

Adults Learning Mathematics - a Research Forum AGM 1999

Chair's Report

The sixth annual conference of ALM is the occasion for this year's AGM. ALM 6 is the final ALM conference of the century and it is fitting as we look forward to the new millennium that we consider anew what ALM adds to the community of researchers and practitioners in education that we serve and indeed what we contribute to the general educational enterprise. This AGM is bound to address these issues in the context of the association moving to incorporated charity status.

1. As we reflect upon the past year it is fair to say that we as an association have continued to make a difference internationally in adults' mathematics education. ALM conference proceedings are well regarded by our peers and publishers. Individually, members are very active with interesting projects, some of which have arisen from contacts made at ALM conferences and through networking with other colleagues. Several members have been invited to contribute to national and international projects e.g. International Literacy Survey, ICME 9, BCME. All this reflects well on ALM as an organisation.
2. ALM conference proceedings are now abstracted by ERIC and ZDM underlining the quality of the ALM contribution to the field of adults learning mathematics.
3. The Kluwer book project is well advanced. The manuscript was submitted to Kluwer by the editors for review in February 1999. We await the outcome of this process. This is a very important project for ALM and adults learning mathematics. The editors, Diana Coben, Gail FitzSimons, and myself would like to thank all those ALM members who contributed for the quality of their work and their co-operation.
4. Many of you have commented on the improved appearance and quality of the newsletter. This is due to the work of the editorial team and we look forward to even better things from Mieke van Groenestijn, Dave Tout, Tom McDonald and Brian Cann.
5. This year the Steering Group remained in permanent session via the email and conducted several notified email meetings. This was greatly assisted by the list service provided by Mieke van Groenestijn through her institution. I would like to thank members of the SG for input and support throughout the year especially Tine Wedege who was forced to retire from the group recently for personal reasons.
6. It was a difficult year financially with ALM struggling to meet its commitments. An inordinate amount of the Chair's and Treasurer's time was devoted to this matter. I am happy to report that the association remains solvent.
7. It will be obvious to members since they received their AGM papers that a great deal of time and effort was expended on getting ALM ready for the transition to Company Limited. The final push to resolve this matter was guided by Dhamma Colwell who did a huge amount of work on behalf of the SG and members. Personally and on behalf of SG members I would like to acknowledge her contribution and thank her and other colleagues such as Sue Elliott and Diana Coben who persevered with this project over some years.
8. Each year one group of people namely the conference organisers, merit our special thanks. This is a very onerous task undertaken on behalf of ALM requiring dedication and skill. I would like to offer my sincere thanks to Sylvia Johnson, Sue Elliott and the local team for this year's excellent occasion.

Finally, in the past I have made a special point of thanking all those individuals and institutions who have supported ALM in many ways throughout the year. This support is invaluable in professional and material terms and it is greatly appreciated.

Secretary's Report 1999/2000

1. The Steering Group has met as follows:
 - 4 face-to-face meetings;
 - 3 'virtual' meetings, conducted by email.

2. The main business has been in relation to:
 - i. becoming a Charity and a Company Limited by Guarantee;
 - ii. conferences - follow-up from ALM-5;
organisation of ALM-6;
plans for future conferences;
 - iii. publications - Newsletter;
Conference Proceedings;
ideas for future developments.

Diana Coben Secretary
9 July 1999

Treasurer's Report, July 99

1. The accounts for the year ending 28th June 1999 have been circulated. They include in the central section a summary of the accounts from the 1998 conference in Utrecht.
2. In order to gain from exchange rate fluctuations and the strong pound, the surplus from the 1997 Annual Conference in Limerick were transferred directly to Utrecht to secure the booking of the conference accommodation for the 1998 Annual Conference. This is shown as NLG 5862 in the middle section of the accounts.
3. The 1998 Conference made a loss, offset by the surplus from Limerick. The balance of NLG 2440 has been paid into the ALM account now. In fact, two similar sterling drafts have been paid, totalling £1457.96. This figure appears in the accounts. However, it is thought that two drafts have been paid in error and that one of these will be recalled. This would mean that the overall income from the 1998 conference is around £725.
4. As can be seen from the accounts, the organisation is not well off financially. The total closing balances of £1126.35 include a possible overpayment of approx £725 , implying that the organisation only has about £400 in reserve at this point. This is a serious matter and I expect that we will need to raise subscriptions at the next conference.
5. The transfer from Limerick of £815.00 does not appear in these accounts as it is still in the banking /postal system and has yet to be credited to ALM accounts. This money is earmarked for the payment of newsletters.
6. It is expected that the 1999 conference will make a small surplus, boosting the ALM reserves.

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Membership Secretary's Report

A list of members has been distributed to members at the conference and will be posted to other members. This list does not include very recent new members. On the day of the AGM, ALM has 139 members, 20 of these members are institutions, 19 are student members and 100 are personal members. ALM has members from 18 countries. The ALM agents in Australia, Brazil, Denmark, Ireland, The Netherlands, New Zealand and USA continue to keep records of their local members and to actively encourage new members.

Sue Elliott, Membership Secretary