

British Combinatorial Committee

Minutes of the BCC28 Conference Business meeting
Tuesday 6 July 2021, 2.00pm, via Zoom

Present: Peter Cameron (Chair – PC), Robert Johnson (Secretary – RJ) and 36 other conference participants.

1. Minutes from BCC 2019 Business meeting

These were approved.

2. Matters Arising

There were none.

3. Financial Report

The Treasurer (Simon Blackburn) reported that because of the unusual year, the pattern of a conference surplus being used to support small meetings had not been followed. The Durham conference had involved almost no expenditure but would only generate a small surplus (royalties from the survey book). The financial position was generally healthy and it was hoped that the normal pattern would resume soon.

4. Election of Officers

The committee's nominations for officers were:

- Chair: Peter Cameron
- Secretary: Robert Johnson
- Treasurer: Simon Blackburn

There being no other nominations, these were all elected.

5. Election of Other Committee Members

The following eight nominations to serve as committee members had been received and all were elected: Julia Böttcher, Candy Bowtell, Kitty Meeks, David Penman, Jozef Skokan, Katherine Staden, Andrew Treglown, Julia Wolf.

PC thanked the outgoing members of the committee: James Hirschfeld (who had also served as Secretary for several years) and Maryam Sharifzadeh.

6. Mailing List

The mailing list had previously been restricted to UK events and jobs. However, in the past year it had been used to promote online events. David Penman invited comments on what the mailing list should be used for in the future. It was noted that most postings to the BCC list also appeared in some form on the DMANET list. However, the DMANET list was much higher volume and there are advantages to a more tightly focussed list. There was support for the idea of continuing with the institutional reps, but this was not a substitute for the mailing list.

Any further comments should be sent to David Penman. He will also solicit the opinion of the mailing list members and others.

7. Postgraduate Combinatorics Conference

The PCC had not been held for a few years. Any volunteers for organising this would be welcome. Benjamin Bumpus and Candy Bowtell are able to pass on their experience from running previous instances.

8. Future British Combinatorial Conferences

The next BCC would be in 2022 at Lancaster. The local organiser is Tony Nixon and everything is on track. There is no host yet for the 2024 conference. Anyone interested in this should contact the committee.

9. Any other business relevant to the well-being of Combinatorics in the UK

Julia Böttcher reported that the committee was aiming to introduce a prize for the best UK PhD thesis in combinatorics. We are looking for an organisation willing to sponsor this by providing a small cash prize. Please send any suggestions to Julia.