

IRISH MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

Ordinary Meeting

March 22, 1989

The Irish Mathematical Society held an Ordinary Meeting at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 22, 1989.

Thirteen members were present and the President, F. Gaines, was in the chair.

1. The minutes of the meeting of December 22, 1988 were read, approved and signed.
2. **Meetings:** It was noted with satisfaction that EOLAS has undertaken to pay the airfares of two speakers at the Society's meetings in 1989, up to a limit of £400 apiece. The principal speakers at the September 1989 meeting, to be held in Maynooth on the 7th and 8th of September, will be F. Almgren, S. Donaldson and J. Lewis.

It was suggested that a press release about the September meeting would be in order.

A committee, consisting of R. Timoney, F. Gaines and D. Simms, was set up to select and invite a speaker for a meeting in November, to be held in Dublin.

It was agreed to accept the offer of NIHE Dublin to host the September 1990 meeting.

3. The **Treasurer's Report**, deferred from the previous meeting, was considered and adopted, on the proposal of R. Timoney, seconded by M. Stynes.
4. R. Ryan reported on the status of the **Bulletin**. A printing schedule has been agreed with EOLAS. The **Bulletin** now makes a profit because the use of \TeX and electronic submission have brought down production costs, while advertising revenues have grown. Proposals to improve the journal are invited. The President observed that we should try to limit the number of changes in the overall dimensions of the journal to one more.

5. Other Business.

(1) D. O'Donovan tabled a report on his proposal to conduct a David-style study on Irish Mathematics. It was felt that the Society could not discuss the report without notice, and discussion was deferred to the September meeting, when a panel discussion is to be held on the subject. At the same time, it was thought desirable to initiate discussion of the report in the Colleges, and to that end it was decided to circulate the report to the local representatives. Concern was expressed that this procedure might lead people to suppose that the Society already endorses the report, but this was discounted.

(2) The Secretary reported on the state of the EUROMATH project. When Phase II begins, there will be a need for substantial investment. A sub-committee is preparing a submission to EOLAS on the report.

(3) A request for a further subvention from the Groups in Galway conference was referred to the Treasurer.

(4) There was a discussion of the role of the Society in relation to the Mathematics Contest and the Olympiads. The Society initiated the Contest and National Olympiad. It initiated and is running a major Olympiad preparation programme, with centres in Limerick, Cork, Galway and Dublin. This involves a great deal of (unpaid) work by the organisers and tutors. Money is provided by EOLAS for conferencing, books and materials, but not for the travel expenses of participating students. The expenses of the team for the International Olympiad were paid by the Department of External Affairs, and the organisation of the team was carried out by a special interdepartmental committee. Apart from other benefits, the programme is believed to have had a positive effect on enrollments in Mathematics.

(5) The Secretary reported on the programme of exchanges for the **Bulletin**, which is developing well.

The meeting concluded at 1:15 p.m.

Anthony G. O'Farrell,
Secretary