

IRISH MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

President's Report

Introduction: Since the last President's Report, the committee of the IMS has undergone numerous changes. James Cruickshank finished his term of office as president, passing care of the society to myself. I must express my gratitude for the work he has done during this time. We have also had the transition of editorship of the Bulletin from Martin Mathieu to Tony O'Farrell. They have worked hard to ensure a very smooth handover, with Tony already bringing his own ideas for future developments in the Bulletin. Finally, Richard Timoney has reached the end of a very long stint on the committee, and his input will be missed.

Meetings: The Annual Meeting of the Presidents of the National Member Societies of the European Mathematical Society took place in Bilbao, 7–9 May, organised by the Royal Spanish Mathematical Society in commemoration of the centenary of their foundation. The IMS was represented by our Vice President, Martin Mathieu, who found the meeting informative and useful. More detailed information can be found here:

<http://www.euro-math-soc.eu/node/1045>

Reciprocity Agreements: During the meeting in Bilbao, Martin began negotiations for a new reciprocity agreement with the German Mathematical Society (Deutsche Mathematiker-Vereinigung — DMV), the details of which have now been finalised. Members of the IMS are now able to become reciprocity members of the DMV at half of their current subscription rate (so €50 instead of €100).

Funding: The current world economic situation continues to impact of the availability of funding for mathematics research. At the meeting in Bilbao it was suggested that the European Science Foundation will cease to exist in the near future. Closer to home, Science Foundation Ireland are in the process of reorganising the Research Frontiers Programme and Principal Investigator Programme into a single scheme. The former was open to all branches of pure/basic science, the latter only funded projects based on ICT, biotechnology and energy engineering. The details of the new scheme are still scarce, but there is a suggestion that more applied fields may be emphasised leading to a decrease in funds for mathematics.

Fergus Gaines' Cup: This award, for the best performance in the selection test for the Irish team for the International Mathematical Olympiad, was presented to Colin Egan on 29 August at the IMS meeting in UL. Also in attendance, indeed speaking that day, were Kevin McGerty (University of Oxford) and David Conlon (University of Cambridge), both previous members of Irish IMO teams.

Conference Support: The Society supported the following conferences in 2010:

- 9th Annual Workshop on Numerical Methods for Problems with Layer Phenomena, DCU, 3–4 February.
- Women in Mathematics Day Ireland, UL, 18 April.
- 6th Annual Conference in Mathematics and Statistics Service Teaching & Learning Conference, GMIT, 5 May.
- History of Mathematics Conference, NUIM, 12 May.
- 18th International Conference of Adults Learning Mathematics (Mathematical Eyes: A Bridge Between Adults, the World and Mathematics), IT Tallaght, 26–29 June.
- 14th Galway Topology Conference, QUB, 15–17 August.
- Nonlinear Dynamics Conference in Memory of Alexei Pokrovskii, UCC, 5–9 September.
- Fourth Conference on Research in Mathematics Education (MEI 4 Mathematics Teaching Matters), SPD, 22–23 September.
- 6th Annual Workshop of the Irish Mathematics Learning Support Network, UCD, 16 December.

Conference support continues to be one of our main roles; details for applications are circulated on mathdep on a regular basis by Sinéad Breen, Treasurer of the IMS.

Future Meetings: Next year's 'September' meeting will take place in IT Tallaght (27 & 28 August), in 2013 we will meet in NUI Maynooth and in 2014 we will meet in QUB.