BRITISH COMBINATORIAL COMMITTEE

Report and financial statements for the year ending
30 September 2017
Trustees

Prof P J Cameron (University of St Andrews), Chair
Prof J W P Hirschfeld (University of Sussex), Secretary
Dr K J Edwards (University of Dundee), Treasurer
Prof S Blackburn (Royal Holloway, University of London)
Dr J Böttcher (London School of Economics)
Dr D Conlon (University of Oxford)
Dr R Johnson (Queen Mary, University of London)
Dr K Meeks (University of Glasgow)
Dr R Mycroft (University of Birmingham)
Dr D P Penman (University of Essex)
Dr A Treglown (University of Birmingham)

Principal address

Prof J W P Hirschfeld
Department of Mathematics
Pevensey Building
University of Sussex
Brighton BN1 9QH
United Kingdom

Independent examiner of accounts

Dr G E Thomas
Mathematics (School of Science and Engineering)
University of Dundee
Dundee DD1 4HN

Bankers

Bank of Scotland
2 West Marketgait
Dundee DD1 1QN

Scottish Widows Bank Plc
PO Box 12757
67 Morrison Street
Edinburgh EH3 8YJ

Charity registration number

SC019723

Website

https://britishcombinatorial.wordpress.com/
The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2017.

Structure, governance and management

For the purpose of charity legislation, the Trustees are precisely the members of the British Combinatorial Committee. The Committee governs in accordance with the Constitution, which is available on the Committee’s website, or from the Secretary on request. The Chair and six members of the Committee are elected biennially. The local organiser of the next British Combinatorial Conference and the Editor of the British Combinatorial Bulletin are ex officio members. Also co-opted are organisers of the Postgraduate Conference, the annual London conference and another organiser of the next British Combinatorial Conference.

Objectives and activities

The British Combinatorial Committee was founded in 1977 with the general aim of encouraging the study of Combinatorial Mathematics, and with the particular purpose of organising every two years a conference in Great Britain devoted to this field of research. Previously, five such meetings had been organised on an informal basis. The British Combinatorial Conference has since become one of the leading international conferences in this expanding area of mathematics. The Committee’s activities have widened to include support for postgraduate conferences, various shorter meetings and occasional prizes. The Committee also publishes the British Combinatorial Bulletin, which has appeared annually since 1975; the current issue, edited by Dr D B Penman at the University of Essex, is available at http://privatewww.essex.ac.uk/~dbpenman/BCB/.

Financial support

The following is a list of the activities in 2016–17 for which the Committee agreed to provide partial financial support.

1. 2 November 2016
   One-day Combinatorics Meeting
   University of Reading
   Attendance: 20
   Subsidy: £618

2. 24–25 April 2017
   Scottish Combinatorics Meeting
   University of St Andrews
   Attendance: 44
   Subsidy: £386

3. 10–11 May 2017
   Two One-Day Colloquia in Combinatorics
   Queen Mary University of London (10 May), London School of Economics (11 May)
   Attendance: 80
   Subsidy: £1362

4. 24 May 2017
   One-Day Meeting on Combinatorics
   University of Oxford
   Attendance: 75
   Subsidy: £425
5. 26-30 June 2017
   Summer School on Finite Geometry
   University of Sussex
   Attendance: 30
   Subsidy: £500

6. 29-30 June 2017
   Workshop on “Interactions with Combinatorics”
   University of Birmingham
   Attendance: 50
   Subsidy: £300

7. 3-7 July 2017
   26th British Combinatorial Conference
   University of Strathclyde
   Attendance: 166
   Surplus: £470

Voluntary work

The Society’s officers and Committee members undertake all their work for the Committee on a voluntary basis. They therefore receive no payment beyond reimbursement of some of their expenses.

Financial review

The Committee’s finances generally follow a 2-year cycle, since the British Combinatorial Conference is held in alternate, odd-numbered years. The net surplus from previous conferences, including royalties from invited lectures published by Cambridge University Press, provides the funds used to underwrite future conferences and to support secondary activities.

