# LONDON MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

# **FILM MEETING**

The following films will be shown

Regular Homotopies in the Plane, Part 1.

Caroms

Mathematics of the Honeycomb

Newton's Equal Areas

The Great Art—Solving Equations (with B. L. van der Waerden)

Infinity

Collapse of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge

There will be short talks by D. Singmaster on the uses and sources of films and by D. Acheson on his use of films and slides in teaching fluid mechanics. There will be a period for further comments and discussion. Anyone who would like to contribute comments on his use of films in teaching is requested to contact D. B. Singmaster.

Friday, 21 October 1977, 2.30-5.45 p.m.

# **ICA Cinema**

Entrance in The Mall, London SW1

All interested are very welcome Tea will be served at 3.40 p.m.

# LMS NEWSLETTER

#### No. 42

#### October 1977

# DATES OF SOCIETY MEETINGS

Friday, 21 October 1977, I. C. A. Cinema. Film meeting.

Friday, 18 November 1977, Burlington House, Annual General Meeting (H. Halberstam and S. J. Taylor).

Friday/Saturday, 16/17 December 1977, Trinity College, Cambridge, Hardy Centenary Meeting.

Friday, 20 January 1978, Burlington House.

Friday, 17 March 1978, Burlington House.

Friday/Saturday, 19/20 May 1978, Gregynog, Powys, weekend meeting.

Friday, 16 June 1978, Burlington House,

Whitehead meeting.

Friday, 20 October 1978, Burlington House.

Friday, 17 November 1978, Burlington House, Annual General Meeting.

London meetings, will be held in the Geological Society's Rooms, Burlington House, Piccadilly. Council meetings will be held in conjunction with all the above London meetings. Council will also meet on 12 May 1978.

The Annual Dinner will be held on Friday, 18 November at the Piccadilly Hotel. Details will appear in the next Newsletter. D. B. SINGMASTER

# **BACKLOG OF BRITISH JOURNALS**

This information is published with the co-operation of the respective editorial boards. For the sake of uniformity, the same headings have been adopted as in the statements published biennially by the AMS Notices. The following explanatory statements are also so copied:

*Backlog.* This is an estimate of the number of printed pages which have been accepted but are not necessary to maintain copy editing and printing schedules.

tain copy editing and printing schedules. Waiting times. The quartiles  $Q_1$  and  $Q_3$  are presented to give a measure of dispersion. They do not include misleading extremes, the result of unusual circumstances arising in part from the refereeing system.

Waiting times are measured in months from receipt of manuscript in final form to receipt of final publication at the library of Liverpool University. When a paper is revised, the waiting time between an editor's receipt of the final revision and its publication may be much shorter than is the case otherwise, so these figures are low to that extent.

#### C. T. C. WALL

JOURNAL	Approx. No. of no. of issues pages Backlog			for paper submitted currently to be published	e tirr I	waiting time in latest publ. issue (months)	
	per year	per year	30/6/77	(in months)	$Q_1$	Mediar	$Q_3$
Cambridge Phil. Soc. Math. Proc Edinburgh Math. Soc. Proc. Glasgow Math. Journal London Math. Soc. Bull. London Math. Soc. Jour. London Math. Soc. Proc. Mathematika Oxford Quart. J. of Math. Royal Society of Edinburgh Proc (Math.)	. 6 2 3 6 6 2 4 . A 4	1056 208 180–190 336 1152 1152 300 512	70 80 100 47 100 479 NR 50 nil	9 15-21 14-20 4-7 7-11 18 NR 10-14 8-12	6 22 14 10 7 16 8 13	7 24 16 14 9 18 10 16	9 26 18 16 11 19 15 18

NR means that no response was received to a request for information.

On behalf of the Society, Council has encouraged the establishment of the European Federation of Mathematical Societies. Three working parties have been set up and the Society's representatives are-Education: H. B. Griffiths, Publications: I. M. James and Advanced Courses: C. T. C. Wall. H. Halberstam is retiring from the Durham Symposium Committee and J. H. Williamson has accepted Council's invitation to take over as convenor of this important committee. Professor Halberstam has been convenor of the committee since 1974. Council has decided to hold individual members fees and periodical subscriptions for the coming session at the same level as 1976–77 but to raise other periodical subscriptions. The circulation of the News-letter will be increased by sending it to overseas members at no extra charge. Council is aware that, due to changing

exchange rates, the \$ membership subscription is out of line with the Sterling one. Some differential is to be expected to meet the cost of overseas post but Council hopes to reduce the size of the differential when subscription rates are next reviewed. A new departure is the organisation of the October meeting as a film meeting; details of this appear elsewhere in this Newsletter. The Society is sponsoring a meeting to be held in December 1977 in the Shell Centre. Nottingham, on teaching methods and assessment in degree courses in mathematics. Details of this will be announced shortly. Finally, W. H. Cockroft and W. Ledermann are retiring from Council at the end of the current session. Professor Cockroft has been a member of Council since 1974 and Professor Ledermann since 1966. Professor Ledermann has been Vice President since 1971 B. E. JOHNSON

