members in NIHE Dublin is misspelt: it should be Dr B. Lenoach.

PERSONAL ITEMS

Dr Frank Hodnett has been appointed Associate Professor of Applied Mathematics at NIHE, Limerick.

Dr Robert Critchley has been appointed to a Senior Lectureship in Mathematics at NIHE, Limerick

"T_EX is a program for creating beautiful books, particularly books containing a lot of mathematics." Donald E. Knuth

T_EX is sponsored by the American Mathematical Society.

PCT_EX is the implementation of T_EX for the IBM-PC. It will run on any PC or PC-lookalike with full memory (640k) and a hard disk.

PCT _E X	\$249	Full T _E X implementation
PCdot	\$100	Driver for Toshiba, Epson, etc
PCInsr	\$225	Driver for LaserJet, LaserWriter, etc
Preview	\$250	Driver for PC screen

For further information, or demonstration, contact Timothy Murphy
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