

EMS executive committee meeting at Prague

David Salinger, EMS Publicity Officer

Meetings of the Executive would look dull to a traditional newspaper. No punch-ups, a calm business-like atmosphere predominates, but underlying it all is a sense that the committee is working for the good of mathematics and mathematicians. It was a particular pleasure to welcome future members, Olga Gil-Medrano and Carlo Sbordone, to the Prague meeting.

Mathematics and the EU

Certain issues come round each time. It is not just a routine complaint to observe that mathematics is under-represented on influential EU committees: members of the executive committee also do something about it, from lobbying ministers to sitting on extra committees, and generally, grabbing opportunities to do things whenever they arise. At Prague, Luc Lemaire

Recognising the importance of contacts with the EU and the burden it placed on those members who were involved, the Executive Committee resolved to broaden the Group on Relations with Europe to the whole Executive Committee and to welcome the help of others who were prepared to lobby for mathematics in Brussels.

Membership and Representation

Individual membership remains stubbornly on a plateau of about 2,300, but institutional and corporate membership has grown. Nearly all the mathematical institutes which are ERCOM members have now joined. Statistical Societies have begun to join the Society, too and our Summer School programme includes events involving the Bernoulli Society. The EMS, naturally, believes that it's to

devolved to a subcommittee, but should rest with the Executive Committee itself. A new committee will, however, be set up to look at applications of mathematics.

Meetings

The next 'mathematical weekend' will be in Barcelona in September 2005, jointly organised by the Catalan Mathematical Society and the EMS. In 2006 there will be a conference organised by the EMS and the French and Italian mathematical societies in Turin. We shall submit an application for further Summer Schools to the EU and have already advertised a call for proposals from members.

4ecm had been a high quality meeting, but had attracted rather too few participants. There was general satisfaction with the selection of EMS prize-winners, but some regret that it had proved impossible to award a Felix Klein Prize.

Subcommittees

Mina Teicher would become chair of the Education Committee. She submitted a list of suggested members and an outline plan of action. The committee on special events would be abandoned and its work taken over by the General Meetings Committee, which would lose the word 'general' from its name. Andrzej Pelczar was stepping down from the Committee on Eastern European mathematicians after many years of service to the Society. Jan Kratochvíl of the Czech Mathematical Society would take over the chair. The work of the Committee would take account of changing circumstances in Eastern Europe. Pavel Exner would become chair of the Committee on Electronic Publications: it was felt that an Executive member should take on that role because of the growing importance of the committee's remit and, in particular, because it oversees the Electronic Library on EMIS.

The Publications Committee was disbanded: the Executive itself would take on the task of dealing with issues concerning the Publishing House. It agreed to transfer the publication of the Newsletter from the Society to the Publishing House, as part of the task of persuading other mathematicians to publish with EMSph.

Closing Matters

Our stay in Prague had been most enjoyable, thanks in no small part to Pavel Exner and the Czech Mathematical Society, who had organised an exemplary Mathematical Weekend beforehand. The President also thanked the retiring members of the Committee: Bodil Branner, Marta Sanz-Solé and Mina Teicher. The next meeting would be in Capri (Italy) in April at the invitation of the Unione Matematica Italiana.



was able to report on the panel session organised by the EMS and on his plenary lecture to the EuroScience Open Forum in Stockholm. Some good contacts were made, but attendance at sessions was poor. The Executive Committee resolved to encourage local mathematicians to get involved, when the Forum, now intended to be a two-yearly event, came their way.

the advantage of mathematics to have one society representing it at the European level and is working hard to include all strands of mathematics, including particularly applied mathematics and statistics, in its work (and in the committee membership). It has decided that, as applied mathematics is central to the Society's work, responsibility should no longer be

The new library of the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics,

Charles University in Prague

Ivan Netuka and Vladimír Souček (Prague)

The August floods in 2002 dramatically affected the mathematical and information science's part of the library that is situated in the Faculty's building in Karlin. The water reached a height of 2.90 meters above pavement level. 13000 books, 468 titles of journals, 6800 textbooks and 2000 diploma theses were damaged (see the information in EMS Newsletter, Issues 45 and 49).

In the period after the floods we received great support from foreign and home organizations, institutions, societies, universities and individual donors. Financial donations reached almost 104,000 euros. The principal financial support was provided by The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, and Charles University. In addition, the Faculty received 5907 books and 156 journal titles from 165 donors. The donors that were identified were being sent letters of thanks. Two press conferences were held on the occasion of the presentation of a large collection of books and journals from French and German mathematicians.

In September 2004, the construction of



The mathematical library after the floods

the new library was finished. After the previous unfortunate experience, it was decided to situate it on the first floor. The library has just been opened for the beginning of the academic year 2004/2005.



... and after reconstruction

The Faculty of Mathematics and Physics would like to thank all the people and institutions that contributed to the renewal of the library with their understanding and help.

EUROPEAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY ARTICLE COMPETITIONS

The Committee for Raising Public Awareness of Mathematics of the European Mathematical Society (acronym RPA) believes that it is of vital importance for the recognition of mathematics in society that articles popularising mathematics are written. The experience gained from the first article competition organized by the RPA-committee of the EMS, completed in 2003, show that it is beneficial to distinguish between articles addressing the educated layman and articles addressing a general audience; see <http://www.mat.dtu.dk/people/V.L.Hansen/rpa/resultartcomp.html>. Therefore the EMS now wishes to encourage the submission of articles on mathematics to two competitions, one for articles for the educated layman and one for articles for a general audience. It is hoped that valuable contributions will be collected, which deserve translation into many languages. The EMS is convinced that such articles will contribute to raising public awareness of mathematics.

The RPA-committee of the EMS invites professional mathematicians, or others, to submit manuscripts for suitable articles on mathematics for one of two competitions.

Articles for the educated layman

To be considered an article must be pub-

lished, or be about to be published, in an international magazine or a specialized national magazine, bringing articles on mathematics to an educated public. Articles for the competition shall be submitted both in the original language (the published version) and preferably also in an English translation. Articles (translations) may also be submitted in French, German, Italian or Spanish. The English (or alternative language) version should be submitted both electronically and in paper form.

Deadline for submission to this competition: August 1, 2005.

Articles for the general public

To be considered an article must be published, or be about to be published, in a daily newspaper or some other widely read general magazine, thereby providing some evidence that the article does catch the interest of a general audience. Articles for the competition shall be submitted both in the original language (the published version) and preferably also in an English translation. Articles (translations) may also be submitted in French, German, Italian or Spanish. The English (or alternative language) version should be submitted both electronically and in paper form.

Deadline for submission to this competi-

tion: January 1, 2006.

Prizes and conditions for submissions

For each of the two competitions there will be prizes for the three best articles, to the sum of 200, 150 and 100 Euros respectively, and many of the winning articles will be published in the Newsletter of the EMS. Other articles from the competition may also be published if space permits.

By submitting an article for one of the competitions it is assumed that the author gives permission for the translation of the article into other languages and for its possible inclusion on a web site. Translations into other languages will be checked by persons appointed by relevant local mathematical societies and will be included on the web site.

Articles should clearly indicate to which one of the two competitions the article is being submitted and should be sent before the given deadlines to the chairman of the RPA-committee of the EMS:

*Professor Vagn Lundsgaard Hansen,
Department of Mathematics,
Technical University of Denmark,
Matematiktorget, Building 303,
DK-2800 Kongens Lyngby, Denmark.
e-mail: V.L.Hansen@mat.dtu.dk*