

Minutes of the JMC Council meeting held at the Royal Society on Thursday 11 June 2009.

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
George Knights	Association of Teachers of Mathematics
Marie Joubert	British Society for Research into Learning Mathematics
June Barrow-Green	British Society for the History of Mathematics
Andrew Osbaldestin	Conference of Heads of Departments of Mathematical Sciences
Colin Campbell	Edinburgh Mathematical Society
Nigel Steele	Institute of Mathematics and its Applications
Peter Cooper	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
Bill Richardson	The Mathematical Association (also UKMT)

*Co-opted members*

James Nicholson	British Congress of Mathematics Education
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*Observers*

Laurie Jacques	Advisory Committee on Mathematics Education
Diana Coben	Adults Learning Mathematics
Tony Holloway	Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills
Stephen Stanton	Department for Children, Schools and Families
John Marriott	The Maths, Stats & OR Network of the Higher Education Academy

---	National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics
Jane Jones	Office for Standards in Education
Paul Harper	Operational Research Society
Sue Pope	Qualifications and Curriculum Authority
Libby Steele	Royal Society
Ken Ruthven	School Mathematics Project
---	Sector Skills Council for science, engineering and manufacturing technologies in the UK
Teresa Smart	The National Strategies
Martin Dore	Training and Development Agency for Schools
Bill Richardson	United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (also MA)

*Guests*

Sue Sanders	International Commission on Mathematical Instruction
Duncan Lawson	MoreMathsGrads
Nick Todd	Northern Ireland

*Visitors*

Nick Bowes	Advisory Committee on Mathematics Education
Gill Close	Office for Standards in Education

<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>1. Apologies</b> Janet Ainley (BSRLM), Fiona Allan (ACME), John Harris (SEMTA), Celia Hoyles (NCETM), Paul Scruton (SMP) and Elizabeth Winstanley (LMS)	
<b>2. Appreciation of departing representatives</b> Nick Von Behr (RS)	
<b>3. Welcome to new guests, representatives, alternates and visitors</b> New representatives: Libby Steele (RS, Head of Education) Alternates: Peter Cooper (LMS), Laurie Jacques (ACME), Marie Joubert (BSRLM), Ken Ruthven (SMP) Guests: Duncan Lawson (More Maths Grads), Sue Sanders (ICMI), Nick Todd (Northern Ireland) Visitors: Nick Bowes (ACME), Gill Close (Ofsted)	
<b>4. Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 24 February 2009</b> Accepted	

<p><b>5. Matters arising from the minutes</b></p> <p>None</p>	
<p><b>6. Reports from Executive</b></p> <p>a. Chair</p> <p>i. <i>International</i></p> <p>We hope to strengthen UK links with ICMI. It is proposed that there will be a JMC representative on the International Affairs Committee with the title 'JMC International Representative' in addition to the UK ICMI representative (who is currently Sue Sanders). A policy paper was shown; there was no disagreement though further details needed to be clarified.</p> <p>ii. <i>Consultation on Mathematics at A level</i></p> <p>Ros Sutherland commented on a meeting of the Mathematics Community due to be held on 23 June 2009 in preparation for a joint response to the QCA Consultation on Level 3 mathematics. Responses had been received from member societies with a great deal of common ground. Tony Holloway expressed concern over a lack of piloting of QCA proposals.</p> <p>iii. <i>November AGM</i></p> <p>Ros Sutherland reminded members that she was due to step down as Chair at the end of her term of office at the November AGM. The Chair designate is Duncan Lawson. There was no obvious need for other JMC Officers to change.</p> <p>iv. <i>Definition of Numeracy</i></p> <p>This item generated a lively discussion. Whilst there was a lot of common ground over what it meant there wasn't unanimity.</p> <p>b. Secretary</p> <p>i. <i>Chair designate</i></p> <p>There had been no other nominations in addition to Duncan Lawson. The JMC Executive will look at the timing of stages of calling for nominations and when the JMC Executive declares its nominee.</p> <p>ii. <i>Web and meetings options</i></p> <p>Updates to the JMC website are now easier to make via an added JMC News page.</p> <p>Meetings options have been considered by Executive with the recommendation that meetings continue, for now, at the Royal Society.</p> <p>c. Treasurer</p> <p>Adrian was pleased to report that the Royal Society had increased its grant to the JMC.</p> <p>i. <i>Subscriptions</i></p>	<p>JMC Executive to look at timing for nominations for Chair</p>

