

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



meeting, especially Miss S. O'Brien whose secretarial work was invaluable. We also extend our thanks to all the speakers and everyone who contributed to the success of the meeting.

The full program was:

Monday 2nd September, 1996

Professor R. G. Shanks, Senior Pro-Vice Chancellor, QUB <i>Welcoming address</i>
Dr C. Nash (IMS Vice-President) <i>Opening Remarks</i>
Professor T. T. West (Trinity College Dublin) <i>Perron-Frobenius theorems for positive matrices</i>
Professor I. Düntsch (University of Ulster) <i>Introduction to the rough set model for data analysis</i>
M. Marjoram (University College Dublin) <i>Irreducible characters of Sylow p-subgroups of classical groups</i>
Professor S. J. Tobin (University College Galway) <i>The Burnside saga</i>
A. Hughes (Trinity College Dublin) <i>A connection between Constructive Mathematics and Pure Mathematics</i>
Professor A. G. O'Farrell (St Patrick's College, Maynooth) <i>Algebras of smooth functions</i>
Professor A. D. Wood (Dublin City University) <i>G. G. Stokes: the man and his phenomenon today</i>



Tuesday 3rd September, 1996

Dr C. Nash (St Patrick's College, Maynooth) <i>Modular invariance of topological quantum field theories</i>
Dr M. Mac an Airchinnigh (Trinity College Dublin) <i>Some applications of algebraic topology in computer science</i>
Professor P. D. Barry (University College Cork) <i>Cross-currents in the development of geometry</i>
Dr T. A. Gillespie (University of Edinburgh) <i>Making the most of quality assessment</i>
Professor S. K. Houston (University of Ulster) <i>The role of mathematical modelling in undergraduate courses</i>
Dr S. T. Swift (Southampton) <i>Spaces of symplectic submanifolds</i>
K. Abodayeh <i>Semigroups associated to dynamical systems</i>
Dr S. Pabst (Dublin Institute of Technology) <i>On almost free abelian groups with trivial dual</i>
Professor M. Nishihara (Fukuoka University) <i>On holomorphic mappings of weak type</i>

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