

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2023

Committee changes: From January 2024, the Officers of the Society remain unchanged. Thanks to Martin Mathieu and Ray Ryan for their many years of service to the Society, including decades of service as committee members, Officers and Editors of the Bulletin. Christopher Boyd (UCD) and Thomas Huettemann (QUB) are new committee members of the IMS, having been elected at the AGM on September 1, 2023.

IMS Bulletin: The Bulletin is freely available online from the Society's homepage. The Society buys a complimentary printed copy for Institutional members and the copyright libraries.

IMS meetings: The Society's annual 'September Meeting', was held at the University of Limerick on August 31 and September 1, 2023. The meeting was very well organised by Romina Gaburro (UL, co-chair), Derek Kitson (MIC, co-chair), Ronan Flatley (MIC), Eugene Gath (UL), Natalia Kopteva (UL), Kevin Moroney (UL), and Clifford Nolan (UL). The next meeting of the IMS will take place in Queen's University Belfast on August 29 and 30, 2024. The report on the 2023 IMS Annual Meeting and the Minutes of the 2023 IMS AGM are available elsewhere in the Bulletin.

Given that 2023 was my first year as President of the IMS, I have thought a great deal about the IMS, its nature, its role and its future. To me one of the main functions of the IMS is to bring us together, to build a mathematical community which is open and welcoming, especially to young mathematicians and to mathematicians who are new to Ireland. Building a welcoming community will attract people to study and work in mathematics and will benefit all of us and benefit Ireland, north and south. We have many new members, so allow me to quote from the aims of the IMS from its constitution:

“The Society is incorporated for the purpose of promoting and extending the knowledge of mathematics and its applications. Activities proper to the Society shall include the following:

- (a) holding meetings of the members of the Society and visitors introduced by them,
- (b) publishing and distributing the Bulletin of the Society,
- (c) organizing and supporting conferences, lectures, and discussions on subjects of special and general interest to mathematicians,
- (d) discovering and making known the views of the members of the Society on mathematical matters of public interest,
- (e) co-operating with other organizations to achieve the purpose of the Society.”

The IMS is a registered charity and is run by volunteers. The IMS Committee now meets in person three times a year and the four IMS Officers meet online more frequently. Thankfully, IMS membership numbers have grown rapidly since then, but as of August 2023, there were 320 members. I thank our Treasurer Conall Kelly for providing the data used to summarise membership by membership type and gender in the following two figures. This analysis also showed that the vast majority of members are resident in the Republic of Ireland, with others resident in Northern Ireland, Great Britain, USA, and elsewhere.

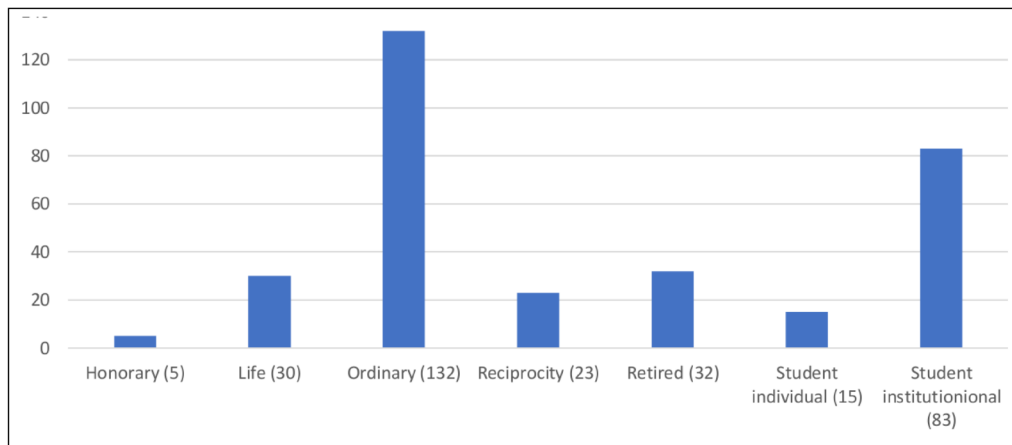


FIGURE 1. IMS Individual Membership (320) August 2023

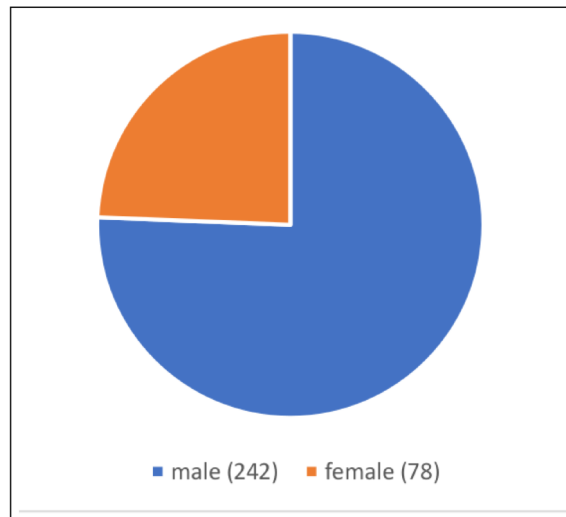


FIGURE 2. IMS Membership Gender (approximate figures) August 2023

Organisations relevant to mathematics in Ireland (in addition to the universities and schools) include the Irish Mathematics Trust, the Irish Mathematics Teachers' Association, the Royal Irish Academy, and two government departments: the Department of Education and the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science. Relevant overseas and international organisations include mathematical societies in other countries (including many with whom the IMS has reciprocity arrangements for membership), the International Mathematical Union (IMU), the International Commission on Mathematical Instruction (ICMI), and the European Mathematical Society.

The IMS has established a new 'Irish Committee for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in Mathematics' (ICEDIM) which is chaired by Romina Gaburro and has commenced its work. On July 1, 2023, the IMS appointed Professor Ann O'Shea as the Ireland Country Representative on the International Commission on Mathematical Instruction ICMI. Ann replaced Maurice O'Reilly who had served in this role for several years. Ann is chair of the Irish Committee for Maths Education (ICME). See <https://www.mathunion.org/icmi/organization/overview-icmi> for details. Having been nominated by the IMS for membership of the European Mathematical Society's EMS Young Academy

(EMYA), Róisín Neururer (UCD) was subsequently elected as chair of EMYA. EMYA will be organising some activities at the 9th European Congress of Mathematics in Seville in July 2024 and there will be a call for additional members of EMYA with a deadline of 31 July 2024.

The EMS and IMU issue calls for nominations for several prizes - see <https://euromathsoc.org/> and <https://www.mathunion.org/> for details. Members are welcome to nominate individuals or to contact committee members of the IMS to suggest institutional nominations. IMS Treasurer Conall Kelly has joined the EMS Committee for Developing Countries. Among its activities the committee supports travel opportunities for early career researchers, emerging research centres of excellence, and a book donation programme. There will be future vacancies on EMS committees next year.

Academics from the University of Luxembourg contacted the IMS to find someone to help with translation of mathematical terms. Some work has started on this and is available at <https://math.uni.lu/dictionary/> The IMS is now a signatory of the DORA Declaration on Research Assessment. Work on promotion of the Society is ongoing, including branded items and a poster, with one eye on the 50th anniversary of the founding of the IMS which was on April 14, 1976.

I must convey my gratitude to Michael Mackey for maintaining the IMS website; to Tony O'Farrell and the editorial team at the Bulletin; to the IMS committee, especially the Treasurer Conall Kelly and the Secretary Derek Kitson; to the chair Ann O'Shea and the members of the Irish Committee for Maths Education; and the chair Romina Gaburro and the members of the Irish Committee for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in Mathematics.

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