

6. Any ordinary member who has reached the age of 65 years and has been a fully paid up member for the previous five years may pay at the student membership rate of subscription.
7. Subscriptions normally fall due on 1 February each year.
8. Cheques should be made payable to the Irish Mathematical Society. If a Eurocheque is used then the card number should be written on the back of the cheque.
9. Any application for membership must be presented to the Committee of the I.M.S. before it can be accepted. This Committee meets twice each year.
10. Please send the completed application form with one year's subscription fee to

The Treasurer, I.M.S.
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Minutes of the Meeting of the Irish Mathematical Society

Ordinary Meeting
21st December 1995

The Irish Mathematical Society held an Ordinary Meeting at 12.15pm on Thursday 21st December 1995 in the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, 10 Burlington Road. There were 17 members present. The President, D. Hurley was in the chair. Apologies were received from P. Mellon (Secretary).

1. The **minutes** of the meeting of 11th April 1995 were approved and signed.

2. **Matters arising**

An amount of 120ECU has been paid to the E.M.S. towards the I.M.S.'s subscription. The reason for this reduced subscription was explained in a letter by the Treasurer to the E.M.S. committee, sent in October 1995. No reply has been received to date. E.M.S. individual membership is available for £12.

The Chair thanked the organizers of the 1995 September meeting at the University of Limerick: S. O'Brien, E. Gath and G. Lessells. The next invited mathematics education talk to be organized by the I.M.S. will be arranged for the morning before the start of the D.I.A.S. Christmas Symposium in 1996. It was reported that M. Tuite of UCG had been co-opted on to the committee.

3. **Treasurer's business**

The Treasurer reported that the I.M.S. had a surplus of £7.89 in the year 1995. There are at present 196 members in the I.M.S. There are 38 A.M.S. members and 5 institutional members. 32 members are in arrears. Local representatives will be approached to follow up on these. The annual fee will be £15, as from 1st January, 1996. The Treasurer will circulate a standing order form to all members, so that the new rate may be introduced. It was agreed that members may pay membership at any time for up to five years in advance.

The Treasurer, J. Pulé, proposed that any ordinary member, who has reached the age of 65 years or older, and has been an I.M.S. member for the previous five years, will then, and in all subsequent years, be eligible for the student membership rate. The motion, which was seconded by M. Tuite, was passed.

4. September Meeting 1996

The September Meeting 1996 will take place at the Queen's University, Belfast on Monday and Tuesday, 2nd and 3rd September, starting at 11am. A. Wickstead announced that the organization of the meeting is well underway. Some funding has already been raised, accommodation booked and tentative plans made for the banquet. He requested suggestions for speakers, and in particular anyone visiting the island at that time, who would not normally reside here. He may be reached by e-mail at a.wickstead@qub.ac.uk. The Chair urged I.M.S. members to make a special effort to attend this meeting.

5. Elections

It was noted that P. Mellon (Secretary), J. Pulé (Treasurer), E. Gath, R. Gow and R. Timoney have reached the end of their two-year terms (J. Pulé having taken up the position vacated by M. Van Dyck).

An election took place to fill the five vacant committee positions. The nominations were as follows:

Position	Nominee	Proposer	Secunder
Secretary	P. Mellon ††	D. Simms	D. Ó Mathúna
Treasurer	J. Pulé †	T. Murphy	R. Timoney
Ordinary Members	A. Wickstead	E. Gath	A. Wood
	E. Gath ††	R. Timoney	D. Hurley
	R. Gow †	G. Lessells	T. Laffey

Since there was only one candidate for each position all five nominees were elected. Each † denotes a previous term of office. It was noted that D. Hurley (President), C. Nash (Vice-President), M. Clancy, B. Goldsmith, K. Hutchinson, G. Lessells and M. Tuite each has one more year remaining in their current term of office.

6. Any other business

R. Timoney expressed concern about the proposed discontinuation of the graduate program in Mathematics at the University of Rochester (New York). He proposed that the I.M.S. should write letters the President, Provost, Vice-Provost and Chairman of the Board of University of Rochester to protest about this. A. Wood proposed an amendment (seconded by M. Stynes) to the letter drafted by R. Timoney. A vote was taken, resulting in 7 in favour, 7 opposed and 3 abstentions. R. Timoney then accepted the amendment and it was agreed that the amended form of the letter should be sent.

J. Pulé suggested that the I.M.S. establish a prize, such as a perpetual trophy, for the winner of the Irish/International Mathematical Olympiad contest(s). He noted that an annual prize, such as medals, might be too costly for the Society. Some concern was expressed about how this prize could affect the team aspect of the international contest. T. Laffey, who is an I.M.O. organizer, noted that the publicity associated with the prize-giving ceremony could be beneficial in terms of raising commercial sponsorship. It was agreed that J. Pulé, T. Laffey and G. Lessells will consider the various possibilities and report back to the next Ordinary Meeting of the I.M.S.

The President reported that formal contact had recently taken place with the Irish Mathematics Teachers' Association. He proposed that, with the I.M.T.A., the I.M.S. should sponsor and organize a lecture for transition (4th) year secondary school students at various venues around the country. This would involve two half-hour talks by people who could explain the uses of mathematics in industry *etc.*

R. Timoney proposed the formation of a World-Wide Web homepage for the I.M.S. There was some discussion about the merits

of using this to provide an electronic form of the Bulletin (*e.g.* as a postscript file). Concern was expressed about the impact this could have on membership. It was agreed that R. Timoney will initiate the process of establishing a home-page. The Mathematics Departments of the various institutions in Ireland will be requested to add a pointer to the I.M.S. page in their own home-pages.

The meeting closed at 1.20pm.

Eugene Gath
University of Limerick.

THE I.M.S. SEPTEMBER MEETING 1995

Eugene Gath

The eighth September meeting of the Irish Mathematical Society took place on 7th and 8th September 1995 on the University of Limerick campus. The lectures were held in the new Foundation Building, in a theatre adjacent to the University Concert Hall. The attendance at the meeting was approximately 60, of whom 35 travelled from outside of Limerick. Visitors were accommodated in the Plassey Village, adjacent to the campus.

The meeting was opened by Dr Edward Walsh, President of the University of Limerick. He talked briefly about the applicability of mathematics, embellished with an anecdote about his experiences of learning trigonometry. One of the guest speakers, Prof. Chris Budd from the University of Bath gave a lecture on impact oscillators, illustrating a model with a new type of bifurcation process, which has applications to the safety of fuel rods in nuclear reactors. Dr Andrew Fowler of Oxford University spoke on the dynamics of ice sheets, including an investigation of the effect of the melting of the ice caps during the last Ice Age. The standard of the talks was excellent and a wide variety of topics was covered: algebra, analysis, numerical analysis, fluid and solid mechanics, differential equations, theoretical computer science, dynamical systems, differential geometry, operator theory, mathematics education *etc.* Three speakers travelled from Britain and one from Northern Ireland. Serendipitously, there was, concurrent with the I.M.S. meeting, a *Z Users' Meeting* also taking place in the Foundation Building. One of their speakers Prof. David Gries, head of the Department of Computer Science at Cornell University, gave a short talk at the I.M.S. meeting.