

British Society for Research into Learning Mathematics

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Newcastle University, 13th November 2010

1. **Apologies for absence:** Howard Tanner (BSRLM Executive), Patrick Barmby, Cathy Smith
2. **Minutes of the last meeting:**

The minutes of the AGM held on 14th November 2009 were accepted as an accurate record.
3. **Matters arising from the minutes:** Item 4. The Executive had considered the suggestion of a formal award for recipients of support from the Leone Burton Fund. Give that the qualification for support with accommodation was attendance at the New Researchers Day and Day Conference, the Executive decided that an award was not appropriate.
4. **Executive Committee reports:**

Written reports from the Chair, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Publications Officer (appended here) were included in the conference packs. Members were invited to read the reports and raise any questions.

The Executive were asked whether overseas MA students could attend day conferences without membership. Janet Ainley confirmed that this applied to overseas visitors for one conference only, and noted the benefits of membership, including the RME journal, for MA students. Jenni Ingram confirmed that, although the number of members has decreased, the fee income from membership has risen. Members were invited to raise any further emerging questions with the Executive following the AGM.
5. **RME editorial report:**

Tim Rowland, Editor of RME, presented an oral report. The move to three issues of RME was accepted by the membership in the AGM last year. This has since been taken forward, and three issues are expected next year. The publishers are pleased with this development, which will increase the visibility of the journal and will support the move to an online editorial manager system. There have been some changes to personnel. Lara Alcock has taken over from Linda Haggarty as Current Reports Editor; Alf Coles has been appointed to replace Jan Winter as Book Reviews Editor; and Jeremy Hodgen has been appointed as the third Editor, working alongside Tim Rowland and Elena Nardi.

Tim Rowland presented a short report on behalf of Lara Alcock, Current Reports Editor. Current reports are two page reports, which are considered if the author has submitted a six page report for the BSRLM Informal Proceedings. Current reports place a different demand on the writer. Last year, there were 26 submissions and, having worked with the authors, one third were rejected. In the guidelines, a current report is 'meant to report some result,' whether theoretical or empirical. In many first drafts, it is unclear what is actually being reported, or what evidence is presented for the findings. When reporting a large project, such as a PhD, it is better to report on one aspect rather than the whole study.

Alf Coles presented a short report about his role of Book Reviews Editor. He has recently received a manuscript of a book about to be published, and also a suggestion of a book that

someone would like to review. Alf is happy to receive both kinds of submissions, and is keen to support the publications of BSRLM members.

In response to a question about the cost implications of moving to three issues, Janet Ainley explained that Taylor and Francis charged £15 per member for two issues, and will now charge £18 per member for three issues. Given that a slight profit is made on day conferences, the additional cost can at present be absorbed without increasing the BSRLM membership fee. Tim Rowland explained that the journal has an international profile, with many subscriptions outside the UK. He asked members to encourage their institutions to subscribe to RME, which is often part of a package of journal subscriptions.

6. Elections to Executive Committee:

There were four vacancies on the Society's Executive Committee from 2011: Chair, Secretary, Publications Officer and Day Conference Organiser. Each of the members coming to the end of their period of office/ standing down was thanked for their hard work for the Society.

The following members were nominated, seconded and elected unopposed to the following positions and periods of office:

John Monaghan	Chair	January 2011 – December 2013
Ian Jones	Secretary	January 2011 – December 2011

The following member was nominated, seconded and elected to the following position and period of office:

Cathy Smith	Publications Officer	January 2011 – December 2013
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No nominations had been received for the Day Conference Organiser, and members were encouraged to consider taking on this very important role. The new Executive was invited to consider whether Executive members could be offered support to attend conferences.

7. BCME discussion about refereed papers:

Janet Ainley gave a presentation about the relationship between BSRLM and BCME, outlining the current situation and ideas for ways forward. BCME is organised by JMC every four years. As a show of support for BCME, there has been no BSRLM meeting in the Spring term, and BSRLM has organised a reviewing process for papers, as well as inviting non-refereed presentations. A table of the advantages and disadvantages of this arrangement was presented. The challenges included the additional work of reviewing refereed papers, with timescales which are problematic. The Executive felt that there is a need to review BSRLM's relationship with BCME, and Janet Ainley invited members present to consider three questions: What are the payoffs for BSRLM/ BSRLM members in participating in BCME? What would BSRLM like to achieve through its participation? How might the disadvantages of the current model be overcome?

