

JMC

Joint Mathematical Council of the United Kingdom

Minutes of the JMC Council meeting held at the Royal Society on Thursday 21 February 2008.

The JMC is grateful for the financial support of the Royal Society.

Present

Officers

Ros Sutherland	Chair
David Martin	Honorary Secretary
Adrian Oldknow	Honorary Treasurer

Members

Peter Johnston-Wilder	Association of Mathematics Education Teachers
Not represented	Association of Teachers of Mathematics
June Barrow-Green	British Society for the History of Mathematics
Janet Ainley	British Society for Research into Learning Mathematics
Andrew Osbaldestin	Conference of Heads of Departments of Mathematical Sciences
Colin Campbell	Edinburgh Mathematical Society
Nigel Steele	Institute of Mathematics and its Applications
Vanessa Thorogood	Institute of Mathematics and its Applications
Elizabeth Winstanley	London Mathematical Society
Roger Porkess	Mathematics in Education and Industry
Sally Barton	National Association for Numeracy and Mathematics in Colleges
Brian Robinson	National Association of Mathematics Advisors
Gerald Goodall	Royal Statistical Society
Barry Lewis	The Mathematical Association

Co-opted member

Sue Sanders	ICMI
-------------	------

Observers

Not represented	Adults Learning Mathematics
Margaret Brown	Advisory Committee on Mathematics Education
Tony Holloway	Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills
Not represented	Department for Children, Schools and Families
Celia Hoyles	National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics

Not represented	National Strategies
Jane Jones	Office for Standards in Education
Paul Harper	Operational Research Society
Nick Doran	Qualifications and Curriculum Authority
Nick von Behr	Royal Society
John Harris	SEMTA
Paul Scruton	School Mathematics Project
Not represented	The National Strategies
Not represented	Training and Development Agency for Schools
Bill Richardson	United Kingdom Mathematics Trust

Guests

Lynn Churchman	National Association of Mathematics Advisors
Makhan Singh	More Maths Grads
Sir Peter Williams	Review of mathematics teaching in Primary schools and Early Years settings

Ros Sutherland welcomed everyone to the meeting. She then invited Bill Richardson to make a short statement. Bill said he was very sad to inform the meeting of the recent death (February 15th) of W Warwick Sawyer. He had been in his 97th year and died in Canada where he had been living for some years with his daughter. His passing marked the end of an era in UK mathematics education.

Item	Action
1. Apologies Diana Coben (ALM), Jeff Evans (ALM), Margaret Jones (ATM), Stephen Stanton (DCSF), John Marriott (HEA), Sue Pope (QCA), Teresa Smart (NS) and Michael Reiss (RS).	
2. Appreciation of departing representatives Ken Ruthven (BSRLM)	
3. Welcome to new representatives, alternates, guests and visitors New representative: [Professor] Janet Ainley (BSRLM) Visitor: Vanessa Thorogood (IMA) Guests: Lynn Churchman (NAMA), Makhan Singh (More Maths Grads), Sir Peter Williams (p.m.)	
4. Minutes of the meeting of Thursday 8 November 2007 Corrections: In 6(a), the reference to the outer circle should be that it is the Chair of JMC that is on it rather than Ros (Sutherland) personally. Dates of BCME are 6th to 9th April 2010 (Tuesday - Friday).	

<p>5. Matters arising from the minutes</p> <p>Jane Jones pointed out the date of the summer JMC meeting (3 June 2008) will clash with a meeting of the STEM Programme Board. [This will mean that some of our observers will need to depart after lunch]</p>	
<p>6. Reports from Executive</p> <p>a. Chair</p> <p>i. Single Council for Subject Associations (CfSA)</p> <p>This was discussed by the Executive who were favourably inclined to joining. Lengthy discussion followed and it was agreed that JMC should apply to join. The main reason was to be involved at a relatively early stage and perhaps therefore be able to exert more influence.</p> <p>ii. ICME11</p> <p>Ros Sutherland reported that it had been agreed that JMC and other UK mathematics associations were likely to be housed within the NCETM 'stand'. Ros then asked Sue Sanders to update the Council. Sue reported that considerably more money for grants had been received and that information about ICME and bursaries had been circulated widely in Wales and Northern Ireland but that coverage in England and Scotland was more patchy. Members were asked to do what they could to assist in spreading the word.</p> <p>iii. MEI application to become Participating Society</p> <p>Ros Sutherland informed the Council that following the tied vote at the November 2007 Council meeting, there had been discussions and the MEI request had been agreed.</p> <p>iv. Relationship with ACME</p> <p>Ros Sutherland was expecting to further the links between JMC and ACME when she met with Adrian Smith, who is the successor to Sir Peter Williams.</p> <p>b. Secretary</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p> <p>c. Treasurer</p> <p>Adrian Oldknow was pleased to report that the Royal Society had agreed to contribute £2000 for each of the next 3 years. This meant that JMC meetings would continue to be held in the RS for the time being. He was also pleased that all societies had paid their subscriptions.</p> <p>d. Chair of Nominations Committee</p> <p>Brian Robinson said he had nothing to report.</p>	<p>JMC to join CfSA (Ros Sutherland)</p> <p>Circulate ICME bursaries opportunity (All)</p>
<p>7. Report from ACME</p> <p>In addition to the written report, Margaret Brown added several pieces of information. The new chair of ACME would have a key role in</p>	

