

## IRISH MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

### President's Report 2008

**Introduction:** I have delegated a large number of my duties to members of the Committee, whom I gratefully thank. This ensures that such members maintain an active interest in the Society, without hopefully being over-burdened with administrative duties. In particular attendance at the Committee meetings in December 2007 and September 2008 was notably high.

**Meetings:** I represented the IMS at the first meeting of Presidents of European mathematical societies in Marseilles in April, which was hosted by the European Mathematical Society. It was of note that increasingly new employees in mathematics are not joining their respective national societies, despite the low cost.

I also attended the Council Meeting of the European Mathematical Society in Utrecht in July. At this meeting Kracow was elected as the host for the 2012 European Congress of Mathematics.

Ireland at the moment only has 16 members of the European Mathematical Society, which will cost €24 to join next year as a reciprocity member from the IMS. The EMS reciprocity fee can be paid to the Treasurer of the IMS at the same time as your normal IMS membership fee, or it can be paid directly via the EMS website. Benefits of EMS membership now include free access to Zentralblatt (for the next two years).

**Local Representatives:** The local representatives of the IMS have been refreshed, mostly with present members of the Committee. Their job is to recruit members from their respective institutions.

**Membership communication:** An insert was placed in one of the Bulletins this year for members to update their details including e-mail addresses. The number of e-mail addresses received was about two-thirds of the membership. My thanks to Gordon Lessells for taking on the administration of this task and his continued help in the production and distribution of the Bulletin.

**Treasurer:** My thanks to Sinead Breen for being the Society's Treasurer this year, a job she executed without any fuss. She will investigate the possibility of making membership payments by electronic transfer, bearing in mind the potential for fraud. She is also considering a new policy for the allocation of funds to support conferences.

**Links:** The Society now has a formal reciprocity agreement with the New Zealand Mathematical Society. My thanks to Niamh O'Sullivan, who is currently looking after all reciprocity matters.

**Website:** The IMS website <http://www.maths.tcd.ie/pub/ims/> continues to be maintained and regularly updated by Richard Timoney, my thanks to him. We have decided to discontinue the general IMS e-mailing facility through Trinity as it is no longer used.

**SFI Mathematics Initiative:** As members are aware this scheme is not running this year, and is unlikely to be resurrected given the present economic situation.

**Bulletin:** Thanks to Martin Mathieu for continuing to act as Editor of the Bulletin and in particular in producing issue 61, Summer 2008. Issue 62 should be distributed in January 2009. Professor Boland (UCD) has given the Society a nearly complete run of the Bulletin, which Martin is keeping on behalf of the Society.

**Annual conferences:** The annual conference and AGM was successfully held in Cork IoT on September 1st and 2nd with a wide variety of talks. My thanks to Shane O'Rourke for not only organizing the conference, but also acting as Secretary of the Society.

**Fergus Gaines' Cup:** The Irish Mathematical Society awards the Fergus Gaines' Cup annually to the best performer in the Irish Mathematical Olympiad. I awarded the cup in St Patrick's College on 15th November 2007 to Stephen Dolan, and on 6th November 2008 to Galin Ganchev in the presence of the Bulgarian ambassador. I also made two special presentations on 6th November 2008 on behalf of the Society to Professor Tom Laffey (UCD) and Mr Gordon Lessells (UL) for their long and continued service to Irish Mathematical Olympiad training. Thanks were expressed to St Patrick's College and Maurice O'Reilly for hosting and arranging the event respectively.

**Teaching:** A policy document on service teaching of mathematics was formally approved in September with one minor amendment and has been posted on the IMS website as a position paper:

<http://www.maths.tcd.ie/pub/ims/business/2008.09.02.serviceteaching.pdf>

**Public Relations:** Brendan Guilfoyle is the Public Relations Officer of the Society. His name together with that of Ann O'Shea (as a reserve) have been given to IBEC, the Irish Times, the Irish Independent, and Engineer's Ireland.

**National Science and Engineering Commemorative Plaques Committee:** Maurice O'Reilly was appointed as the representative of the IMS on this Committee.

**Institute of Technology members:** Jim Cruickshank has been chairing the sub-committee on IoT members and reported on its progress in September. This report has been posted on the IMS website as a discussion document:

<http://www.maths.tcd.ie/pub/ims/business/2008-09-01-IoT.pdf>

**Conference support:** The Society supported the following conferences in 2008:

- International Workshop on Multi-Rate Processes & Hysteresis, UCC, 31 March–5 April
- Complex Function Theory Meeting, UCC, 18 April
- Operator Theory & Operator Algebras in Cork (in memory of Gerard Murphy), UCC, 7–9 May
- Third Conference on Mathematics Service Teaching, WIT, 26–27 May
- 23rd British Topology Meeting, QUB, 25–27 August
- Instructional Workshop on Subfactors & Planar Algebras, QUB, 26–28 August

**David Armitage:** There was a dinner in Belfast to mark the retirement of David Armitage (a former President of the Society). I expressed the best wishes of the Society to David by e-mail and Maurice O'Reilly represented the Society at the dinner and spoke on its behalf.

**Irish Mathematical Trust:** Stephen Buckley is the Society's representative in this regard. There was one meeting on this topic in May, which was attended by Maurice O'Reilly in the absence of Stephen.

**RIA Mathematical Sciences Committee:** Stephen Buckley has kindly volunteered to be the Society's next representative on this committee.

**Future meetings:** Future planned meetings of the IMS are as follows:

- April 6-9 2009, NUI Galway: Joint meeting of the British Mathematical Colloquium & the IMS
- September 2010, Dublin IT: IMS Conference & AGM
- September 2011, University of Limerick: IMS Conference & AGM
- September 2012, IT Tallaght: IMS Conference & AGM

A special arrangement will have to be made for the AGM in 2009, since it must be held after July 31st.

Russell Higgs  
President of the Irish Mathematical Society  
5th December 2008