



British Society for  
Research into  
Learning Mathematics

## **BSRLM Chair's Annual AGM Report 2024**

### **BSRLM Chair**

*Alf Coles, University of Bristol*

### **Day Conferences**

Conferences all ran smoothly in the last year (now in the pattern of a Saturday f2f, Saturday online, Friday f2f meeting). Many thanks to March North and Rachel Wallis for the smooth handover and to Cristina Mio and Bohan Liu.

The June 2024 New Researchers' Day and Day conference were both held in Loughborough, many thanks to Matthew Inglis, Camilla Gilmore and all the other local organisers. This involved the second BSRLM conference to be held on a Friday and, as last year, feedback suggests having one Friday conference increases the inclusivity of the Society. We will continue to keep the pattern of meetings under review.

Participants' evaluations of day conferences continue to be highly positive. Many thanks to Cristina and Bohan for all their hard work – and to all the local hosts. It is great that we have the venues already for summer 2025 (Glasgow) and autumn 2025 (Norwich). We are hoping the autumn 2025 conference will be a joint event with the Freudenthal Institute, in the Netherlands.

A successful practitioner research day also took place in February 2024 – many thanks to Ouhan Chen and the BERA SiG convenors for organising and running this important event.

### **Research in Mathematics Education (Journal)**

RME has produced three issues since the last AGM. The editorial team has continued as: Jenni Ingram, Christian Bokhove and Jodie Hunter as Editors; Eirini Geraniou as Book Reviews Editor, supported by Gabriel Lee as Editorial Assistant. The Editorial Board conducted a hybrid meeting in Sydney, given many were attending ICME. We are grateful to the work of the Editing team, reviewers and submitting authors, in ensuring the continued relevance of RME.

### **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 grateful to every member of the Executive Committee for their hard work and commitment.

For several years now we have been trying to capture the accumulated wisdom of the Society in the form of policies and procedures. This is an on-going process.

The following summarises positions and periods of office (red indicates the AGM at which new officers will need to be elected):

	<b>Nov 2024</b>	<b>Nov 2025</b>	<b>Nov 2026</b>
Chair	Alf Coles	<b>Alf Coles</b>	<i>New Chair</i>
Secretary	Laurie Jacques	Laurie Jacques	<b>Laurie Jacques</b>
Membership Co-ordinator	Rosa Archer	Rosa Archer	<b>Rosa Archer</b>
Treasurer	<b>Irene Biza</b>	<i>New Treasurer</i>	<i>New Treasurer</i>
Online Comms Co-ordinator	Karen Skilling	<b>Karen Skilling</b>	<i>New Online Comms Co-ord</i>
Publications Officer	Taro Fujita	<b>Taro Fujita</b>	<i>New Publications Secretary</i>
Outreach Co-ordinator	<b>Ouhau Chen</b>	<i>New Outreach Co-ordinator</i>	<i>New Outreach Co-ordinator</i>
Day conference co-ordinators	Cristina Mio Bohan Liu	Cristina Mio Bohan Liu	<b>Cristina Mio</b> <b>Bohan Liu</b>

### **Plans for the British Congress of Mathematics Education**

BCME will now be taking place in 2026. If you are interested in getting involved in helping organise this event, please contact Laurie Jacques.

### **Janet Duffin Awards**

The award for 2023 was won by Jennifer Norris – many congratulations! We hope Jenni may be able to offer a plenary talk at our online conference in March. The Duffin family have been informed.

### **Priorities**

As an executive committee, we are working towards the following priorities:

- (1) developing our inclusivity in the four regions and beyond UK; (please come to the summer 2025 conference in Glasgow!)
- (2) reaching out to other communities in maths education research; (we have started a link with MERGA and hope to have a joint conference with the Netherlands)
- (3) contributing to national narratives about research in mathematics education (we have a line of communication with Ofsted and are exploring the possibility of a book reflecting on research in the UK – see below)
- (4) stabilising finances and processes; (thanks to decisions at AGM last year we are now stable financially; looking at our processes we are concerned about risks – we have taken out PLI and would like to start exploring options for becoming a Charitable Incorporated

Organisation – for now we would like to formalise that we are an “unincorporated association”)

(5) promoting RME (this is an important task for all members!).

### **Other news**

BSRLM dates its existence in its current form (and name) to 1985. Therefore, next year marks our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Exec are interested in marking this occasion and potentially leading to a publication looking back on 40 years of research in the UK. If anyone is interested in getting involved in planning what we might do, please get in contact with [alf.coles@bris.ac.uk](mailto:alf.coles@bris.ac.uk).

### **Three proposals for the AGM**

#### *Proposal 1*

The constitution of BSRLM is not explicit about what kind of an organisation it is. We would like to bring to the AGM in 2025 the following constitutional change.

Proposal - Change the start of the constitution from the current wording:

**Name 1.** The Society has the name “The British Society for Research into Learning Mathematics” (BSRLM)

To the following:

**Name and status 1.** The Society has the name “The British Society for Research into Learning Mathematics” (BSRLM). BSRLM is an unincorporated association.

#### *Proposal 2*

We would like to establish a hardship fund for mathematics education researchers in the UK who have been displaced.

Proposal - Establish a hardship fund, to be advertised on our website. The fund would offer 2 years free membership and free attendance at online conferences. The following criteria would be used:

- having UK Asylum status or Discretionary/Limited Leave to Remain as a result of an Asylum application, and those with Humanitarian Protection (as a result of an asylum application)
- a letter of recommendation from a BSRLM member

#### *Proposal 3*

Following discussions at two Open Fora and the last AGM, we would like to move to an opt in for paper copies of RME.

Proposal - Issues of RME will be sent to BSRLM members via email, with the option to “opt in” to paper copies available via the BSRLM website.