

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018
Minutes of the AGM
held at University of Warwick on Wednesday, 4 April 2018, at 5.40 pm

In the Chair

Mr Tom Roper – President

Present

Mr Peter Ransom – Chair of Council

Dr Chris Pritchard – Secretary

Mr David Miles – Treasurer

Members (51) and non-members (3) of the Association

Minuting Secretary

Miss Marcia Murray – Senior Administrator

1. Welcome by the President, Tom Roper

- 1.1 Tom Roper welcomed everyone to the 2018 Annual General Meeting.

Those present were reminded that only current members of the Association were allowed to vote. By a show of hands, the Secretary counted 46 members, with 5 members arriving after the count, and 3 non-members. There were sufficient members present to be quorate.

It was announced that the Teaching Committee Open Meeting would be held tomorrow, Thursday, 5th April, at 6pm in Chancellor 3.

Tom Roper invited the Chair of Council, Peter Ransom, to give his report.

2. The AGM received the report of the Council from its Chair, Peter Ransom.

- 2.1 This was the Chair's third report to the AGM. Although a busy year, Peter said he had enjoyed it and valued the support of colleagues, without whom The Mathematical Association could not flourish.
- 2.2 Council had met four times since the last AGM (June, September, December, March). In between those times Standing Committee had met four times (April, July, October, January) to deal with any unexpected business and items that Council had delegated to it.
- 2.3 Membership is always a concern. Personal renewal notices were sent on 9th November with follow-up reminders sent to un-renewed members on 24th January and 1st March. Peter asked each member to encourage someone to join during the coming year: membership is the life-blood of the association and fresh blood is needed to keep up-to-date with current thoughts and needs.
- 2.4 The MA continues to work collaboratively with the ATM and in 2019 there will be a co-badged conference, *Mathematics, Collaboration, Creativity*, from 15th- 18th April to be held at Chesford Grange, Warwick:. The MA works closely with other organisations too and there is a meeting after this one for MA members to express their views about the possible formation of a single subject association.
- 2.5 The various committees are a vital part of the MA. Reports on their activities can be found in the Annual Report which will be on the website later this year.

2.6 Based on suggestions received from members last year, the MA invited Professor John Horton Conway and Professor Hugh Burkhardt to become Honorary Members. A procedure for appointing Honorary Members was agreed by Council at its March 2016 meeting and once again members are asked to submit a written proposal stating the case for their suggestion. It must be received by 15th May and Council will make its decision at the June meeting. An “Honorary Member” is ‘any person who has made a distinguished contribution to mathematical education or who have provided outstanding service to the Association’. (Suggestions are welcomed at any time, but will only be considered annually in June.)

2.7 This year (2018) changes to Council are:

- (i) Mike Askew becomes President.
- (ii) Tom Roper moves Immediate Past President.
- (iii) Ems Lord becomes President Designate.
- (iv) Jennie Golding timed out as Immediate Past President.
- (v) Chris Pritchard steps down as Secretary.
- (vi) Rachael Horsman timed out as Chair of Teaching Committee.
- (vii) Julia Brown timed out as Chair of Professional Development.
- (viii) Michael Fox timed out as Chair of Publications.
- (ix) Barry Lewis steps down from being a Member without Office.

2.8 Finally, having completed his third year as Chair, Peter Ransom said it had been a great privilege and honour to work with all the MA members and mathematics teachers that he had come into contact with. The business of Chairing the Association during the last twelve months had turned out to be even more time consuming than the previous period and it had been both enjoyable and, at times, challenging. He gave his sincere thanks to members of Council, those leaving and those remaining, members of the committees and the subcommittees, all of whom invest a great deal of personal free time preparing for, travelling to and attending meetings and generally furthering the aims of the Association. Peter also thanked Marcia Murray and her staff at HQ for all their support and hard work behind the scenes. Our membership owes them a great debt of gratitude.

Peter concluded his report in his unique way: “*May the force (F = MA) be with you*”.

Tom Roper invited questions and with none asked, he thanked Peter Ransom for his report.

3. The report of the Treasurer, David Miles.

3.1 The 2017 accounts had been made available to MA members via an email containing the web link to access them. Hard copies were available at the meeting. It was noted that as a charity that has a gross income of between £25,000 and £500,000 and total assets before liabilities of less than £3.26 million, we are entitled to having an Independent Examination rather than a full audit. This option was taken up for the 2016 financial year and again for the 2017 financial year. A significant reduction in cost was achieved for both years; £2.4K rather than £8K for a full audit.

