



Chair's Report 2010/11

As usual, the Annual Conference of ALM is the occasion of our AGM. In particular (and, appropriately, depending on how you prefer to count such things), ALM-18 in Dublin is the first conference of a new decade and so it seems appropriate to reflect on how ALM has fared as an organisation not only over the past year but also over the first decade of the present millennium.

The first thing to celebrate, I think, is that ALM is still here, alive and kicking – no small achievement for a voluntary organisation in any field of interest and especially noteworthy for one with such a specialised, though nonetheless diverse, focus. This in itself speaks volumes for the dedication and passion that our members bring to their work and to ALM. It also demonstrates that ALM itself has continued to fulfil its aims and objectives as an international forum for researchers and practitioners and remains at least as relevant today as it was ten years ago. But we always strive to do better – indeed, it's vital that we do so if that relevance is to continue long into the future.

Over the past year, since we last met in Oslo, we have established a revitalised on-line presence through improvements to the ALM website as well as setting up ALM pages on Facebook and LinkedIn – many thanks to Anestine Hector-Mason and Olivia Gill for 'kick-starting' these sites. While these are still early days, we hope that members will increasingly make use of these facilities to interact, cooperate, and collaborate between conferences and also invite their colleagues to contribute – these are forums that we hope will make ALM increasingly and more widely visible so I urge all members to post to them with news of events, sharing examples of good practice, and asking questions to stimulate discussion and fuel research.

The Trustees have made increasing use of online technologies over the past year, with several real-time meetings using Skype conferencing facilities supplementing our usual Google Groups and email traffic. As a result, Board members have had a particularly busy year, which has included:

- establishing generic email addresses for office holders and general enquiries to better handle external requests for advice and information;
- updating conference guidelines to assist organisers of future conferences and promote continuity between events;
- engaging a designer to prepare templates for ALM promotional materials, correspondence, and an improved quality logo in a variety of formats;
- commencing arrangements for the appointment of a standing editor for conference proceedings (appointment criteria and terms of reference are in final preparation);
- liaison with a West Australian member over a proposal to host an ALM conference in 2015;



Adults Learning Mathematics - a Research Forum

- liaison with VOX (last year's conference host) to ensure timely completion of ALM-17 conference proceedings – the most recent news, as I write this, being that publication is imminent and the volume is expected to be out in time for this year's conference; and
- establishing bursaries to assist unsupported members to attend ALM conferences.

This list is by no means exhaustive and, bearing in mind that we have had a very small group of just six Trustees this year, it is an impressive set of achievements and represents many hours of voluntary work by these dedicated individuals and so I wish to give personal thanks to my friends and colleagues on the Board of Trustees for their support and unswerving commitment to ALM.

Both Graham Griffiths and myself will soon need to step down from our respective roles on the Board and so others will have to step forward. I urge all members to consider nominating for appointment to the Board and become active in the conduct of ALM's business by contributing a little of their time and a lot of their passion in this direction.

Finally, on behalf of the Board, I would like to thank and acknowledge the contributions of ordinary members and those individuals and institutions whose support of ALM in many various ways is both invaluable and greatly appreciated.

Chris Klinger
Chair, 2010/11