

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.
Department of Math. Physics
University College, Dublin
Ireland

Minutes of the Meeting of the Irish Mathematical Society

Ordinary Meeting
20th December 1996

The Irish Mathematical Society held an Ordinary Meeting at 12.15pm on Friday 20th December 1996 in the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, 10 Burlington Road. There were 16 members present. The Vice-President, C. Nash was in the chair. Apologies were received from D. Hurley (President) and P. Mellon (Secretary).

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of April 1996 were approved and signed.

2. Matters arising

It was noted that D. Hurley has a contact who can sculpt the proposed I.M.S. Mathematics Olympiad trophy. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Concern was expressed by members from U.C.D. about the narrowly won decision of the U.C.D. Academic Council to dispense with the bonus points for Honours Leaving Certificate Mathematics.

The joint I.M.S.-Irish Mathematics Teachers' Association venture to organize a lecture for transition (4th) year secondary school students took place successfully at U.C.D. The speakers were Martin Newell and Phil Boland.

3. Bulletin

It was noted that the Christmas 1996 edition of the Bulletin is now available and is being distributed by G. Lessells.

R. Gow (editor) appealed for articles for consideration for the next issue.

It was agreed that the Bulletin should include a reference to the IMS web-page URL <http://www.maths.tcd.ie/pub/ims>

The Society recorded its gratitude to R. Gow (editor) for his efforts in producing the Bulletin.

4. Treasurer's Business

The Treasurer presented his interim report for 1996. The surplus for the year stands at £2,812 but this includes many U.S. members who have paid \$50 in advance for five years' membership.

The Treasurer reported that he has invested £2,000 in a 5-year Saving Certificate.

The Society is £300 in arrears with its E.M.S. subscription. In view of the improved financial situation of the Society, it was agreed that this should now be paid in full. However, some concern was expressed about the fact that there are only seven I.M.S. members who are also in the E.M.S. and that the benefit of membership includes just a newsletter.

It was agreed to allocate £800 towards the costs of organizing the 1997 September Meeting in D.I.T.

It was agreed that £600 be set aside in each year 1997 and 1998 to cover the projected costs of the proposed joint meeting with the L.M.S. in May 1998.

5. September Meetings

It was noted that the September 1996 meeting at the Queen's University of Belfast was very successful and, thanks to the sponsorship of QUB, was self-financing. The Society recorded its gratitude to the organizers, and especially to Prof. D. Armitage and Prof. A. Wickstead.

The 1997 September meeting will take place at D.I.T. on Thursday and Friday, 4th and 5th September 1997. J. M. Golden is the main organizer.

It was agreed that the 1998 September meeting will take place in the University of Ulster, Jordanstown or Coleraine, with K. Houston as the main organizer.

6. Elections

It was noted that D. Hurley, C. Nash, M. Clancy, B. Goldsmith, K. Hutchinson, G. Lessells and M. Tuite have all reached the end of their two-year terms of office on the committee.

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

Position	Nominee	Proposer	Secunder
President	C.Nash††	J.Pulé	D.Ó Mathúna
Vice-Pres	D.Armitage	C.Nash	N.Buttimore
Ordinary Members	G.Lessells†† D.Hurley†† K.Hutchinson† M.Clancy†	D.Ó Mathúna D.Ó Mathúna D.Ó Mathúna D.Ó Mathúna	R.Timoney R.Dark R.Dark R. Dark

Since there was only one candidate for each position all six nominees were elected. Each † denotes a previous term of office. It was noted that P. Mellon (Secretary), J. Pulé (Treasurer), E. Gath, R. Gow and A. Wickstead each has one more year remaining in their current term of office. It was proposed that the committee consider coopting J. M. Golden and M. Tuite as members.

7. Any other business

7.1 Proposal for joint IMS/LMS meeting

R. Timoney recalled that in 1986 the I.M.S. and the London Mathematical Society hosted a joint meeting in Dublin. He proposed that a joint meeting take place in London in May 1998, with the title *Complex Analysis and Dynamical Systems*. Six speakers would be invited, four from outside the U.K. and Ireland, and two from within. The I.M.S. would nominate two of these speakers. The estimated cost is £3,500. R. Timoney proposed that the I.M.S. contribute £1,200 of this (*vide* Treasurer's Report). The L.M.S. has nominated a subcommittee consisting of Alan Beardon and Shaun Bullett to organize this event. R. Timoney and D. Hurley are the I.M.S. local organizers. The proposal was approved.

It was suggested that sponsorship in the form of travel grants *etc* should be sought from the British Council and the Department of Foreign Affairs.

7.2 White Paper on Science, Technology and Innovation

N. Buttimore drew to the attention of the meeting, the recent government *White Paper on Science, Technology and Innovation*. The I.M.S. made a submission in advance of this white paper two years ago. It was agreed that the Society should write to the Minister for Commerce, Science and Technology, in advance of the 1997 budget, outlining the need for government support for fundamental research in Mathematics and Science. It was suggested that the letter be short (about one page) and that it avoid using international comparisons.

The meeting closed at 1.20pm.

Eugene Gath
University of Limerick.

THE IMS SEPTEMBER MEETING 1996

D. H. Armitage and A. W. Wickstead

The ninth September meeting of the Irish Mathematical Society took place on 2nd and 3rd September 1996 at the Queen's University of Belfast. The lectures were held in the David Bates Building, adjacent to the Botanic Gardens. About 50 people attended, including participants from all parts of Ireland, from Britain, and from further afield. Visitors were accommodated in Queen's Elms Halls of Residence, about one kilometre from the main campus.

Queen's Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor R. G. Shanks, delivered a welcoming address, and the Vice-President of the I.M.S., Dr. C. Nash, opened the proceedings. The guest speakers were Dr T. A. Gillespie (University of Edinburgh), Professor S. K. Houston (UU), Professor S. J. Tobin (UCG), Professor T. T. West (TCD) and Professor A. D. Wood (DCU). The hosts received an almost overwhelming response to their call for volunteered lectures. A wide range of topics was covered: algebra, analysis, geometry, topology, mathematics in computer science, history of mathematics, and mathematics education. The full programme is reproduced below.

A very enjoyable conference banquet was held in the University's Great Hall. Professor Shanks, Professor A. E. Kingston (Provost of the College of Science and Agriculture, QUB) and Professor D. G. Walmsley (Director of the School of Mathematics and Physics, QUB) were guests at the banquet.

We are grateful to the School of Mathematics and Physics at QUB for financial support which covered most expenses. A small remaining deficit was met by our Department of Pure Mathematics. We thank colleagues who helped with the organization of the