Discussion ensued, and included the following points. Barbara Jaworski felt that it is important that BSRLM continues its presence at BCME, which is an important environment for teachers and others to talk about research. She felt that BSRLM should resist any move to remove the research element, and felt that a prominent person from BSRLM should be involved in the leadership group. Janet Ainley responded that JMC have asked for a BSRLM representative on the organising committee. Marie Joubert has taken on this role to date. Janet Ainley will seek a volunteer from the BSRLM community to take on this role for

BCME8. Other issues raised included the cost of BCME and whether it is necessary to cancel the BSRLM day conference.

Janet Ainley presented a possible alternative model of presenting research at BCME. She outlined the format of the proof strand at BCME, which was organised by Elena Nardi and Andreas Stylianides. The whole day involved five sessions of short presentations, followed by participant engagement and discussion. The call for contributions invited sessions that were ‘grounded in research but accessible to a wide audience of researchers and professionals ... including systematic practitioner enquiry.’ The idea that BSRLM might propose and organise a number of such strands was discussed. It was noted that these would be similar in style to BERA sessions, and that such strands would be a different way of showcasing work. Rather than a process of reviewing papers, short submissions could be considered by the strand organisers (contributors to the proof strand were asked to submit 300 words).

8. Proposed constitutional change:

The following constitutional changes, which would update the constitution to reflect current practice, were presented at the AGM. They will be voted on at the 2011 AGM.

The current constitution reads:	Proposed change to (changes in wording underlined):
8. The day to day running of the Society will be the responsibility of the Executive Committee , which comprises <u>five</u> officers: Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Publications Secretary, <u>and two members without portfolio.</u>	8. The day to day running of the Society will be the responsibility of the Executive Committee , which comprises <u>seven</u> officers: Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Publications Secretary, <u>Day Conference Organiser and BERA SIG Co-ordinator.</u>
12. The Executive Committee will <u>communicate with the membership through a newsletter at least once a year and inform the membership of the outcomes of the AGM.</u>	12. The Executive Committee will <u>report to the membership via the AGM and will distribute minutes.</u>
16. Members of the Executive Committee will be elected by single transferable vote <u>in a postal ballot of all members of the Society</u> , to serve for a period of three years and four months commencing the following January 1 st . Members will be elected to a named officer position on Executive <u>or to a Member without Portfolio position.</u>	16. Members of the Executive Committee will be elected by single transferable vote <u>at the AGM</u> , to serve for a period of three years and four months commencing the following January 1 st . Members will be elected to a named officer position on Executive.
18. <u>The roles of Chair, Treasurer and Member without Portfolio will be up</u>	18. Election to the roles will be staggered so that, wherever possible,

<p><u>for election together. Secretary and Membership Secretary will be elected the following year. The Publications Secretary, and a second Member without Portfolio will be elected the year after that.</u></p>	<p>two or three roles will be up for election together.</p>
<p>19. Voting will be by Single Transferable Vote (details of which are set out in Annex 1) <u>by postal ballot of all members as of 31st October.</u></p>	<p>19. Voting will be by Single Transferable Vote (details of which are set out in Annex 1) <u>at the AGM.</u></p>
<p>23. The agenda for the AGM will <u>be sent out with the pre-Autumn newsletter. The format will be as follows:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Apologies for absence ii. Minutes of the last meeting (these will be available at the Autumn meeting) iii. Matters arising from the minutes iv. <u>Treasurer’s report</u> v. <u>Membership Secretary’s report</u> vi. <u>Chair’s business</u> vii. <u>Resolutions</u> 	<p>23. The agenda for the AGM <u>will include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apologies for absence 2. Minutes of the last meeting (these will be available at the Autumn meeting) 3. Matters arising from the minutes 4. <u>Executive committee reports</u> 5. <u>RME Editorial report</u> 6. <u>Elections</u> 7. <u>Resolutions</u>

9. Any other business: None

Annex 1: Chair’s Report

Annex 2: Treasurer’s Report

Annex 3: Membership Secretary’s Report

Annex 4: Publications Officer’s Report

Annex 1

British Society for Research into the Learning of Mathematics Chair's Report November 2010

British Congress of Mathematics Education

There was no BSRLM day conference in the Spring Term this year, as BCME 7 took place in Manchester at Easter. BSRLM managed the research strand of the conference, with a programme made up of 31 presentations for which papers were refereed, and seven shorter non-refereed presentations, as at our regular day conferences. In general the sessions were well attended and audiences were appreciative of the opportunity to hear about current research.

