

# British Society for Research into Learning Mathematics

## Chair

Sue Gifford, University of Roehampton

## Secretary

Heather Mendick, freelance

## Treasurer

Gwen Ineson, Brunel University

## Membership

Rachel Marks, University of Brighton

## Conference Proceedings

Fiona Curtis, Reading University

## Online Communications

Alison Clark-Wilson, UCL Institute of Education

Pete Wright, UCL Institute of Education

## Day Conference Organiser

Natthapoj Vincent Trakulphadetkrai, University of Reading

## BERA SIG and Outreach

Alf Coles, Bristol University



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

## Annual General Meeting Minutes

*Liverpool Hope University, 11 November 2017*

1. Apologies for absence: Fiona Curtis, Sue Pope, Tim Rowland, Geoff Wake.
2. Minutes of the last meeting: These were agreed as an accurate record.
3. Matters arising from the minutes: There were none that were not on the agenda.
4. **Proposed changes to the constitution**
  - a. Under Organisation of the Society, change Membership Secretary to Membership Coordinator and insert 'two' before Day Conference Organisers.  
These were voted on and unanimously agreed.
  - b. Sue Gifford outlined the background to the proposed change, with the Executive having consulted members via the Open Forum at the June day conference and via a survey on the website. She offered two possible changes to the constitution as below, as an alternative to the status quo. She described the survey responses from 64 members: 16% voted for neutrality, 67% voted to respond to consultations on all aspects of mathematics education, and 17% voted to respond to consultations only on research matters. Alf Coles spoke in favour of neutrality, Heather Mendick spoke against and Hilary Povey explained that the status quo has not been applied consistently and a change would clarify the position. Matthew Inglis argued this would make the political positions of exec members relevant. Heather argued that it would not as the role of Executive would remain one of the facilitating members rather than pushing personal positions. Jennie Golding said that there are ways of responding that set out different alternatives rather than giving one definitive position.  
Following this, we voted on the first change: 38 in favour, 12 against and 3 abstentions. Thus, the first position below is adopted pending ratification at next year's AGM.  
Under Organisation of the Society, insert one of the following:  
The Executive of the BSRLM may, from time to time, respond on behalf of the Society to external consultations on matters of relevance to the Society. The Executive shall seek advice

via open consultation with the Society. Any such response to consultations will be made available to members on the BSRLM website.

The Executive of the BSRLM may respond on behalf of the Society to external consultations only on issues concerning research. The Executive shall seek advice via open consultation with the Society. Any such response to consultations will be made available to members on the BSRLM website.

## **5. Executive Committee Reports**

*Chair's report:* Sue summarised her report that had been circulated in advance. She thanked outgoing members of the Executive and stressed the inclusive ethos of BSRLM. She detailed the appointment of an editorial team for the BCME proceedings, the appointment of an interim editorial team for RME and the calls for a new RME editorial team and for responses to a tender to survey BSRLM Conference Proceedings.

*Treasurer's report:* Gwen Ineson summarised her report that had been circulated in advance. She reported the society's current funds stand at £39k and that recent increases in expenditure have been for ongoing website development and rising conference costs. The topic for the March Open Forum will be how to use our surplus. She outlined changes in membership payments and the state of the Leone Burton fund. We hope to restore the online option to donate to this fund when people book for the conference. Despite the increased costs of the conference, we have no plans to increase these due to the current surplus.

*Membership Secretary's report:* Rachel Marks summarised her report that had been circulated in advance. She noted the drop in membership because of the changes in membership payments outlined by Gwen. She explained that the website now enables members to check their details and that we will be emailing members through this and not the Nottingham BSRLM list.

*Conference Proceeding Editor's report:* Fiona Curtis was absent but her report had been circulated in advance. Dietmar Küchemann questioned the movement away from complete Conference Proceedings with page numbers towards individual papers. Heather explained that this change had been made when we moved to the new website due to the duplication of space and effort involved in producing a full proceedings. All papers are available individually and located by their URL. As there is no longer a collection it does not make sense to use sequential page numbering. This shift reflects wider cultural shifts in how people access information.

*Online Communications Coordinator's report:* Pete Wright summarised his report that had been circulated in advance. He thanked Alison Clark-Wilson for her support and her huge work in setting up the website.

*BERA SIG and Outreach Co-ordinator's report:* Alf Coles summarised his report that had been circulated in advance. He outlined the role of BERA, the role of SIGs within this and how to submit papers and symposia for the Conference. He reported on the buoyancy of mathematics education at the 2016 BERA Conference. He offered guidance to anyone wishing to submit to the 2018 Conference. He reported that there had been another successful Practitioner Research Day and that this would be repeated in the coming year.

*Day Conference organiser's report:* Vince Trakulphadetkrai summarised his report that had been circulated in advance. He reviewed the day conferences across the previous year and thanked those involved in organising them locally. He noted the record-breaking New Researchers Day and highlighted future BSRLM conferences and BCME. He reported that the Executive are going to introduce a higher fee for those paying on the day of conferences in order to incentivise people to pay in advance and thereby reduce the waste of food and paper.

## **6. RME editorial report**

Sue presented the report from the RME interim editorial team in their absence.

'Just over a month ago we were surprised to find ourselves brought together once again as Editors (albeit temporary) of RME. Having found our feet, we find the journal to be in very good shape. We thank Adrian Simpson, Yvette Solomon and Gabriel Stylianides for this legacy from their period as Editors. Elizabeth Lake recently took up the post of Editorial Assistant and we are

enjoying working with her. RME now enjoys a very good international reputation. Submissions have doubled in the last 4 years, and now stand at 8 per month, from 27 countries in the last year. Scimago Journal and Country Ranking (SJR) places RME in the top quartile of education journals. The Editorial Board and publishers are ambitious for the status of RME to progress. A Call is now out for a new team to take up the RME Editorship next year, and we are confident that the journal will go from strength to strength. We look forward to receiving your submissions in the months and years ahead!

Cathy Smith asked for clarification as to whether individual applications are welcome in addition to teams. Sue confirmed this. Hilary Povey asked the BSRLM executive and the RME editorial team to review the move to a single editorial board away from an international advisory board via invitation and an internal UK BSRLM board via open application. Sue and Heather agreed to put this on the agenda of a future executive meeting.

#### **7. Elections to Executive Committee (for three years and four months)**

*Secretary:* Julie Alderton was elected unopposed.

*Membership Coordinator:* Helen Thouless was elected unopposed.

*Day Conference Organisers:* Marie Joubert and Geoff Wake were elected unopposed.

#### **8. Any other business**

Sue announced that we have an invitation to nominate people for the REF review panel, there is a form for this on the website. She thanked those present and closed the meeting.