BRITISH COMBINATORIAL COMMITTEE

Report and financial statements for the year ending

30 September 2020
Trustees

Prof P J Cameron (University of St Andrews), Chair
Dr J R Johnson (Queen Mary, University of London), Secretary
Prof S Blackburn (Royal Holloway, University of London), Treasurer
Prof J Böttcher (London School of Economics)
Mr B Bumpus (University of Glasgow)
Dr M Gadouleau (University of Durham)
Prof J W P Hirschfeld (University of Sussex)
Dr K Meeks (University of Glasgow)
Dr A Nixon (Lancaster University)
Dr D B Penman (University of Essex)
Dr M Sharifzadeh (University of Warwick)
Dr K Staden (University of Oxford)
Dr A Treglown (University of Birmingham)

Principal address

Dr J Robert Johnson
School of Mathematical Sciences
QMUL
Mile End Road
London E1 4NS
United Kingdom

Independent examiner of accounts

Prof B Nucinkis
Department of Mathematics
Royal Holloway, University of London
Egham TW20 0EX

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 2020.

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, Secretary and Treasurer and up to eight members of the Committee are elected biennially. The local organiser of the next British Combinatorial Conference are *ex officio* members. Also co-opted are organisers of the Postgraduate 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 last issue, dated 2020, is edited by Dr D B Penman at the University of Essex, is available at


Financial support

The following is a list of the activities in 2019–20 for which the Committee provided partial financial support.

1. 6 November 2019
   - One-day Combinatorics Meeting
   - University of Reading
   - Attendance: 20
   - Subsidy: £487.20
   - Several further events which had been planned were postponed because of COVID-19 restrictions.

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 2019-20 was £6900 and expenditure was £1810. This leaves a balance of £30032, the bulk of which is held in interest-bearing bank accounts.

The net surplus from the most recent conference in 2019 was £6632. This appears as £5862 in this year’s accounts and £770 (from the book sale) in last year’s accounts.

Many of the activities we support are in-person workshops which were not able to take place for most of 2019-2020 because of COVID-19 restrictions. This resulted in the low expenditure for the year.

The Trustees consider that the Charity is exempt from audit.

**Plans for the Year 2020–2021**

The Committee agreed to carry over its offer of support for the following Combinatorics meetings which were scheduled to take place in 2019-2020. Except where indicated, it is not clear when and in what form these will take place.

1. Postgraduate Combinatorial Conference, University of Glasgow.
2. London Combinatorics Colloquia, Queen Mary University of London and London School of Economics (will be held online on 12-13 May 2021)
4. Scottish Combinatorics Meeting, University of Glasgow.

**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 assets of the Committee and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

**On behalf of the Trustees**

This report was approved at a meeting of the trustees on 10 May 2021.

(signed) [Signature]

Prof P J Cameron

Chair

10 May 2020

(signed) [Signature]

Dr J R Johnson

Secretary

10 May 2020
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 2019 which were set out on page 6 of last year’s annual report, and on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 30 September 2020 which are set out on page 5.

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: Date: 6 May 2021

Name: Brita Nucinkis
Relevant Professional qualification/professional body (if any):
Member of the London Mathematical Society
Address:
Department of Mathematics
Royal Holloway University of London
Egham, Surrey TW20 0EX
BRITISH COMBINATORIAL COMMITTEE

Receipts and Payments Account for the period
1 October 2019 to 30 September 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Year to 30/9/2020</th>
<th>Year to 30/9/2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Receipts</strong></td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>16.60</td>
<td>16.54</td>
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<tr>
<td>Royalties from Cambridge University Press</td>
<td>521.18</td>
<td>499.65</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surplus from 27th BCC, University of Birmingham, 2019</td>
<td>5862.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Surplus from PCC, University of Oxford, 2019</td>
<td>499.86</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Surplus from 26th BCC, University of Strathclyde, 2017)</td>
<td>470.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Book sale at BCC, U. Birmingham, July 2019)</td>
<td>770.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total receipts</strong></td>
<td>6899.64</td>
<td>1756.19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>£</th>
<th>£</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Payments</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant for London 2-day conferences 2019</td>
<td>1222.91</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants for one-day conferences (1 event)</td>
<td>586.78</td>
<td>1002.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scottish Combinatorics Meeting</td>
<td>480.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate Combinatorics Conference 2019</td>
<td>500.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total payments</strong></td>
<td>1809.69</td>
<td>1982.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus / (deficit) for year</td>
<td>5089.95</td>
<td>(226.69)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All funds are unrestricted

Statement of Balances as at 30 September

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bank accounts:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening balances</td>
<td>24942.53</td>
<td>25169.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus (deficit) for year</td>
<td>5089.95</td>
<td>(226.69)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Closing balances</strong></td>
<td>30032.48</td>
<td>24942.53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Made up of:
- Bank of Scotland Treasurer’s Account 13467.19 8393.84
- Scottish Widows Bank Charity Deposit Account 16565.29 16548.69

30032.48 24942.53

Signed:  
Date: 30/4/21

Prof S.R. Blackburn (Treasurer)