However, there were considerable problems in the integration of these sessions into the programme structures of BCME, as they did not conform to the pattern of sessions elsewhere in the conference, and as a result the research sessions were poorly advertised. These issues were taken up with the BCME Organising Committee, and reported at Joint Mathematical Council.

We are grateful to BSRLM members for the considerable amount of effort which went into the preparation and the reviewing of papers for BCME, but would like to consider where this format is the best way to showcase the work of BSRLM researchers at BCME in the future, and there will be some discussion of this at the AGM.

BCME have requested a BSRLM representative on the planning committee for BCME8, and I shall be contacting members about this.

Day Conferences

The Society has held successful meetings during the year in Loughborough and Nottingham, which were well attended with full programmes: Loughborough ~ 100 participants with 32 sessions, one workshop and 4 working groups; Nottingham ~ 80 participants with 20 sessions and 6 working groups. The Nottingham conference also included the second Janet Duffin Lecture, given by Andy Noyes, from which we have had very positive feedback. Evaluations of the day conferences have been increasingly positive, and this is a great credit to the local organising teams, and to Julie-Ann Edwards' work as Day Conference Organiser.

Sue Davis, Sue Forsythe and Helen Fielding organised an excellent *New Researchers' Day* at Leicester prior to the summer meeting, with 23 participants. Seven papers were presented, and Lara Alcock, Current Reports Editor for RME ran a practical session about writing for the journal. Three of the new researchers were supported by the Leone Burton fund, offering free bed and breakfast accommodation to enable participants to stay on for the Saturday meeting in Nottingham.

We are very grateful to all of those involved in the local organisation of these day conferences.

Research in Mathematics Education (Journal)

Two issues of RME in have appeared during the year. There have been several changes in the overall editorial team. Linda Haggarty came to the end of her period as Current Reports Editor, and Lara Alcock was appointed as the new CR Editor for the period 2010-2012. Jan Winter is now standing down from her role as Book Reviews Editor, and Alf Coles has been appointed to take over this role. We are grateful to both Linda and Jan for the excellent work they have done in establishing these two areas of the Journal.

With the support of members at last year's AGM, the decision has been made to increase to 3 issues per year, and therefore to enlarge the Editorial team: Jeremy Hodgen has been appointed as the third Editor, working with Tim Rowland and Elena Nardi.

We have also been pleased to welcome new members to the Editorial Board, joining a number of existing members who have agreed to continue, to form a rolling membership in the future.

BSRLM Executive Committee

The Executive Committee has met three times during the year, as well as doing a great deal of work by email in order to ensure the smooth running of the society. I am very grateful to all the members for the exceptional amount of energy and commitment that they give. Two members come to the end of their three-year terms this year. Marie Joubert, has been publications officer, managing our website and the publication of informal proceedings, and was also did a great deal of work to lead on our contribution to BCME7. Julie-Ann Edwards joined the Executive Committee in the new role of Day-Conference Organiser, and has established very efficient systems for streamlining the planning of programmes, and the registration procedures. In addition, Kirsty Wilson will be stepping down from her role as Secretary in order to concentrate on her family. The overall pattern of periods of office is that two new appointments will be made each year, with the Chair being elected every three years. In order to keep this in alignment, the role of Secretary will initially be appointed for one year.

	2010	2011	2012	2013
Chair	Janet Ainley	<i>New Chair</i>	<i>New Chair</i>	<i>New Chair</i>
Secretary	Kirsty Wilson	<i>New member (temp)</i>		
Membership Sec.	Paul Hernandez-Martinez	Paul Hernandez-Martinez		
Treasurer	Jeni Ingram	Jeni Ingram	Jeni Ingram	
Publications Sec.	Marie Joubert	<i>New member</i>	<i>New member</i>	<i>New member</i>
BERA SIG co-ord.	Howard Tanner	Howard Tanner	Howard Tanner	
Day Conference Co-ord.	Julie-Ann Edwards	<i>New member</i>	<i>New member</i>	<i>New member</i>

Janet Ainley, November 2010

Annex 2

British Society for Research into Learning Mathematics

Chair: Janet Ainley (University of Leicester)

Jma30@leicester.ac.uk

Secretary: Kirsty Wilson (Birmingham University)

kirsty.wilson@bham.ac.uk

Treasurer: Jenni Ingram (Warwick University)