<p>Most member and observer subscriptions had been received as had the grant from The Gatsby Foundation via ACME to cover the costs of the Executive Secretary</p> <p>d. Chair of Nominations Committee Brian Robinson commented on several items.</p> <p>(i) There was a need for the JMC International Representative</p> <p>(ii) A nominee was needed for a focus group for mathematics understanding.</p> <p>(iii) CfSA were planning a conference on primary</p> <p>(iv) We have been asked to nominate JMC representatives for the NCETM Advisory Committee and the National CPD Committee.</p>	
<p><b>7. Report from ACME</b></p> <p>Laurie Jacques reported that two new committee members will take up post in January. Names are currently with the RS for confirmation. [These are now confirmed as Lynn McClure and Anne Watson]</p> <p>A meeting with DCFS and DIUS is planned for Friday 12th June.</p> <p>Andrew Osbaldestin asked about the current status of the Rose and the Williams reviews and also where matters stood with regard to mathematics specialists in primary schools.</p>	
<p><b>8. Working groups</b></p> <p>The meeting was reminded that JMC was still able to establish working groups. In so doing, it should be mindful of any gaps in the ACME agenda, for example, ICT in mathematics.</p>	
<p><b>9. Report from NCETM</b></p> <p><b>Discussion highlighted the need for short reports with careful use of acronyms which indicated whether they referred just to England or beyond.</b></p>	
<p><b>10. Standing Committees</b></p> <p>a. BCME James Nicholson highlighted a few issues in his report. Concerns were expressed over the apparent lack of call for speakers.</p> <p>b. ICMI Sue Sanders mentioned the call for nomination of recipients of the <i>Felix Klein and the Hans Freudenthal Awards</i> which have to be submitted by September 15 and also the Pipeline Project (about international comparisons) on which more work is needed.</p>	
<p><b>11. Northern Ireland</b></p> <p>In addition to his written report, Nick Todd said that he was content with the uptake of A level Mathematics but felt that the numbers taking Further</p>	

Mathematics A level were too low, in as much as the uptake in NI is lower than that achieved in England.	
<b>12. Higher Education</b> No further comment to the written report.	
<b>13. MoreMathsGrads</b> Duncan Lawson commented that a proposal regarding future funding for a planned successor for MoreMathsGrads the National HE STEM Programme, covering all of mathematics, physics, chemistry and engineering was being considered.	
<b>14. Teacher Education</b> Peter Johnston-Wilder expressed some concerns about the appropriateness of the Subject Knowledge Enhancement (SKE) courses as well as over the Masters in Teaching and Learning (MTL).	
<b>15. Operational Research</b> Paul Harper elaborated on the written report. In particular he emphasised that the OR society was very willing to talk to member organisations about its work and aspirations.	
<b>13. Update on current developments.</b>  a. <i>TDA</i> Martin Dore observed that applications for September entry were up by over 50% but that there were regional variations. The situation with regard to recruitment and retention in the long term was under constant observation.  b. <i>QCA</i> Sue Pope pointed out that the 'Engaging Mathematics for all learners' guidance booklet ( <a href="http://www.qcda.gov.uk/22223.aspx">www.qcda.gov.uk/22223.aspx</a> ) was now available. There are also seven video case studies on the national curriculum website ( <a href="http://curriculum.qcda.gov.uk">curriculum.qcda.gov.uk</a> ) There had been positive comments about QCA conferences for LA strategic leads for mathematics and such events may be repeated.  c. <i>DCELLS</i> Tony Holloway remarked that mathematics had become the most popular subject at A' level in Wales and hoped that proposed changes would not jeopardise this.  d. <i>Ofsted</i> Jane Jones commented that it was disappointing that recent STEM	

<p>conferences had to be cancelled due to lack of uptake. Some restructuring of Ofsted is planned including the bringing together of mathematics and numeracy under the same leadership.</p> <p>e. The National Strategies</p> <p>Teresa Smart gave a verbal report. There was discussion and concern over early and repeated entries for GCSE.</p>	
<p><b>17. Reports from meetings</b></p> <p>No additional reports</p>	
<p><b>18. Dates of future meetings at the Royal Society</b></p> <p>Tuesday 10 November 2009</p> <p>Tuesday 23 February 2010</p> <p>Tuesday 8 June 2010</p>	
<p><b>19. AOB: None</b></p>	
<p><b>Discussion Item</b></p> <p><b>In collaboration with the JMC</b></p> <p><b>14:00 – 16:00 Nuffield Foundation Mathematics Education Seminar</b></p> <p><b><i>‘Mathematics education in countries with high mathematics attainment’</i></b></p> <p>In 2008 the Nuffield Foundation commissioned a team from King’s College, London, to conduct a review of research literature on the features of mathematics education in those countries which perform well on international tests of mathematics attainment. The team, led by Mike Askew, are preparing a report to address two questions:</p> <p><i>What is the range and type of research evidence from countries with high performance in mathematics that gives insights into the reasons for their relatively high position?</i></p> <p><i>What constitutes high performance in mathematics learning and what factors appear most powerfully to contribute to achieving it?</i></p> <p>The team began with a search for related published research reports which identified about 1500 sources. These have been categorised and a core body of approximately 500 items selected which meet quality and significance criteria. These will provide the substance of the review.</p> <p>The authors presented some early findings prior to finalising decisions on the shape and structure of the report. Ken Ruthven of Cambridge University and Jane Jones, HMI, Ofsted specialist adviser for mathematics, offered personal responses. These were followed by an open debate considering the messages, their interpretation and how best to present them to maximise their impact on UK policy, practice and future research.</p>	