

BSRLM, Chair's Report, November 2012

Day Conferences

The November 2011 day conference was held at Oxford: 121 participants, 50 sessions, 3 working groups. Many thanks to Anne Watson and her student helpers who were very busy throughout this successful day.

The March 2012 day conference at the University of Manchester had 76 participants, 17 sessions and 4 working groups. The Manchester day conference included the fourth Janet Duffin Lecture given by Tom Lowrie, which was very well received. Many thanks to Sue Pope and research student helpers for a great day.

The June 2012 New Researchers' Day and day conference were both held at Sussex. The New Researchers' Day was facilitated by Els de Geest (thank you very much Els) and had 23 participants. Eight new researchers presented papers and Sue Pope led an interactive session on writing for the Informal Proceedings and Current Reports for RME. All presentations were well received. The Leone Burton fund provided £587.58 for bed and breakfast for new researchers to remain for the day conference. The day conference had 66 participants, 24 sessions and 2 working groups. Many thanks to Karen Gladwin who with her student helpers did a great job as local organiser for the two days (did Pat Drake took up a post in Australia to avoid doing this?)

We are very grateful to all those involved in the local organisation of conferences and to our Day Conference Organiser, Sue Pope, for their commitment to ensuring the quite complex logistics actually work! Participants' evaluations of day conferences continue to be positive. Consensus is that local organising a BSRLM day conference isn't so bad and if you'd like to host one, then please speak to Sue in the first instance.

Research in Mathematics Education (Journal)

RME has produced three issues for the second time this year. The editorial team has continued as: Jeremy Hodgen, Elena Nardi Tim Rowland as Editors; Lara Alcock as Current Reports Editor (with Cathy Smith helping out in the second half of the year); Alf Coles as Book Reviews Editor. Elena will sadly be leaving the team at the end of this calendar year but, happily, will remain as an Advisory Editor for a period of four years. Elena has done a great job during her six years as an Editor and BSRLM owes her a very big thanks. Changes to the International Advisory Board are: the departure of Teresa Assude, Dan Chazan and Romulo Lins (many thanks for your time with RME); the inclusion of Lulu Healy, Hamsa Venkatakrishnan and Carl Winsløw (welcome on board).

The Editors together with the BSRLM Executive Committee are currently reviewing applications for the post of Editor to succeed Elena and we hope to have an announcement ready for the November 2012 AGM.

BSRLM Executive Committee

The Executive Committee has met three times during the year, as well as doing a great deal of work by e-mail to ensure the smooth running of the society. I am very grateful to every member of the Executive Committee for their hard work and commitment to BSRLM – and for interesting meetings! The aim of several years ago to ensure close liaison between the Executive Committee and the Editors of RME has been continued and we collaborate on all matters of mutual concern.

The periods of office (see table below) follow a long standing and sensible agreement to have some stability within the Executive Committee in any given year. As you can see we need to elect a new Treasurer and BERA SIG co-ordinator at this AGM. I'd like to thank Jenni for her hard work at a time of change in financial transactions and for 'sense of purpose' in guarding our finances. We will miss Howard's contributions at Executive Committee meetings and thank him for taking the BERA SIG post to a wider audience by organising special conferences with other BERA SIGs.

The following summarises positions and periods of office:

	2012	2013	2014	2015
Chair	John Monaghan	John Monaghan	<i>New Chair</i>	<i>New Chair</i>
Secretary	Ian Jones	Ian Jones	Ian Jones	<i>New Secretary</i>
Membership Secretary	Steve Watson	Steve Watson	Steve Watson	<i>New Membership Secretary</i>
Treasurer	Jenni Ingram	<i>New treasurer</i>	<i>New treasurer</i>	<i>New treasurer</i>
Publications Secretary	Cathy Smith	Cathy Smith	<i>New Publications Secretary</i>	<i>New Publications Secretary</i>
BERA SIG co-ordinator	Howard Tanner	<i>New BERA SIG co-ordinator</i>	<i>New BERA SIG co-ordinator</i>	<i>New BERA SIG co-ordinator</i>
Day conference co-ordinator	Sue Pope	Sue Pope	<i>New Day conference co-ordinator</i>	<i>New Day conference co-ordinator</i>

BSRLM-Nordic joint day conference

Officially I should leave mention of this until the 2013 AGM but as our 2012 AGM coincides with this milestone in our international relations I cannot refrain from thanking the key people who have put in a great deal of work realise our joint conference: Christer Bergsten; Ken Ruthven; Jeppe Skott; and the entire Executive Committee.

Plans for the British Congress of Mathematics Education

Planning for BCME in 2014 is well underway. In order to ensure that research has the same profile as other contributions, the invitation to present research will be extended to BSRLM members in April 2013. We also hope that researchers will want to contribute to the programme to raise awareness of their research and implications for practice. The theme is Building bridges, making connections. Key note speakers include Jill Adler and Malcolm Swan.

Some good news

The Royal Society's Kavli Education Medal is awarded biennially for "an individual who has made a significant impact on science or mathematics education within the UK". The BSRLM nominated Margaret Brown for the Kavli Education Medal and Margaret was presented with the medal for 2012 "in recognition of her significant impact on mathematics education within the UK". ☺ see <http://royalsociety.org/awards/kavli-education-medal/>

Three proposals stemming from financial concerns

The Treasurer's Report will follow this report. It will note that conference charges and our journal RME are expected to eat into our reserves and these could be virtually gone in four years. We must do something and there are three proposals. The first is for a £5.00 increase in every category of membership. The second is for a £10.00 increase in every category of membership. The third is for a working group to look into future options for the relationship between BSRLM (and its members), RME and Taylor and Francis. This working group to be made up of the chair, treasurer, membership secretary, publications secretary, one RME editor, one member co-opted by executive committee and two BSRLM members to be elected at this AGM. BSRLM will fund the working group's travel expenses. There will be one meeting before open forum in March 2013 and another before AGM in November; the option exists for a third meeting if this is needed. The Working Group will present a report at the 2013 AGM.