

ALM/AGM 1998

VENUE: Utrecht
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Chair's Report

1. It is fair to describe the past year as another good one for ALM. There are clear indications that ALM is establishing itself as a credible voice in the emerging field of adults learning mathematics. We are continuing to attract members worldwide and we are still receiving enquiries from individuals and institutions.
2. Proceedings from ALM4 were compiled and distributed with abstracts in English and Spanish and thanks are due to all contributors for their co-operation. We continue to benefit from the Goldsmiths College imprint for the proceedings and look forward to maintaining this association. ALM conference proceedings are selling well through Avanti Books in London. Another issue of the newsletter (No 4/5) was produced and despite the delay was well received. Mieke van Groenestijn has volunteered to assist in editing the newsletter during the coming year.
3. Members continue to make their mark and spread the word by attending conferences, presenting papers and publishing books and networking generally. Clear links are beginning to emerge with others engaged in this area e.g. ANN (U.S) and BMN (Australia) as evidenced by our special conference link at ALM 5 with BMN. I believe these links should be fostered and developed.
4. The quality and value of ALM's contribution to the field of adults learning mathematics is underlined by a request from ZDM (Zentralblatt für Didaktik der Mathematik) to abstract our conference proceedings. This follows on a similar request from ERIC last year.
5. Some members will be aware that the Kluwer book project is proceeding as planned since they will have received timely reminders to submit their chapters. I am happy to report that the response has been very good. The editors, Diana Coben, Gail Fitzsimons and myself are working through the chapters at present. Due to the volume of work we have requested an extension from the publishers. This is a major project and is likely to boost ALM's profile internationally if successfully completed.
6. It was a difficult year from the point of view of the Steering Group. Personal reasons forced three members Joy Joseph, Wendy Fortescue-Hubbard and Sybil Cock to resign from the group. Their contributions were greatly missed and I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge their work for ALM over the years. This means that the remaining members were stretched to the limit. My thanks to them for their work and support throughout the year. Our

efforts were divided between improving our systems, keeping the show on the road and looking to the future in terms of securing the legal basis for ALM.

7. It is appropriate for me on behalf of members to acknowledge the great work of Mieke van Groenestijn and her assistant Conny Miltenburg as organisers for ALM 5. ALM 5 is a credit to her academic and organisational abilities. This is a very onerous task and we are fortunate to have members who are willing to do it.

Finally I would like to thank all the individuals and institutions who have supported ALM in so many ways throughout the year. This support amounts to a considerable hidden subsidy from some institutions in particular and it is greatly appreciated.

John O'Donoghue
Chair 1997/1998