

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

Minutes of the AGM

held in the Stephenson lecture theatre at the Holywell Conference
 Centre, Loughborough LE11 3GR on Tuesday 15th April 2025, at 5.20pm

In the Chair

Charlie Stripp – President

Present

Dr Andy Kemp – Acting Chair of Council

Dr Paul Harris – Honorary Secretary

Sudeep Gokarakonda – Treasurer

Staff in attendance

Sandi Atkinson – Chief Executive Officer

Alice Hall – Membership & Challenges Officer

Amber Richardson – Marketing & Communications Officer

Jen Moore – Membership Administrator

Lucy Watson – Membership Administrator

Sapna Anadkat – Finance & Operations Officer

Members of the Association (46 in person and 26 via proxy). 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, Charlie Stripp

- 1.1.** The President welcomed everyone to the 2025 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 Acting Chair, Dr Andy Kemp

- 2.1.** Charlie Stripp invited Dr Andy Kemp as Acting Chair of Council to present his report to the meeting.

- 2.2.** Dr Andy Kemp thanked Dr Ems Lord (previous Chair) and Council members for their continued support and dedication over the last year.

- 2.3.** He expressed his pleasure at being given this opportunity to share some of the many highlights and achievements of the Association with those present. He began with the successful annual conference held in Stratford upon Avon delivered jointly with the other classroom facing associations, the event attracted over 250 delegates in-person across the three days.

- 2.4.** Throughout 2024 the Association delivered several professional development webinars, including supporting those teaching pupils with special educational needs (SEN).

- 2.5.** In September, the Association hosted its second SEN mathematics in person conference and launched a podcast called 'Friends of Equals'.
- 2.6.** Throughout 2024 we reached over 92,500 primary pupils who participated in both the Primary Mathematics Challenge (PMC) and First Mathematics Challenge (FMC), participation continues to increase year on year.
- 2.7.** Four new publications were released in 2024. Two secondary titles, 'Learning Mathematics: what the experts say' edited by John Berry and Chris Pritchard, and 'Teaching A Level Maths' by Susan Whitehouse and Rob Southern (currently our best seller).
Two primary titles, 'Teaching and Learning Primary Maths' edited by Ray Huntley (celebrating 25 years of the Primary Mathematics journal) and 'Always Sometimes or Never' by Ruth Bull and Priya Shah.
- 2.8.** Merger has been a large focus, which will be discussed under Item 5 on the agenda.
- 2.9.** Journals are going from strength to strength with editors Chris Pritchard and John Berry having recently delivered their 100th issue of Mathematics in School. Council decided to take this opportunity to award John Berry with Honorary Membership for his significant contribution to mathematics and to The Mathematical Association over many years.
- 2.10.** Council also wished to present Gerry Leversha with the award of Honorary Membership for over 25 years' service as editor of The Mathematical Gazette and the many other ways he has contributed to the association and to mathematics education.
- 2.11.** Gerry was present at the meeting and thanked members of Council, the Mathematical Gazette team and in particular Bill Richardson and Owen Toller for their contributions to the Gazette and for their support.
- 2.12.** Dr Kemp went on to thank past President Prof. Nira Chamberlain, Cherri Moseley as Member without Office and Dr Paul Harris as Honorary Secretary who would all be stepping down as trustees following this meeting as their terms of office come to an end.
- 2.13.** The Association staff team, Alice, Amber, Sapna, Jen and Lucy were acknowledged and thanked for their continued excellent support and commitment. And Sandi Atkinson for her leadership and support of the association.
- 2.14.** The President thanked Dr Kemp for his report and invited Sudeep Gokarakonda, MA Treasurer to present his report.

3. The report of the Treasurer, Sudeep Gokarakonda.

3.1. The 2024 independently examined accounts to be received by the members.

- 3.1.1. Main points highlighted by the Treasurer in his report were;
- The annual income has recovered from 2020. Although income is on the rise, we are still lower than 2018.
 - Expenditure has been further reduced and income increased which is a trend we would like to see continue.
 - Surplus and deficit – there is a very small deficit for 2024, a significant improvement on recent years but still not sustainable in the long term.
 - Total funds/net assets – Overall financially we are in a healthy position.
 - Top three income sources: Member subscriptions which have grown from last year, Challenges income which has remained around the same and The Mathematical Gazette.
 - Outside of the 2024 financial year but a significant event to acknowledge. We have just received a very generous legacy from Nick Lord of £147,000. Nick was a significant contributor to The Mathematical gazette over many years and a valued friend and colleague to many members. Sudeep highlighted the book available as a tribute to Nick which was available at the conference and that Council would be discussing a legacy as a way of honouring his memory in the longer term and by way of acknowledging this generous gift.
- 3.1.2. The Treasurer then invited questions from those present.
- 3.1.2.1. There was a question from the floor around membership numbers and how they were doing. Jemma Sherwood, Chair of Membership responded that whilst Personal membership was holding steady, Institutional membership was in decline.
- 3.1.2.2. Another question was raised pertaining to the sale of the property in Leicester which presumably now means an increase in costs for rent etc. The Treasurer explained that currently the interest earned on the proceeds is covering the majority of those costs and that it is our intention for any future investment of those funds to continue to do so.
- 3.1.2.3. There were no further questions, so Mr Gokarakonda proposed the motion to accept the 2024 independently examined accounts. The motion was seconded by David Martin and passed by majority vote.