<p>advising the DCSF, as would Celia in her new role as chair of NCETM; the post of Chief Adviser for Mathematics (England) was being discontinued. ACME was conscious of the need to diversify its funding, DCSF was to continue its support conditional on the success of negotiations elsewhere which were on-going. There were new plans which included the revision and broadening of the Outer Circle to enlarge it and make it more flexible. The special link with JMC was still important and would be maintained. Lynn Churchman suggested that JMC should write to the DCSF expressing dismay that there was no longer a Chief Adviser for Mathematics (England) and this was agreed as a positive letter reflecting on the good things that arose out of the Chief Adviser role that we desire to continue in one form or another.</p>	<p>Send Chief Advisor role letter (David Martin and Lynn Churchman)</p>
<p>8. Report from NCETM Celia Hoyles, now the director of NCETM, had submitted a lengthy report and she made some comments on certain parts. There was particular discussion and concern expressed about the term ‘Charter Marks’ in the context of CPD delivery. (There were worries that this name might lead to difficulties with the Privy Council.)</p>	
<p>9. Standing Committees: BCME: Update. A report had been submitted.</p>	
<p>10. Higher Education (a) MoreMathsGrads (MMG) The newly appointed project manager, Makhan Singh, spoke to the report that had been submitted. He said he was very pleased to be able to discuss the initiative with the JMC. (b) Other HE Elizabeth Winstanley had provided a report and there was discussion as to whether the Additional Mathematics Unit was optional. It seems that it is optional. Paul Harper commented on two significant Maths/OR initiatives: WIMCS(Wales Institute of Mathematical and Computational Sciences), and the EPSRC Science and Innovation award for OR (consortium of Lancaster, Nottingham, Cardiff and Southampton). Both initiatives have outreach potential.</p>	
<p>11. Teacher Education Peter Johnston-Wilder (AMET) had provided a report. Nick von Behr commented that the RS had recently published a report ‘The UK’s science and mathematics teaching workforce’ (and copies were made available).</p>	
<p>12. International Affairs This had been covered under Chair's business.</p>	
<p>13. JMC Website</p>	<p>Ideas to David</p>

<p>David Martin commented that the JMC Activities page needed to be updated and that he would welcome suggestions.</p>	<p>Martin for update of JMC Activities page (All)</p>
<p>14. Update on current developments:-</p> <p>a. TDA Concern was expressed over the lack of TDA involvement.</p> <p>b. QCA A written report had been submitted. In addition Nick Doran commented that there was still discussion over appropriate names for the two GCSE mathematics courses. There was a brief discussion and the names <i>Applying Mathematics</i> and <i>Mathematics</i> received overwhelming support.</p> <p>c. DCELLS Tony Holloway had provided a written report and drew Council's attention to a section on the Welsh baccalaureate.</p> <p>d. OFSTED Jane Jones commented briefly on her written report.</p> <p>e. The National Strategies No update</p>	
<p>15. Dates of future meetings:- at the Royal Society</p> <p>Tuesday 3 June 2008</p> <p>Thursday 13 November 2008</p> <p>Tuesday 24 February 2009</p>	
<p>16. AOB</p> <p>(a) Every Child Counts: Lynne McClure had been nominated as the JMC representative to the ECC advisory group. She had provided a written report, which was warmly welcomed.</p> <p>(b) Further to item 14(b), it was suggested and agreed that a letter should be written to QCA in support of the titles <i>Applying Mathematics</i> and <i>Mathematics</i>.</p>	<p>Send GCSE Mathematics names letter to QCA (David Martin)</p>
<p>Discussion Item: Review of mathematics teaching in Primary schools and Early Years settings. Led by Sir Peter Williams</p> <p>Sir Peter gave a brief outline of the project. He described the very short timescale which the group had been given. There had been visits to a considerable number of schools to observe and discuss. Particular attention had been paid to (a) the mathematical background of primary teachers, and (b) their confidence in dealing with the subject. The preliminary report had a submission date of March 19th and this would</p>	

be followed by a six week consultation period before the final report which will be launched at the NCETM 17 June 2008 national event.	
--	--