Jenni.Ingram@warwick.ac.uk

Membership: Paul Hernandez-Martinez (Loughborough University)

p.a.hernandez-martinez@lboro.ac.uk

Publications: Marie Joubert (Bristol University)

marie.joubert@bristol.ac.uk

Day Conference Organiser: Julie-Ann Edwards (Southampton University)

J.S.Edwards@soton.ac.uk

Special Responsibility for BERA: Howard Tanner (Swansea Metropolitan University) Howard.Tanner@smu.ac.uk



<http://www.bsrlm.org.uk>

Treasurer's report 2009-2010

Overview

The Society continues in a healthy state financially, with income from membership and reserves increasing. We generally break even on running day conferences, despite recent concerns that costs would increase. The balance on the current account is larger than expected but the invoice for the Nottingham conference has not yet been received. There is an impact both on membership and conference fee income from BCME.

Day conferences 2009-2010

We have again made a small surplus on day conferences overall. We have not yet been invoiced for the Nottingham conference. All conferences were reasonably well attended.

Conferences	Costs	Fees	Balance
Loughborough	£1954.73	£1970.00	£15.27
Nottingham		? £1180.00	

This year the society also hosted a day conference for new researchers held at Leicester the day before the June day conference. No fees were charged for this conference though delegates were asked to pay for lunch, but overnight accommodation was included for those who needed it, subsidised from the Burton fund. The final figures for this conference were:

Conference	Costs	Subsidy from Burton fund
Leicester	£196.71	£196.71

Membership

Overall, fee income from membership has risen. There are a few standing orders that remain to be matched to members, which has been delayed this year because of restricted access to the accounts following changes in signatories. The number of standing orders going into the Natwest account continues to decrease as is expected.

Reserve Account interest

The income from interest on the reserve account has remained low this year because of the fall in the base rate.

Janet Duffin Fund

There were no costs from Andy Noyes for the Duffin lecture this year as it was hosted at Nottingham. There was a further donation from the family of £4000.

RME

The RME account is now managed separately by the editors. The only income to the account is by grant from BSRLM, and this is used to pay for editorial expenses, including secretarial support. Income from royalties and costs of members' journal issues are dealt with through BSRLM accounts.

Jenni Ingram
November 2010

Annex 3

Annual General Meeting of the British Society for the Research into
Learning Mathematics
Newcastle University
November 12th, 2010

Membership Secretary Report

To this date, the number of members is 374 (plus the ones joining during this conference), from which 286 (76%) pay by Standing Order and 88 (24%) pay by cheque or cash.

The following table shows the trend on membership numbers for the last 5 years.

2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
277	297	350	413	374
	+20	+53	+63	-39

The decrease in numbers this year is due to a couple of reasons: the BCME conference early this year meant that we did not have a Spring conference and no members joined during that period; there was an unusual number of colleagues retiring or not continuing their membership.

We would like to remind colleagues that if an overseas visitor wishes to attend a BSRLM conference (and is not presenting), they can come as a guest of a member and do not have to pay membership fee. Very few colleagues have taken advantage of this.

Paul Hernandez-Martinez
Membership Secretary
November 2010

Annex 4

Publication secretary report

AUTUMN TERM DAY CONFERENCE – LOUGHBOROUGH

19 papers and two working group reports were submitted for the Informal Proceedings. (Volume 29 number 3)

BCME CONFERENCE – MANCHESTER

The publication secretary represented BSRLM on the programme committee for the BCME conference. She created a database of potential reviewers of papers, by emailing the BSRLM membership and inviting the members to contribute their details. In particular, she encouraged less experienced reviewers to submit their details, asking that they indicate whether they felt they needed support. This database has been shared with the editors of RME.

She worked together with another committee member (also a member of BSRLM) to assign papers to reviewers, ensuring that each paper was reviewed by at least one experienced reviewer. Presenters of non reviewed papers at BCME were invited to submit papers for the Informal Proceedings. 31 reviewed papers and 7 non-reviewed papers were included in the Informal Proceedings for the spring term (Volume 30 number 1).

SUMMER TERM DAY CONFERENCE AND NEW RESEARCHERS' DAY – LEICESTER AND NOTTINGHAM

All presenters at both the day conference and the new researchers' day were invited to submit papers for the Informal Proceedings. 10 research papers and 3 working group reports were submitted. (Volume 30 number 2).

Marie Joubert

November 2010