

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

Minutes of the AGM

**held at Warwick University, Rootes Building, Panorama 2 room, 6 Lord
Bhattacharyya Way, Coventry CV4 7EZ on Monday 3 April 2023, at 7pm**

In the Chair

Dr Colin Foster – President

Present

Mr Tom Roper – Chair of Council

Dr Paul Harris – Honorary Secretary

Mr Sudeep Gokarakonda – Acting Treasurer

Staff in attendance

Sandi Atkinson – Chief Executive Officer

Alice Hall – Membership & Challenges Officer

Linda Medhurst – Membership Administrator

Bindu Modi – Marketing & Communications Officer

Members of the Association (81). There were sufficient members present and by proxy to be quorate. Those present were reminded that only current members of the Association were permitted to vote and that if they had already voted by proxy then their votes have been counted and they would not be permitted to vote again.

1. Welcome by the President, Dr Colin Foster

1.1. The President welcomed everyone to the 2023 Annual General Meeting and thanked all those for their continuing work on behalf of The Mathematical Association.

2. The AGM received the report of the Council from its Chair, Tom Roper.

2.1 Dr Foster invited Tom Roper as Chair of Council to present his report to the meeting.

2.2 The Chair highlighted the ongoing work to address the financial deficits posted in recent years. Stating that Sudeep Gokarakonda as Acting Treasurer would speak in more detail to the attendees under the next agenda item but that as Chair he felt a responsibility to reassure the membership of the direct action that has been taken by Council with some hard decision being made and a lot of hard work being put into improving our situation. The results of the hard work and difficult decisions can be clearly seen in this year's Financial Statements which makes for more positive reading than in previous years with a further significantly reduced deficit of only £4k.

2.3 Moving on he outlined the reasons for the decision to sell the HQ property which were not only financial but were in recognition of what was fit for purpose for an organisation of our type and size and the opportunities the sale would provide for investment in our future.

- 2.4 He highlighted the successes of the association over the past year including an increase in participation of both challenges, delivery of a new conference developed by the Equals team aimed at the SEND sector, increased social media engagement and new publications.
- 2.5 The Chair signed off by announcing the end of his term as Chair and thanking his colleagues on Council for their unwavering dedication, specifically those who had also come to the end of their terms and would be moving on. He also thanked the HQ Team who have always been there whenever he or the Association needed their help.
- 2.6 He expressed a degree of reluctance in stepping down at a time when he believed the MA is poised to really go places and he was excited by the many possibilities to come but he was also delighted to be handing the reins over to Dr Ems Lord of NRICH, under whose leadership he was certain the Association would go from strength to strength.
- 2.7 The President offered his thanks to Tom Roper on behalf of Council and the membership both for this report and for his service in the pivotal role as Chair of Council and asked that those present show their appreciation in a round of applause.

3 The report of the Acting Treasurer, Sudeep Gokarakonda.

- 3.1 The 2022 independent examination report and financial statements had been made available to MA members via email and on the website.
- 3.1.1 Main points highlighted by the Acting Treasurer in his report were;
- 3.1.1.1 Income has continued to grow since 2020.
- 3.1.1.2 The outturn at the end of 2022 represents an almost break-even balance for the first time in over ten years with the exception of 2018 when we received a one off large donation.
- 3.1.1.3 A pie chart illustrating the different income streams and where they are generated. Highlighting the largest income streams coming from membership subscriptions and the Challenges both of which increased in 2022. Other significant sources are the Gazette and publications.
- 3.1.1.4 In summary income was up, resulting in a significantly reduced deficit of £4,310 compared with £31,499 in 2021.
- 3.1.2 Mr Gokarakonda then invited questions from those present.
- 3.1.2.1 A question was raised on whether the heritage assets (e.g. the library held at Leicester University) were included on the balance sheet. At the time of meeting the Acting Treasurer was unsure. Since the meeting he has clarified as stated on page 12 of the independently examined accounts that the heritage assets are not included in the balance sheet because 'in the opinion of the Council, the cost of regular professional valuation of these assets to include a value in the accounts cannot be obtained at a cost commensurate with the benefit to the users of the accounts and to the charity.'

3.1.2.2 Another question was raised around staff salaries, how they are reviewed and what consideration had been given to them in light of the cost-of-living crisis. CEO, Sandi Atkinson confirmed that staff salaries had been reviewed in line with the Universities and Colleges Employers Association whose recommendation was for a 3% rise. The MA had awarded 6% in recognition of the cost-of-living crisis.

