



Adults Learning Mathematics - a Research Forum

ALM - Adults Learning Maths - a Research Forum

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 01 Saturday 6th July 1996 at the University of Brighton, UK

1. Present

Diana Coben was in the Chair, and Dhamma Colwell took the minutes.

The following people were present:

R.OAngiama	Mieke van	Carolyn Gardner	Merlene Angiama	Poppy Pickard
Sue Elliott	Groenestyn	P.L.Day	Joy Joseph	Ann Elsey
Juan Llórente	Eddy Demeersseman	Carol Ramdin	Nina Holland	Phil Aylward
Gelsa Knijnik	John O'Donoghue	Beth Marr	Betty Johnston	Caz Randall
Pat Healy	Barbara Miller-Reilly	Alice Lewis	Janet Wilson	Norma Russell
Declan O'Neill	Peter Waddington	Janet Duffin	Ian Beveridge	Elizabeth Baker
Sybil Cock	Roseanne Benn			

2. Minutes

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were accepted after minor amendments,

3. Chair's report

a) Conference and Proceedings

Diana Coben thanked the session-leaders for providing such an exciting and varied programme, and the other participants for attending.

The deadline for the submission of papers for the Conference Proceedings was 30th Sept 96 there was a page of instructions for formatting papers to ensure a uniform look. Juan Carlos Llórente offered to translate the abstracts into Spanish, for inclusion in the Proceedings, and this was agreed with thanks.

Publication would again be undertaken by Goldsmiths' College, University of London. It provides an ISBN number, which ensures listing where people look. The publication date would be before Christmas if possible. All conference participants and members of the Forum would receive a copy.

Copies of the Proceedings of previous years are still available from Diana at Goldsmiths' and are also being sold by Avanti, booksellers.

b) Newsletters

ALM Newsletter No 2 had been posted on the World Wide Web as well as being mailed to members. Some of the people attending the Conference had come by this route.

Contributions for ALM Newsletter No 3 to be sent to Diana soon, by email if possible,

Diana had been receiving an average of 2 or 3 enquiries a week.

c) Steering Group

Diana thanked Roseanne Benn, Richards Angiama, and Alison Tomlin, who were not standing again, for their contribution to the Steering Group, and Dhamma Colwell who was not standing as Secretary. Dhamma was presented with plants and a card.

Electronic meetings of the Steering Group were not happening yet, but she was pleased that people from outside the UK were standing for the new Steering Group: they could make their contribution in whatever way was possible. It would be useful to be able to co-opt more members for specific purposes.

d) Publication of a book

At the inaugural meeting of ALM in 1993 an editorial group was formed, comprising Gillian Thumpston, Hans ter Heege, Willem van Zon, and Diana Coben, to plan the publication of a bound book on research and practice in the field of adults learning maths. The publishers Kluwer had been approached. The group had received rich and varied abstracts from members and others, which Kluwer's reviewers had pronounced unstructured and too numerous.

Three sets of Conference Proceedings will have been published by ALM by the end of this year, papers being accepted on the basis of sharing information and views. For the book, the editorial group could select papers from the Conference Proceedings, ask the authors to revise them, identify gaps in the structure and addressed these by requesting further papers. Kluwer are still interested in the idea. A discussion ensued during which people supported the idea of a book but felt that we need to consider what focus we want for it: this could be done by reviewing the existing Conference Proceedings, John O'Donoghue said that ALM lacked standing in the academic world: the publication of papers needs to include a reviewing process for this to be achieved.

It was agreed to continue to publish the Conference Proceedings on the basis of sharing information and views, but that the editorial group would approach more experienced colleagues with standing for advice on the process of publication of a book. Alan Bishop, Leone Burton, and Celia Hoyles (who is a member of ALM) were suggested. Members of ALM were invited to join the editorial group, and all members would be kept informed about progress.

4. Treasurer's report

Sue Elliott presented the accounts. She explained that the present large balance of £5288.65 had to cover the cost of the Conference and the publication of the Conference Proceedings, which were not yet finalised. There would be a balance left of between £500 to £1000, which was needed as a contingency fund for setting up the next conference: fine costing was very difficult, The accounts were agreed.