In round figures, income for 2016–17 was £10437 and expenditure was £1611. This leaves a balance of £8826, the bulk of which is held in interest-bearing bank accounts. The Trustees consider that the Charity is exempt from audit. The income this year exceptionally included an anonymous donation of £10000 from a mathematician who wished to support the committee’s work.

Plans for the Year 2017–2018

The Committee agreed to support the following Combinatorics meetings:
(1) One-day Combinatorics Meeting, University of Reading, 1 November 2017;
(2) Scottish Combinatorics Meeting, University of Edinburgh, 26-27 April 2018;
(3) London Two One-day Colloquia: Queen Mary University of London, 9 May, and London School of Economics, 10 May 2018;
(4) University of Oxford, 23 May 2018;
(5) Postgraduate Combinatorial Conference, London School of Economics, 4-6 June 2018.

The 27th British Combinatorial Conference is to be held at the University of Birmingham from 29 July to 2 August 2019.

Statement of Trustees’ responsibilities

The Committee’s General Policy and Rules require accounts to be prepared annually on 30 September. It is the responsibility of the Trustees to ensure that the annual financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the Charity, and of its surplus or deficit for the year. The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance of proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Committee. They are also responsible for safeguarding the the assets of the Committee and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.
On behalf of the Trustees

(signed)

Prof P J Cameron
Chair

(date) 9/5/2018

(signed)

Prof J W P Hirschfeld
Secretary

(date) 9.5.18
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER’S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

Report to the trustees of the British Combinatorial Committee, registered charity number SC019723

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 30 September 2017 which are set out on page 6.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity’s trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1)(d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1)(c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner’s statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner’s statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

(a) to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and

(b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met, or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed E. E. Thomas
Date: 1st May 2018

Name: Dr G E Thomas
Relevant Professional qualification/professional body (if any):
(Formerly) Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society
Address:
Mathematics (School of Science and Engineering)
University of Dundee
Dundee DD1 4HN
BRITISH COMBINATORIAL COMMITTEE

Receipts and Payments Account for the period
1 October 2016 to 30 September 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Year to 30/9/2017</th>
<th>Year to 30/9/2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Receipts</td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>32.42</td>
<td>68.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donation</td>
<td>10000.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book sale at BCC, U. Strathclyde, July 2017</td>
<td>405.00</td>
<td>2034.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Royalties from Cambridge University Press)</td>
<td></td>
<td>394.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Return of unused part of grant for PCC2015)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total receipts</td>
<td>10437.42</td>
<td>2497.33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Payments</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants for one-day conferences (1 event in 2016/17)</td>
<td>424.67</td>
<td>781.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scottish Combinatorics Meeting, April 2017</td>
<td>386.24</td>
<td>365.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finite Geometry Summer School, U. Sussex, June 2017</td>
<td>500.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Interactions with Combinatorics”, U. Birmingham, June 2017</td>
<td>300.00</td>
<td>2001.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Grants for London 2-day conferences)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total payments</td>
<td>1610.91</td>
<td>3147.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus / (deficit) for year</td>
<td>8826.51</td>
<td>(650.41)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All funds are unrestricted

Statement of Balances as at 30 September

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>£</th>
<th>£</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Bank accounts:                                         |       |       |
| Opening balances                                      | 17918.20 | 18568.61 |
| Surplus (deficit) for year                            | 8826.51  | (650.41) |

| Closing balances                                      |       |       |
| 26744.71                                             | 17918.20 |

| Made up of:                                           |       |       |
| Bank of Scotland Treasurer’s Account                  | 10222.85 | 1428.76 |
| Scottish Widows Bank Charity Deposit Account          | 16521.86 | 16489.44 |

| 26744.71                                             | 17918.20 |

Signed: KJ Edwards  Date: 11 May 2018

Dr K J Edwards (Treasurer)