

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2022

Committee changes: From January 2023, the President of the Society will be Leo Creedon (ATU, Sligo) and the Vice-President will be Rachel Quinlan (Galway). Derek Kitson (MIC/UL) and Cónall Kelly (UCC) will continue to serve as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. Thanks to Dana Mackey for her service to the Society during three full terms on the Committee. I will join the Committee as outgoing President in the interests of continuity and institutional memory. With those eligible for re-election having been re-elected for a further term at the AGM, there were no further changes to the Committee.

IMS Bulletin: I renew the Society's appreciation of Tony O'Farrell's work as Editor of the Bulletin and that of the Editorial team. The Bulletin is freely available online from the Society's homepage and, in printed form, from lulu.com. Institutional members now receive a complimentary printed copy of each issue.

As the Society's flagship publication, it is important that the Bulletin continue to develop and to expand its readership, this being best achieved by further improving the breadth and depth of its published articles. To this end, speakers at the September Meeting are encouraged to write an account of their talks for inclusion in the Bulletin.

IMS meeting: The Society's annual 'September Meeting', was held in TU Dublin on 1st and 2nd September at their impressive new Grangegorman campus. The meeting was wonderfully organised by Dana Mackey, Milena Venkova and Mercedes Jordan-Santana who put together an interesting and varied programme of talks. Of particular note was the session on Athena SWAN and the Mathematical Sciences Athena SWAN Network led by Sarah Fink (Athena Swan Ireland) and Niall Madden (Galway).

As is customary, time was set aside at TU Dublin for a meeting of the IMS Committee and for the Society's AGM. The Irish Committee for Mathematics Education (ICME) continues to do excellent work under its Chair, Ann O'Shea (Maynooth), particularly in the area of textbook quality assurance. Its Annual Report 2022 is available on the IMS website. At the AGM, the membership unanimously supported the establishment of a subcommittee to be known as the Irish Committee for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in Mathematics (ICEDIM) and approved its terms of reference. With the agreement of the IMS Committee, Romina Gaburro (UL) was appointed Chair of ICEDIM, and expressions of interest in membership of the committee have since been sought. The establishment of this committee is a most welcome and timely initiative.

International Mathematical Union: The International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM) was to be held, under the auspices of the International Mathematical Union, in Saint Petersburg from 6th to 14th July 2022. The participation of early career researchers at the ICM was to be encouraged by generous 'Kovalevskaya Grants' covering the registration fee and all local expenses including accommodation and meals. The Committee put much work into administering these grants locally and selecting recipients. Everything changed with Russia's invasion of the Ukraine on 24th February. Following representations from several members, the IMS issued a statement on its website that included the sentence 'The IMS can no longer support the holding of the ICM in Russia.' We also communicated the position of the IMS directly to Prof. Helge Holden, Secretary General of the IMU. The Executive Committee of the IMU reached the decision that ICM2022 would take place as a fully virtual event, hosted outside

Russia but following the original time schedule planned for Saint Petersburg. This is what happened.

The General Assembly of the IMU took place as an in person event in Helsinki on 3rd and 4th July. As a Group II member of the IMU, Ireland has two votes. We felt it was important that Ireland be represented in person and so Derek Kitson and myself travelled to Helsinki as the Ireland delegation. A full account of the General Assembly (report, resolutions, group photo) is available on the IMU website. One of the important outcomes of the meeting was the establishment of a 'reserve fund' to help Adhering Organizations whose dues are in arrears due to temporary extreme, adverse circumstances, this to be funded by earmarked contributions. A related resolution, in response to a request from the Ukrainian Mathematics Union, was that their IMU membership fees for the years 2022 and 2023 were waived, unless these fees will be covered by a third party or parties. There were several such offers from the floor of the GA.

The incoming President of the IMU is Hiraku Nakajima, Japan, and the incoming Secretary General is Christoph Sorger, France, for the term 2023–2026.

The ICM 2026 will be held in Philadelphia, U.S.A., with the General Assembly in New York City.

A bonus of attending the General Assembly in person was the opportunity to attend the presentation of awards, including the Fields medals, on the following day: a most memorable event.

The role of the IMS as IMU Adhering Organisation for Ireland definitely involves extra work for the Committee. Nevertheless, I personally believe that the IMS was the best organisation to take over this role from the Royal Irish Academy as the Society represents those most directly affected, and interested in, the work of the IMU. It is disappointing that the Government, despite many efforts, has not been persuaded of the importance of supporting the IMS in meeting Ireland's annual IMU membership fee (€2,860). I believe it is important that Ireland maintains its status as a Group II member. It would be my hope that outside support to meet this annual charge will soon be found.

European Mathematical Society: Leo Creedon (Vice-President) represented the Society at the meeting of the EMS' governing body, the Council, on 25th and 26th June 2022 in Bled (Slovenia).

Following on from the Council meeting and the decisions made at that meeting, a Meeting of Presidents (of European Mathematical Societies) was held online on 10th September. The in-coming President of the EMS is Jan Philip Solovej (Copenhagen) and Vice-President Beatrice Pelloni (Heriot-Watt). Particular attention at the meeting was drawn to the EMS Topical Activity Groups (EMS TAG) initiative, and to the EMS Young Academy (EMYA) for which the IMS has put forward two nominations. The initial composition of EMYA is expected to be known sometime in January. The President, Volker Mehrmann, expressed a wish to strengthen links between the EMS and 'under-represented regions', for example by increasing membership in EMS committees from such regions. Following his nomination by the IMS, Cónall Kelly has been elected to membership of the EMS Standing Committee for Developing Countries. We expect that similar appointments to EMS committees will be made in future years as vacancies on these committees arise, thereby reinforcing links between the IMS and the EMS.

Finally, it has been an honour to serve as President of the IMS for the past two years. I thank all of you, the members of the IMS, for your support during this time as well as the Committee and especially my fellow officers – Leo, Cónall, David and Derek – for their constant good humour and patience.

Tom Carroll, December 2022.
E-mail address: t.carroll@ucc.ie