3.2. Nomination of the Independent Examiners for 2025.

3.2.1. Mr Gokarakonda then proposed the motion that we remain with Community Accounting Plus (CAPlus) as our Independent Examiners for 2025. They have proved to be efficient and cost effective.

3.2.2. This motion was seconded by Sue Singer and passed by majority vote.

Charlie Stripp thanked the Treasurer for his report.

4. Election of Officers and other Members of Council.

4.1. The election of the President for 2025–2026

4.1.1. Charlie Stripp was pleased to confirm Prof Paul Glaister as the incoming President of the MA for 2025-2026.

4.1.2. The election of the President for 2026–2027

Charlie Stripp also confirmed the new President Designate to be Prof. Sarah Hart as President for 2026-2027.

4.2. Re-elected to Council

4.2.1. Charlie Stripp handed over to Dr Paul Harris, Honorary Secretary to confirm the following members of Council who were re-elected.

Chair of Council	Vacant
Honorary Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Sudeep Gokarakonda
Chair of Branches	Lucinda Hamill
Chair of Challenges	Dr Amanda Moon
Chair of Conference	Vacant
Chair of Membership	Jemma Sherwood
Chair of Professional Development	Louise Pennington
Chair of Publications	Jill Trinder
Chair of Teaching Committee	Manina Tyler-Mort
Editor in Chief	Vacant

4.2.2. The Honorary Secretary introduced the nominations for the vacant positions. No other nominations have been received so they have been elected unopposed, and no vote was required:

Office of Chair of Council	Dr Andrew Kemp
Nominated by Dr Paul Harris and Sudeep Gokarakonda	

Office of Honorary Secretary	David Miles
Nominated by Dr Andrew Kemp and Dr Paul Harris	

Office of Chair of Conference	No nominations received
-------------------------------	-------------------------

Office of Editor in Chief Peter Bailey
Nominated by Tom Roper and Ray Huntley

4.3. Members without Office

4.3.1. The Honorary Secretary referred to the list of members without office on the agenda including details of time served and left to serve.:

Stella Dudzic continues in her second term of 3 years, with 1 year left to serve.

Joanne Morgan continues her first term of 3 years, with 1 year left to serve.

Dr Chris Pritchard continues his first term of 3 years, with 1 year left to serve.

4.3.2. There were four Member without Office vacancies, nominations were received for two of those vacancies by the deadline of 31 December 2024 and so are elected and unopposed.

William P Richardson, nominated by Prof. Adam McBride and Dr Chris Pritchard

Stephen Shackleton, nominated by Emma Wheeler and Michael Holloway

4.3.3. The Honorary secretary explained that the further two vacancies became available following David Miles' nomination for Honorary Secretary and Charlotte Hawthorne stepping down from her role. No further nominations were received for these remaining two vacancies.

On completion of the Honorary Secretary's business the President invited Dr Andy Kemp to introduce item 5 on the agenda, the resolution.

5. Resolution

Dr Andy Kemp introduced the resolution and referred to the information pack that all members received prior to the meeting.

Two years ago, at this conference, all five associations voted to continue our journey towards merger. Whilst it may feel like not a lot has happened since then, lots has gone on in the background, much of which has been about building trust and confidence between the five associations and finding a sensible way forward.

One of the key changes is a structural one, you may recall that two years ago we were voting on establishing a new charity and closing all five charities to merge into a new association. However, during our debates and discussions at Council it was felt that that was not a cost-effective way for us to achieve the outcome we were looking for.

We therefore explored some alternative options and the option that is presented in today's papers is that the new association will be formed out of the legal entity that is the current MA. There are several reasons why this is useful, it reduces

costs quite significantly, it will be a quicker and simpler process; and from a legacy point of view it maintains our links to the past this not being the first time that the association will have changed its name.

Before Christmas we were working with the other associations to consider this way forward, a lot of work has gone into developing trust, particularly around the concern that merging into the MA might be perceived badly by some members of other associations.