5. Membership Secretary's report

Kathy Safford said that we have 102 members to date, some of whom have lapsed. 70% live in the UK, but we have members in 15 countries, with agents in 6.

A list of members was being displayed and members were asked to check their details, including email addresses.

A new Membership Form has been produced which asks for members' interests. This information will be put onto a database, printed, and sent out with the Conference Proceedings. Agents in different countries could rename the data fields to more clearly reflect their countries' culture and language.

Kathy was asked if membership fees could be paid by credit card, which would make payment easier and cheaper from countries with no agent. Sue Elliott said she would look into this.

6. Matters concerning the Constitution

a) New membership arrangements

Sue Elliott proposed the following amendment to the Constitution, which was seconded by Dhamma Colwell.

“Membership is open to anyone interested in the objects of the Forum on the following bases and with the benefits indicated:

Individual - full voting rights;

Institutional - 2 representatives per institution to have full voting rights;

Student/unwaged/low-waged - full voting rights on verification of status by Membership Secretary.”

The amendment was carried.

b) Subscriptions

The following amendment to the Constitution was proposed by Sue Elliott and seconded by Dhamma Colwell.

“Annual subscriptions shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting. A member may join the

Forum at any time and remain a member for 12 months from the date of joining. If any member's

subscription remains unpaid for 3 months or more, that person shall cease to be a member.”

After some discussion this amendment was withdrawn: members were to continue to be allowed 6 months' grace.

c) Charitable or company status

Ann Elsey made the following proposal which was seconded by Sue Elliott.

“That the Steering Group be authorised to consider the benefits of becoming a charity or a company

limited by guarantee. “

An explanatory paper had been distributed to members (enclosed).

Ann explained that the advantage of becoming a charity was that we would be able to raise money if we wanted to. A disadvantage would be that we would be debarred from political campaigning. There might also be a problem, about operating internationally.

The advantage of being a company would be that we could limit our financial liability.

The proposal was carried and the Steering Group was asked to consider this further and bring a firm proposal to the next Annual General Meeting.

d) Co-options to the Steering Group

Janet Duffin proposed the following amendment which was seconded by Alison Tomlin.

“That the Steering Group may co-opt 4 additional members.”

This was carried,

7. Membership fees

Sue Elliott proposed that the subscription for Institutional Members be increased from £15 to £20, and this was agreed.

It was also agreed that institutional members should receive 2 copies of the Conference Proceedings.

Individual fees were to remain at £10, and low-waged/unwaged/student fees remain at £2. It was decided that low-waged members would have the option of paying a higher subscription.

8. Election of officers

The following were elected unanimously.

		<i>proposed by</i>	<i>seconded by</i>
<i>Chair:</i>	Diana Coben,	Jurgen Maas	Wolfgang Schloglmann
<i>Secretary:</i>	Ann Elsey,	Janet Duffin	Janet Wilson
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Sue Elliott,	Ian Beveridge	Poppy Pickard
<i>Membership Secretary:</i>	Kathy Safford,	Gelsa Knijnik	Gillian Griffin
<i>Steering Group members:</i>	Mieke van Groenestyn,	Eddy Demeerssemann	Betty Johnston
	Joy Joseph,	Ann Elsy	Sue Elliott
	Caz Randall,	Pat Healy	Ann Elsey
	Sybil Cock	Poppy Pickard	Pat Drake

9. Future conferences

ALM4, the 1997 Conference and Annual General Meeting, would be held at the University of Limerick from 4th-6th July. John O'Donoghue extended a welcome to everyone.

Mieke van Groenestyn and Hans ter Heege proposed organising ALM5 in the Netherlands in 1998. Along with Willem van Zon they propose to form a group to organise the conference and raise the political profile of adult maths education in the Netherlands. They will try to get the government to commit funding to the conference and future provision for adults.

Mieke and Hans were asked to put a formal proposal to the Steering Group by January 97.

10. Any other business.

The 96 and 97 conferences clash with PRIDE. Members were asked to send dates of other events in July in future years to Diana or Ann, so that as far as possible we could avoid our conference clashing with other events members might wish to attend.

Dhamma Colwell