3.2 With the use of a PowerPoint Presentation (stored as Appendix A), David Miles was able to show the financial results going back to 2011. The graph clearly shows that the MA’s expenditure has exceeded its income during the seven-year period. There are a number of

reasons for the fall in income: decline in membership, loss of advertising revenue, poorer GCSE revision cards sales, fewer people attending conferences, to name a few. Council continues to consider ways in which this deficit can be reduced. It was noted that the deficit in 2014 was noticeably lower, easily explained because it was a BCME year so expenditure for the conference was almost non-existent and the MA's share of income relatively high.

- 3.3 Although the graphs seem to indicate a somewhat bleak picture, the Treasurer explained that that is not really the case. Current practice is to not include Heritage funds in the accounts but if they were added then a relatively wealthy situation would be apparent – a value of just over £1million. It is the MA library (nearly 11,000 books and 700 periodical runs) which falls into the Heritage category. However, including the library's value would necessitate an annual valuation and it would not be financially feasible to value such a large number of items. The Treasurer felt it was important that the membership knew the full MA worth, particularly with regard to discussions about the possible merger of the five mathematics associations. He explained that the other associations did not have the financial assets that the MA had and that he was aware that preferences had been expressed in having the assets somehow separately 'ring-fenced'.
- 3.4 Looking at the auditor's Financial Accounts Report there is £6K less income in 2017 than was received in 2016. Expenditure increased by £16K, resulting in an increased deficit of £22K. It was pointed out that the 2016 figures were marked 'restated' due to 2017 Annual Conference income being incorrectly included in the 2016 accounts. The Treasurer explained the composition of the various headings on the Balance sheet: fixed assets, stock (MA books and resources), debtors (monies owed to the MA), cash in bank (balances held in accounts at two banks), creditors (money the MA has to pay).
- 3.5 2017 has been a good year for Gift Aid income and donations from members, particularly due to a Life Member fundraising campaign. Subscriptions is up a little on 2016, mostly due to the *Gazette* income owed to us by CUP. Editorial Board income is down principally due to a reduction in advertising income. Publications income is down largely due to GCSE Revision Cards sales dropping due to a commercial competitor entering the market. The Primary Mathematics Challenge income is up but there is potential for future growth as only 5% of Primary schools participate in the Challenge. Professional Development income is slightly down due to the two established one day conferences, Secondary in Stirling and Primary in High Wycombe, both attracting fewer delegates in 2017. The Treasurer also noted the £6K income from the top floor flat at MAHQ and the very modest amount earned by the high interest fixed term savings accounts.
- 3.6 The Treasurer noted that Publicity and Media expenditure is down by about £4K, and the costs associated with Membership and the Editorial Board are also down. Administration costs have decreased but it was noted that there was little expenditure for building maintenance which would normally come under Administration costs. However, quite a lot of work is to be carried out in 2018-2019 and expenditure will increase accordingly. Expenditure against the Annual Conference is up slightly and Branches expenditure varies from year to year. Committee and sub-committee expenditure is marginally up but this takes into account a 2-day symposium in June at which Council discussed strategic planning. Staffing costs are up but two members of staff had incremental salary increases, and National Insurance and Pension costs also rose. Professional Development expenditure dipped slightly but this reflects the dip in delegates. Library expenditure is up but this is attributable to the cost of rare book renovations that were needed. Website expenditure remains fairly static at around £2K.

- 3.7 Unrestricted funds: The headquarters fund represents the free funds of the Charity which are not designated for particular purposes. The branches fund represents funds held at branches. The revaluation reserve represents the difference between the historic cost of the property and its revalued amount. Each year the additional depreciation charged as a result of the revaluation is transferred to Headquarters funds. The President's Fund is a fund set up to hold a previous President's annual donation to the Association. This funding has been used on occasion to assist with fees to attend conferences or courses.
- 3.8 Restricted fund: Relates to the Yorkshire Branch's £6.5K which can only be used for the Mathematics Masterclasses it runs.
- 3.9 The President thanked the Treasurer noting that it was important for members to understand the Association accounts. Questions were invited from the members. There were two: -
- 3.9.1 Bill Richardson asked for clarification about the MA's bank balances and the funds that are invested with the AIB. On Page 13 of the Accounts under Current Assets it states 'Cash at bank and in hand £186,709'.
- 3.9.2 Jim Simons thought there was a strong bi-annual trend occurring in the graph data that had been presented and wondered if this was real or randomly coincidental for the years covered. It was thought it could be due to a 4-yearly BCME effect along with a 2-yearly shared annual conference with the ATM. However, the Treasurer thought an increase of the number of years sampled would need to be analysed to be certain.