It has taken time to build that trust and confidence and for the trustees of the other associations to see this as the best way forward. In January having agreed the principle of a merger into the legal object which is the MA, a group of trustees from all five associations including some independent members of AMiE which was to be the sixth association, met together for a weekend to plan and review and discuss all of the big issues that have held up merger for the last two years.

We made great progress and since January we've been working to pull these details together to present them to you in a format that makes as much sense as is possible.

*The nature of our current articles means that a vote needed to come to this meeting today or at least to a general meeting because the alternative, to have a vote outside of a general meeting requires a written resolution to be voted on by **all** members and the likelihood that sufficient members would vote is very low and therefore we were left with two choices, either to bring the vote to this meeting, moving slightly more quickly than I felt naturally comfortable with or to delay the vote another year, that being two years beyond the point we were originally expecting to vote, as we were expecting to have this vote this time last year.*

In the end Council voted by an overwhelming majority that we should bring this to this meeting today, we felt we had enough information to share, and it was in a state that we could present it to you.

Over the last few years there have been a number of opportunities to explore questions about this process, including the online meeting a couple of weeks ago. Questions from these have been written up and shared with members. There will be an opportunity in just a minute to explore any further questions that you have but I am keen, for everyone's sake, that we don't use this time to revisit questions that have already been answered and established either in the pack or in the Q&A document, partly because we'd all like to get to dinner at some point tonight.

So, I hope that gives you an overview of where we are and why we are at this point today, as I said in my introduction earlier, I am sorry that we haven't been

providing more updates across this period of time. It has proved more complicated as a process than I think any of us imagined from the outset and any responsibility for delays or lack of communication rests solely on my shoulders and so for that I offer my apologies.

On that note I open the floor to any questions that we have at this stage before we get to the vote.

5.1. AMiE was originally going to be a CIO so under this new process will the MA become a CIO? No, advice was sought, and it was deemed an unnecessary step and expense. Our articles and name will change but our status will remain as a Company Limited by Guarantee with charitable status.

5.2. What guarantees are being given to staff? Staff will be protected by TUPE (Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006) regulations whereby their existing terms and conditions of employment are protected.

5.3. Not a question but a vote of thanks from the floor to all those involved in getting this process to this point in the interests of providing better support to maths education in this country and its teachers and students.

There followed a round of applause in appreciation.

5.4. The MA has approximately £650k in assets plus the new legacy of £147k, it feels like we have no control over this money or how it will be spent if it goes into the new organisation. Members will have the same control over the assets as they do now through the elected trustees of the new association. The funds will be managed in accordance with charity and company law and for the benefit of the association and its members.

5.5. Do the other associations have similar levels of assets? No. All of the associations are very different. The other associations may not bring cash assets but will bring cultural assets and their experience which I believe will enrich us as a group.

5.6. I am concerned that historical donations were given in good faith to the association and are now being given away. Agreed that those assets and donations were given in good faith to deliver the aims and objectives of the MA. Those aims and objectives will now be furthered through the merger with the other associations. We will have joint aims and objectives to deliver the same outcomes, we are all still working to support mathematics education in the best way possible. No legacy gifts have restrictions on how they can be spent.

5.7. Two years ago, it was proposed that merger would only go ahead if all five associations voted in favour. Has this now changed? Yes. All five associations agreed that moving forward with this project and the time, effort and cost involved would be too risky if it could all fall apart based on

one association voting against. Which is why we have changed the way in which we are voting – so that any associations voting for, will be committed to joining together.

5.8. Will Honorary Members be transferred to the new association? Yes, Honorary Membership will continue in the same way. Lifetime members will be reviewed across all associations as there are different types and different payments made but Dr Kemp will look into this and confirm at a later date.

5.9. Once questions were concluded, Dr Andy Kemp proposed the motion set out on the agenda and on the voting forms, to agree with proceeding with this process, on the provision that at least one other association votes to merge, and the completion of appropriate due diligence checks.

5.10. Those present were directed to vote using the ballot paper given and to place completed papers in the box. The motion was seconded by Jim Simons.

5.11. On completion of the vote count undertaken by the Honorary Secretary and ratified by the Treasurer, Dr Andy Kemp announced the results. Proxy votes had been added to the votes taken in the room. 65 in favour, 1 abstention and 6 against carried by 92%.

6. Matters arising from the Annual General Meeting 2024

The President confirmed that there were no matters arising.

7. Any other business

The President confirmed that no other business had been received by the Chair of Council to be discussed under this item.

With no further business to transact Charlie Stripp, as his last act as President, declared the meeting closed and added that it had been a great privilege for him personally to serve as President of The Mathematical Association over this last year.

The meeting closed at 6.05pm.