

Preface

ALM16

The 16th Annual Conference of Adults Learning Mathematics – A Research Forum was held in London, United Kingdom in 2009. While only the second conference in the capital, this was the seventh conference in the UK, reflecting the bias of the membership. The host for ALM-16 was LLU+, based at London South Bank University.

Welcome to London

At the welcome session, delegates were introduced to Cockney rhyming slang, a variety of English developed by working class Londoners as a code. An example of rhyming slang is ‘plates’ for feet because feet rhymes with ‘plates of meat’. For more examples see below.

Delegates were asked to come up with mathematical rhymes and amongst the favourite suggestions was ‘an Angela’ for a circle because circle rhymes with Angela Merkel. The winners received a range of English delicacies – warm bitter, pickled eggs and Marmite.

This year’s conference attracted participants from four continents. International attendees travelled from Austria, Australia, Brazil, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, and the United States of America. The conference addressed a wide range of areas of adult mathematics education including context and language issues.

LLU+

LLU+ is a department within the Faculty of Arts and Human Sciences at London South Bank University. LLU+ is a national consultancy and professional development centre for staff working in the areas of literacy, numeracy, dyslexia, family learning and English for Speakers of Other Languages. There are specialists in learning support, language and maths, and the application of learning styles approaches to teaching and learning. Within these fields the unit offers consultancy and advice, project development, trainer education, research and development and professional development networks. The unit also has an extensive list of publications and training videos that it has developed including those for sector specific, national and international projects. It is the largest professional organisation of its kind in the UK and a centre of international reputation. The LLU+ held the seventh National Numeracy Conference on the final day of the 16th ALM conference. As in previous conferences the focus was very much on practitioner development with workshops on pedagogy and materials development. The records of the LLU+7th National Numeracy Conference are included in these proceedings.

Mathematics – then and now

The university is based in the Elephant and Castle area of London, just south of the River Thames. This is the area where Michael Faraday and Charles Babbage were born, near the City of London School of Edwin Abbott (author of *Flatland*), St Thomas' hospital which houses the Florence Nightingale museum, Lambeth palace in which some Bishop mathematicians (such as Frederick Temple) worked and, less happily, the site of the Old King's Bench Prison where Edward Cocker was committed and Robert Recorde died.

Aims

The aims of ALM–16, as with previous conferences, included a number of elements:

- the sharing of good practice in adult mathematics teaching and learning;
- taking stock of our area/discipline as an evolving area of study and research;
- assessing the nature and value of the combined contribution for adult mathematics education / numeracy; and
- charting the future directions for development and research.

Presentations

All conference presentations that are submitted for publication and meet the editors' requirements for style and presentation are published in the conference proceedings. Presentations for which no paper was submitted are represented by their programme abstract.

Two kinds of contributions to the proceedings of ALM–16 were possible.

1. Refereed Papers

Authors who submitted their papers for refereeing and have been peer reviewed are identified by an asterisk (*) alongside the title.

2. Non-refereed Contributions

Papers or workshop reports whose authors did not request their contribution to be refereed have no identification marking.

Acknowledgement

The conference committee is grateful to the staff of LLU+ London South Bank University for welcoming the conference to the heart of the capital and their support to the participants. Particular thanks are given to Rachel Brabazon, Julia McGerty and Kevin Canning for their assistance in the planning and running of the event.

The editors also wish to thank Christine Weber for compiling and supporting the editing process.

ALM-16 Organising Committee

Graham Griffiths, David Kaye, Beth Kelly, Ann McDonnell and Ruth Moulton

A contribution from ALM-15

These proceedings contain a paper from Pete Johnson who presented at ALM–15 in Philadelphia. The article was inadvertently omitted from the ALM–15 proceedings. ALM apologises for this error.

‘Cockney’ maths

Traditional cockney slang examples

Dog and bone = phone

Butcher’s hook = look

Trouble and strife = wife

These are then usually shortened eg ‘let’s have a butcher’s’ means ‘let me have a look’

Invented for ALM-16, examples of rhyming slang for maths

‘Currant bun’ rhymes with ‘one’ ie current = one

‘Three-piece suit’ rhymes with ‘square root’ ie three-piece = square root

‘Comfy chair’ rhymes with ‘square’ ie a comfy = square

‘Lemon and lime’ rhymes with ‘time’ ie lemon = time

‘Betty Grable’ rhymes with ‘table’, ie a Betty = table

‘Fairy tale’ rhymes with ‘scale’ ie a fairy = scale

‘Saint Peter’ rhymes with ‘metre’ ie a saint = metre

‘Colour tv’ rhymes with ‘three’, ie a colour = three

‘Deep blue’ rhymes with ‘two’, ie deep = two

‘Building site’ rhymes with ‘height’, building = height

Example question

The Betty shows information on the building of a colour of kitchen units.

Unit 1 60cm

Unit 2 100cm

Unit 3 90cm

A planner wants to produce a fairy drawing. Using a fairy of 1 : 100, work out the buildings of the units for the drawing.