4 **The 2017 independently examined accounts to be received by the members.**

With no further comments or questions the 2017 independently examined accounts were received and accepted by the members.

5 **Nomination of the Independent Examiners for 2018.**

- 5.1 Peter Thomas asked if Council reviewed the Accountants engaged to conduct the Audit or Independent Examination. It was confirmed that in 2015 a review was undertaken by Council and based on proposals from two companies and extensive deliberation Council made the decision to have Hacker Young conduct the 2016 Independent Examination. This decision was reported by the Chair of Council at the 2017 AGM (*see footnote ¹ which is the minute from the 2017 AGM minutes*). Peter Ransom confirmed that periodic reviews would be undertaken and that this item would be added to the June Council meeting agenda.

¹ Extraction from the 2017 AGM minutes: 2.11 Further to the above minute 2.4, Peter Thomas required further reassurance on Council's decision to overrule the AGM's decision by appointing auditors not agreed by the AGM. Several Trustees relayed some of Council's debate on the matter, which Tom Roper succinctly summed up with the following statement: - the Rules had been scrutinised at the time and it was found there is no view/instruction on whether Council can overrule an AGM decision or not. The Rules do say however that the Trustees must act in the best interests of the MA. The best interests for the MA on this occasion was to move to a different audit company, which offered the level of audit required and at a much reduced cost, and that is why the trustees took the decision they did. Peter Thomas was satisfied with this explanation.

5.2 The Treasurer proposed that Hacker Young be engaged to conduct the 2018 Independent Examination. Jennie Golding seconded the motion. With one vote against and two abstentions the motion was carried.

6. Election of Officers and other Members of Council

6.1 The election of the President for 2018–2019

Tom Roper was pleased to announce that Mike Askew is the President for 2018–2019.

6.2 The election of the President for 2019–2020

Tom Roper announced that Ems Lords will be the President for 2019–2020.

The above elections are Council's decision and AGM approval is not required.

6.3 Nominated by the Council for election:

Chair of Council	Peter Ransom
Secretary	Jennie Golding
Treasurer	David Miles
Chair of Branches	Keith Cadman
Chair of Conferences	Cherri Moseley
Chair of Membership	Julia Brown
Chair of Professional Development	Sue Southward
Chair of Publicity and Media	Jo Morgan
Chair of Publications	Vacancy
Chair of Teaching Committee	Mel Muldowney
Editor-in-Chief	Bill Richardson

The above Council nominations were proposed by Andrew Jeffrey, and seconded by Rachael Horsman. The vote was carried by fifty for, one abstention.

6.4 Members without Office (one vacancy):

The following nomination has been received: Chris Pritchard.

In the absence of other nominees a ballot was not required.

7. Matters arising from the Annual General Meeting 2017.

There were no matters arising to be reported on.

8. Council affairs, including reports by Chairs of Committees.

8.1 The Chairs of Committees present were asked to identify themselves; these were: Julia Brown (Professional Development Committee Chair), Rachael Horsman (Teaching Committee), Bill Richardson (Editor-in-Chief), Cherri Moseley (Conference Committee Chair), and Jo Morgan (Publicity and Media Chair).

8.2 The Editor in Chief, Bill Richardson, wished to acknowledge the excellent MA journals, noting their excellence and impressive content. He noted that Colin Foster had guest edited the March issue of Mathematics in School in which an extensive section had been devoted to

Malcolm Swan. He also asked that members picked up the promotional flyers for the journals which were available on the MA stand to distribute to their colleagues. He thanked Jo Morgan for using her own blog and website to promote the journals and membership.

7. Any other business.

None.

With no further business to transact Tom Roper thanked everyone for attending the AGM. He reminded them to attend the Teaching Committee open meeting and the Single Maths Subject Association meeting.

The meeting closed at 6.36 pm.