

EDITORIAL

In this issue we print a letter from Tom Carroll, the previous President of the IMS, which informs members about the recent action of the Society, taken to ensure this country's continued involvement with the International Mathematical Union.

All who knew him will miss Rex Dark, a true stalwart, whose obituary appears in this issue. A short article by Des MacHale which poses some questions about the possible orders of a group with trivial centre, incorporates the fruit of a conversation with Rex.

The review of Des MacHale's *Comic Sections Plus* marks the first instance in the Bulletin of a mother-daughter team of authors. One can only hope that this marks the dawn of a new age of work-life balance among practioners of our ancient art.

The Annual Scientific Meeting will be held on Thursday 31st August and Friday 1st September 2023 at the University of Limerick. The meeting is organised jointly by members of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at University of Limerick and the Department of Mathematics and Computer Studies at Mary Immaculate College. As we go to press, confirmed speakers include Norma Bargary (UL) Patrick Browne (TUS) John Butler (TUD) Julie Crowley (MTU) James Cruickshank (Galway) Patrick Farrell (Oxford) Emma Greenbank (UL) Thomas Heuttemann (QUB) Cónall Kelly (UCC) Bernd Kreussler (MIC) Myrto Manolaki (UCD) and Katrin Wendland (TCD).

Organisers of all meetings supported by the Society should submit their reports to the editor by the 15th of December, for publication in the Winter issue. The LaTeX template for reports (`template-report.tex`) may be downloaded from the IMS website <https://irishmathsoc.org/bulletin/index.php?file=instruct>. We do not dictate any rigid format to be used by reporters on our scientific meetings or sponsored meetings. Reports have sometimes included all abstracts, but it has become more usual just to give a link to the website where these can be found. This is probably more appropriate in this networked environment, although one might worry about the permanence of some of these conference websites. It might be worth the effort of reporters giving a self-contained account, for the record, since the IMS website has a good chance of remaining up indefinitely. Our template for meeting reports uses the `bimsplain` style, which is much less restrictive than the `bims` style used for articles, classroom notes and the like, and it should allow reasonably easy transfer of content from other formats.

Members are encouraged to submit (and promote the submission by others of) papers for the Bulletin that are of general interest to readers. Apart from short research articles and classroom notes, the Bulletin has carried articles on history of mathematics and mathematical education, and well-written and interesting material of this kind remains welcome. Expert surveys of active research areas are particularly appreciated, and I am pleased to have two in the present issue. I would prefer it if the authors of short proofs of FLT, RH, and the like would spare me their attentions.

The Bulletin is entirely the work of volunteers. The work of the Editor is made much lighter by the generous assistance of the Editorial Board members, by the Book Reviews Editor, Eleanor Lingham, the Problem Page Editor, Ian Short, the Website Manager, Michael Mackey, and the DOI manager and guru of last resort, David Malone. I am pleased to report that Colm Mulcahy has agreed to take on the editing of obituaries for the future.

For a limited time, beginning as soon as possible after the online publication of this Bulletin, a printed and bound copy may be ordered online on a print-on-demand basis at a minimal price¹.

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