

## **BSRLM, Chair's Report, November 2013**

### **Day Conferences**

The November 2012 day conference was the joint conference with NoRME (Nordic Research in Mathematics Education) was held at Cambridge. This was actually a 1½-day conference as we had open events on the Friday afternoon preceding the day conference itself. We had a record 160 participants, 58 sessions, 3 working groups. The conference was a spectacular success and special thanks are due to: Ken Ruthven and his student helpers who were extremely busy throughout the day; Sue Pope, who had even more work than is usual (and she always has a lot to do for a day conference); Christer Bergsten, Frode Rønning and Jeppe Skott from NoRME; and all our Nordic friends who travelled so far to attend. We hope many BSRLM members will attend the NORMA conference next June. This conference is held every three years, so look it out now on <http://www.utu.fi/norma14/>

The March 2013 day conference at the University of Bristol had 72 participants, 23 sessions and 2 working groups. Many thanks to Alf Coles, Laurinda Brown and Bristol student helpers for a great day.

The June 2013 New Researchers Day and day conference were both held at Sheffield Hallam University and had 25 participants including one from Norway and two from Ireland. 14 new researchers presented papers and Lara Alcock led an interactive session on writing for the Informal Proceedings and Current Reports for RME. All presentations were well received. The Leone Burton fund provided £439.60 for bed and breakfast for new researchers to remain for the day conference. The day conference had 84 participants, 19 sessions and 4 working groups. Many thanks to Hilary Povey, Colin Jackson and PGCE student helpers - who all did a great job as local organisers for the two days. The June day conference included the fifth Janet Duffin Lecture given by Aron Samkoff, which was very well received.

We are very grateful to all those involved in the local organisation of conferences and to our Day Conference Organiser, Sue Pope, for their commitment to ensuring the quite complex logistics actually work! Participants' evaluations of day conferences continue to be positive.

### **Research in Mathematics Education (Journal)**

RME has produced three issues for the third time this year. Elena Nardi left the editorial team after six years as an RME editor (many thanks Elena) but remains as an Advisory Editor and Yvette Solomon joined Jeremy Hodgen and Tim Rowland as Editors. Alf Coles remains as Book Reviews Editor. Lara Alcock came to the end of her period as Current Reports Editor (many thanks Lara) and Cathy Smith has taken over this role; Cathy is set to continue the high standards set by Lara.

We have signed a new contract with the Taylor and Francis (the publishers of RME). This is very similar to the old contract but: includes details of the three issues per year; provision for on-line access to RME for BSRLM members. The contract stipulates that this access is only for BSRLM members and we must be vigilant to ensure that this contract is honoured. Many thanks to RME Editors and special thanks to Helen Wheeler (Taylor and Francis) and Cathy Smith for ensuring that we have such a good contract.

### **BSRLM Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee has met three times during the year, as well as doing a great deal of work by e-mail to ensure the smooth running of the society. I am very grateful to every member of the Executive Committee for their hard work and commitment to BSRLM – and for interesting meetings! The close liaison between the Executive Committee and the Editors of RME has continued and we collaborate on all matters of mutual concern.

The periods of office (see table below) follow a long standing and sensible agreement to have some stability within the Executive Committee in any given year. As you can see we need to elect a new Chair and a new Publications Secretary at this AGM. I'd like to say that I have (almost to my surprise) really enjoyed being Chair. I'd like to thank Cathy for her hard work as Publications Secretary Cathy's work as Publications Secretary has been particularly onerous with the editing of the Informal Proceedings and managing the upkeep of the BSRLM website. We would like members' permission to co-opt a member onto the Executive Committee to assist with the workload, with special regard to managing the upkeep of the BSRLM website; this co-option does not require a formal vote but we would, of course, like to proceed with members' blessings.

Whilst on matters relating to the workload of the Executive Committee I'd like to mention some issues on the horizon. One reason why BSRLM membership and day conferences are so inexpensive (compared to any other comparable organisation) is that we do not employ paid helpers – local organisers and the Executive Committee do everything. It is necessary that we implement systems – as a matter of some urgency – to automate the subscription, membership and day conference management. Without such systems it will be difficult for the EC to provide the administrative support to sustain a growing society and we may have little alternative but to have to employ part time dedicated administrative support in the future.

The following summarises positions and periods of office:

	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Chair	John Monaghan	<i>New Chair</i>	<i>New Chair</i>	<i>New Chair</i>
Secretary	Ian Jones	Ian Jones	<i>New Secretary</i>	<i>New Secretary</i>
Membership Secretary	Steve Watson	Steve Watson	<i>New Membership Secretary</i>	<i>New Membership Secretary</i>
Treasurer	Sue Forsythe	Sue Forsythe	Sue Forsythe	<i>New treasurer</i>
Publications Secretary	Cathy Smith	<i>New Publications Secretary</i>	<i>New Publications Secretary</i>	<i>New Publications Secretary</i>
BERA SIG co-ordinator	Alison Clark-Wilson	Alison Clark-Wilson	Alison Clark-Wilson	<i>New BERA SIG co-ordinator</i>
Day conference co-ordinator	Sue Pope	Sue Pope	<i>New Day conference co-ordinator</i>	<i>New Day conference co-ordinator</i>

### **British Congress of Mathematics Education**

Planning for BCME in 2014 is in its final stages. BSRLM has played an important role with members serving on the Planning Committee and Sue Pope has organised the research strand. The BSRLM call for papers for the BCME research strand resulted in 57 abstracts and 51 papers. These 51 papers are currently being reviewed by BSRLM members; the review process has matched experienced and novice reviewers so that novice reviewers can learn from 'old hands'. Thanks to Sue Pope for organising this and for future editing of the Proceedings.

### **The Joint Mathematical Council of the UK**

The JMC, of which the BSRLM is a participating member and Tim Rowland is Chair, celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 5/11/2013. BSRLM has been represented at every JMC meeting in the last three years and gave a presentation of the work of BSRLM at the June 2013 JMC meeting. BSRLM wishes JMC another 50 glorious years as a 'watchdog' for the mathematics and mathematics education community.

### **The Leone Burton Fund**

The Leone Burton Fund pays for the expenses of the annual New Researchers Day on the Friday before our June day conferences; these expenses include bed and breakfast accommodation for new researchers. The Leone Burton Fund is very low (see the Treasurer's Report). New researchers and the annual New Researchers Day are very important for the continuation of the BSRLM. The BSRLM website will shortly have a button to enable members to make donations to the Leone Burton Fund and the Executive Committee proposes to 'top up' the Leone Burton Fund as needed to ensure the continuation of the annual New Researchers Day. This can be done through the internal transfer of money in BSRLM accounts and does not require a formal vote but the Executive Committee wish to be open about the likelihood of future transfers of money.

### **BSRLM in Dublin**

Following the successful liaison with NoRME we are planning, with Mathematics Education Ireland, a day conference in Dublin in Feb/March 2015. There is a lot of work to be done to realise this but the Executive Committees of both organisations are very enthusiastic about this venture.