3.1.3 The 2022 independently examined accounts were received and accepted by the members.

3.2 Nomination of the Independent Examiners for 2023

3.2.1 The Acting Treasurer proposed the motion that we remain with Community Accounting Plus (CAPlus) as our Independent Examiners for 2023. They have proved to be efficient, cost effective and good to work with.

3.2.2 This motion was seconded by David Martin and the motion was carried nem. con.

3.2.3 The President then thanked the Acting Treasurer for his report.

4 Election of Officers and other Members of Council

4.1 The election of the President for 2023–2024

Dr Foster was pleased to confirm that Professor Nira Chamberlain is now the President of the MA and passed on his congratulations.

The election of the President for 2024–2025

Dr Foster also confirmed the new President Designate to be Dr Vicky Neale who will become President for 2024–2025.

4.2 Re-elected to Council

Dr Foster introduced Dr Paul Harris, Honorary Secretary to confirm the following members of Council who were re-elected. Dr Harris explained that all positions were unopposed and so no vote was required.

Honorary Secretary
Chair of Branches
Chair of Conferences
Chair of Membership
Chair of Publications
Chair of Teaching Committee
Editor in Chief

Dr Paul Harris
Lucinda Hamill
Dr Andy Kemp
Jemma Sherwood
Jill Trinder
David Miles
Ed Southall

Nominations for vacant roles

Dr Harris referred to the agenda available at the meeting to confirm the following members who have also been elected unopposed to the vacant roles. No vote was required.

Office of Chair of Council
nominated by Tom Roper and Dr Andy Kemp

Dr Ems Lord

Office of Treasurer
nominated by Tom Roper and Dr Paul Harris

Sudeep Gokarakonda

Office of Chair of Professional Development
nominated by Sue Southward and Bill Richardson

Louise Pennington

Office of Chair of Publicity and Media
no nominations received

Vacant

4.3 Members without Office

Dr Harris announced the five Member without Office vacancies. Nominations had been received as follows and appointed in accordance with the relevant clause in our Articles:

Nominations received before 31/12/22 (Clause 27.5 of the Articles)

Manina Tyler-Mort, nominated by David Miles and Tom Roper

Jo Morgan, nominated by Colin Foster and Chris Pritchard

Chris Pritchard, nominated by Elizabeth Glaister and Paul Harris

Nominations received after 31/12/22 (Clause 27.6 of the Articles)

Stella Dudzic, nominated by Tom Roper and seconded by Paul Harris and will serve a second three-year term.

Charlotte Hawthorne, nominated by Tom Roper and seconded by Paul Harris

5 Written Resolution

- 5.1 The President handed over to the Chair of Council Tom Roper to give some background to the written resolution before inviting attendees to vote. He outlined the purpose of the vote was to allow the creation of a new association so that trustees from all five associations could come together to explore what a new association may look like. Should the votes from all five associations be favourable then work would begin to explore all ideas with a view to returning to a future AGM to put forward a vote to formally dissolve and to set up the Association for Mathematics in Education (AMiE).
- 5.2 He reiterated that this vote was only to give permission to explore the possibilities, this was not making any decisions either way as to whether the MA should or should not be dissolved in favour of this new association.
- 5.3 Before the vote Mr Roper opened up the floor to questions and comments.
- 5.4 There were concerns raised around MAs assets, staff and journals. Mr Roper explained that all of those issues would be discussed with the other associations as part of the exploration process, should members vote in favour at this meeting. Nothing has been decided yet on any of those points.
- 5.5 There were also comments and opinions expressed around the potential for a new association to provide more opportunities for members, in particular for working teachers looking for more connections and opportunities for collaboration.

5.6 Following the discussion Mr Roper proposed the motion set out in the written resolution, seconded by Sudeep Gokarakonda. The motion was carried including votes by proxy with 67 votes in favour, 9 votes against and 5 abstentions.

6 **Matters arising from the Annual General Meeting 2022.**

Dr Foster confirmed there were no matters arising.

7 **Any other business.**

Dr Foster confirmed that none had been received.

With no further business to transact Dr Colin Foster thanked everyone for attending the meeting and wished them an enjoyable conference.

The meeting closed at 7.59pm.