#### I.C.M. HELSINKI: ROYAL SOCIETY GRANTS

The International Congress of Mathematicians will be held in Helsinki, Finland, from 15 to 23 August 1978. Copies of the First Announcement have been sent to mathematics departments in universities, polytechnics and colleges of education. Details concerning registration will be given in the Second Announcement which will be sent in autumn 1977 to interested persons who complete a form printed in the First Announcement. Limited funds from the Royal Society's Parliamentary Grant-in-Aid for travel grants to assist United Kingdom mathematicians to attend the Congress are likely to be available to non-Government employees who have attained PhD status, and are resident in the United Kingdom. Application forms for these travel grants will be available from 1 September 1977 either from heads of departments of mathematics in universities, polytechnics and colleges in the United Kingdom or direct from the Executive Secretary, The Royal Society, 6 Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1Y 5AG. The closing date for applications will be 1 November 1977. Applicants are

The closing date for applications will be 1 November 1977. Applicants are advised to plan their stay in Helsinki through a group travel arrangement in order to gain the benefit of lower transport costs to which the Royal Society grants will be related.

# T. M. FLETT PRIZES IN PURE MATHEMATICS

Members of the LMS may recall the invitation, issued in the summer of 1976, for subscriptions to a fund to endow a prize or prizes to be associated with the name of our late colleague Tom Flett. These prizes were intended for students of Pure Mathematics in the University of Sheffield.

I am happy to report that the response has been all (and more) that could be hoped for, and I take this opportunity to express the deep appreciation of this Department for the generosity of the many contributors. In particular, we owe a debt of gratitude to the Council of the Society. As the result, a sum of £100 will now be available annually for the award of prizes. It has been decided to institute four prizes for various categories of undergraduates taking Pure Mathematics as an essential component of their courses, and one prize for postgraduate students. It is expected that the first awards will be made in July 1978.

D. G. NORTHCOTT

## SCOTTISH MATHEMATICAL COUNCIL

This body was set up in 1967 by the Edinburgh Mathematical Society and the Glasgow Mathematical Association on a recommendation of a joint committee of the two societies. The main objects of the Council are to foster and improve mathematical education at all levels and to encourage the advancement and application of mathematics throughout Scotland. In detail, the Council takes part in the following activities.

(i) The promotion and coordination of conferences and courses on mathematics and mathematics teaching.

(ii) The study of the supply of trained mathematicians and the careers open to them, with special reference to the position of mathematics teachers.

(iii) The giving of advice on curricula, syllabuses, examinations and other subjects of mathematical interest.

(iv) The collection and circulation of items of mathematical news.

(v) The publication of reports, articles and other material of interest to mathematics teachers.

(vi) The setting up of committees to study and report on special problems and subjects.

(vii) The organisation of mathematical competitions in secondary schools.

The project *Competition for Secondary Schools* arose from a suggestion made by the Scottish Education Department and was introduced in the 1967–68 session. The project *Competition for Primary Schools* followed in session 1970–71. The competition *Mathematical Challenge*, which is a problem-solving competition for Scottish secondary schools, was introduced in the 1976–77 session.

The Council has sponsored or been involved in many meetings and conferences. Details of its work are given in its Newsletter, which is published annually and distributed widely.

Financial support for the Council's work comes from a number of affiliated institutions. The two Project Competitions have been supported by the Scottish industrial and commercial organisations. Grants towards the cost of producing the Newsletter have been made by the Regional and Islands Councils of Scotland and the eight Scottish universities have provided initial support for the competition *Mathematical Challenge*.

The Officers for 1977–78 are as follows. Chairman: Professor E. M. Patterson, University of Aberdeen; Vice-Chairman: Miss E. K. Henderson, Headmistress, Westbourne School for Girls, Glasgow; Secretary: Dr. J. L. Smyrl, University of Strathclyde; Treasurer: Professor T. S. Blyth, University of St. Andrews; Editor of Newsletter: Mr. J. Angus, Dundee College of Technology.

E. M. PATTERSON

## **CONFERENCE ON BIFURCATION THEORY**

A Conference on Bifurcation Theory and Applications in Scientific Disciplines organised by the New York Academy of Sciences will be held in New York on 31 October– 4 November, 1977. The programme consists of 54 half hour lectures covering mathematics and applications to biology, chemistry, ecology, engineering, physics and social sciences. Further details can be obtained from the Conference Director, New York Academy of Sciences, 2 East Sixty-third Street, New York, N.Y. 10021.

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