British Society for Research into Learning Mathematics

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Day Conference Organisers' Report 2020

1. Spring conference University of Cambridge

The Spring 2020 conference in Cambridge went ahead despite growing concerns about the Covid-19 pandemic.

Spring Conference (since 2011)					
Venue and date	**Participants**	**Research Papers (RPs)**	**Working Groups (WGs)**	**Research Workshops (RWs)**	**Total Number of Sessions**
IoE London (12/03/2011)	121	45	1	n/a	46
Manchester (03/03/2012)	76	17	4	n/a	21
Bristol (02/03/2013)	72	23	2	n/a	25
King's College (01/03/2014)	110	30	2	n/a	32
Dublin (27-28/02/2015)	66	37	2	n/a	39
MMU (27/02/2016)	92	41	4	3	48
Birkbeck College (04/03/2017)	97	27	2	5	34
Nottingham (03/03/2018)	45 (76)	16 (25)	3 (3)	1 (4)	20 (32)
Open University (09/03/19)	62	20	2	6	28
Cambridge (07/03/20)	**94**	**28**	**3**	**2**	**33**

We had 14 responses to the online feedback form.
Feedback from the conference was overwhelmingly positive with comments relating to many good aspects including overall organization, the venue, the quality of the presentations and the food. The shift to 40-minute sessions was well-received by the vast majority who commented.

2. Summer Conference and New Researchers' Day 2020

The face to face conferences scheduled to take place in June were cancelled due to Covid-19.

A virtual New Researchers' Day took place on 9th July 2020.

Technology:

- Teams (UoN) was used
- Invitations and joining instructions were sent out to people who had registered to attend
- An opportunity to try out the technology was provided on the evening prior to the conference
- Three breakout rooms and a general room were provided
- Sessions were 40 minutes
- Lessons learned include requiring institutional email addresses for those who use Teams in their institutions

Programme:

- Two keynotes, one at the start (Geoff Wake) and one at the end (Jennie Golding)
- Three pre-lunch parallel sessions (9 in all) were programmed. One did not happen as the presenter was not there (didn't register!).
- Three post-lunch parallel sessions (9 in all) were programmed. One did not happen as the presenter could not connect.
- Members of the exec chaired sets of three parallel sessions. This worked well.
- 43 registered participants.

New Researchers Day (NRD) (since 2011)		
Venue and date	**Participants**	**Total Number of Sessions**
Leeds (10/06/2011)	24	n/a
Sussex (08/06/2012)	23	8
SHU (07/06/2013)	25	14
Southampton (13/06/2014)	16	10
Durham (05/06/2015)	29	15
Loughborough (14/06/2016)	47	14
Oxford (09/06/2017)	60	15
Wales Trinity Saint David (08/06/2018)	33	14 (8 Welsh teachers)
Birmingham (07/06/19)	25	8
Virtual	**43**	**18 (16)**

Summer Conference (since 2011)					
Venue and date	**Participants**	**Research Papers (RPs)**	**Working Groups (WGs)**	**Research Workshops (RWs)**	**Total Number of Sessions**
Leeds (11/06/2011)	64	17	2	n/a	19
Sussex (09/06/2012)	66	24	2	n/a	26

SHU (08/06/2013)	84	19	4	n/a	23
Southampton (14/06/2014)	50	19	0	n/a	19
Durham (06/06/2015)	90	31	3	n/a	34
Loughborough (14/06/2016)	96	24	4	4	32
Oxford (10/06/2017)	118	31	3	5	39
Wales Trinity Saint David (09/06/2018)	60	13	2	3	18
Birmingham (8/6/2019)	32	20 x ½ h 3 x 1h	3	5 x ½ h 1 x 1h	32
2020 cancelled					

3. Autumn 2020 conference (virtual)

The 2020 Autumn conference will be online. At the time of writing this report, 134 people have registered. Further details are given in the table below.

Autumn Conference (since 2010)					
Venue and date	**Participants**	**Research Papers (RPs)**	**Working Groups (WGs)**	**Research Workshops (RWs)**	**Total Number of Sessions**
Newcastle (13/11/2010)	53	25	1	n/a	26
Oxford (19/11/2011)	121	50	3	n/a	53
Cambridge (17/11/2012)	160	58	3	n/a	61
Edinburgh (16/11/2013)	70	22	0	n/a	22
Leicester (08/11/2014)	87	21	4	n/a	25
Reading (07/11/2015)	103	35	4	4	43
Brighton (12/11/2016)	65	12	2	9	23
Liverpool Hope (11/11/2017)	70	20	3	3	26
Kings College London (10/11/2018)	TBC	44	2	5	51
Queen's University Belfast (09/11/20)	35	17	3	3	23
Virtual	**134 (TBC)**	**29**	**3**	**3**	**35**

4. Future conferences: Venues, dates and local hosts

March 2021 – virtual
Summer 2021 – Leeds (but possibly virtual)

Marie Joubert and Geoff Wake, November 2020