LMS NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am sure all members of the Society will join with me in welcoming Council's decision to establish an L.M.S. newsletter. This will provide a helpful vehicle for transmitting information about forthcoming mathematical activities, the final settling of the question of the truth of the Riemann hypothesis (if ever that day comes), and so on, to our general advantage. It is hoped that members will seize the opportunity thus presented to them, and that the news coverage will at least present an adequate account of forthcoming mathematical meetings in Europe, as well as (for example) forthcoming relevant meetings of such sister-bodies as the Royal Statistical Society.

The London Mathematical Society is now engaged on a very wide front of activities, and this calls for an enormous voluntary contribution of thought and energy on the part of members of Council. As the season for the new elections to Council approaches, it seems appropriate to alert possible candidates to the facts that great opportunities for service will be given to them, and that much will be expected from them; the satisfaction of seeing the healthy growth of the Society's activities will be the only (but I hope a sufficient) reward.

DAVID KENDALL

CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions for the L.M.S. NEWSLETTER should be sent (typed, in duplicate, short, and in a form suitable for immediate inclusion) to the Secretary, Dr. D. A. Brannan, at Queen Elizabeth College, London W8 7AH. Those items of interest to Society members such as appointments in mathematics, forthcoming meetings and conferences that are submitted to the Secretary will be included in the NEWSLETTER free of charge; the Society of course reserves the right not to accept any particular item. The time-lag between submission and appearance is expected to vary between four and eight weeks.

1974 INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

The International Congress of Mathematicians will be held in Vancouver, Canada, from 21 to 29 August 1974. Details concerning registration will be available in autumn 1973. Limited funds from the Royal Society's Parliamentary Grant-in-Aid for travel grants to assist United Kingdom mathematicians to attend the Congress are likely to be available to non-Government employees who have attained Ph.D. status, and are resident in the United Kingdom. Application forms for these travel grants will be available from 1 September 1973 either from heads of departments of mathematics in universities in the United Kingdom or direct from the Executive Secretary, The Royal Society, 6 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AG.

The closing date for applications will be 1 November 1973. Applicants are advised to plan their stay in the Vancouver area for a minimum of 14 nights, in order to gain the benefit of the lower advanced booking charter flights to which Royal Society grants will be related.

INTRODUCTORY COURSE ON TOPOSES AND APPLICATIONS

Dr. G. C. Wraith (University of Sussex) is giving a 10-lecture course on toposes in the School of Mathematics and Computer Science, University College of North Wales, Bangor LL57 2UW, during 17–21 September 1973. The lectures will assume only a basic knowledge of category theory, and it is hoped to be able to arrange other lectures in this and related areas of mathematics.

Those interested in attending should contact Mr. I. Morris (at the above address) for further information on the course and on accommodation. The registration fee is £2; and room and meals in a Hall of Residence £3·50 per day.

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER TO INTENDING BENEFACTORS

Over the years the Society has received a number of most welcome benefactions from members and others. Suitably invested these do much to support the work of the Society.

Broadly speaking, anything given to the Society will be exempted from Capital Gains Tax and anything (up to a maximum of £50,000) directly left to the Society will not only be exempt from Estate Duty but will also be excluded from the assessment of the Principal Value of the estate concerned.

I. M. James

THE LONDON MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY

As members will know, the Society has an extensive library of books and periodicals which is housed in the Science Library of University College, London. All members of the Society are entitled to use the Science Library of the College on the same terms as members of the College; moreover they may (on payment of postage) borrow books by post, and (on payment of postage and photocopying charges) have Xerox copies sent to them. All these services are of course available from other sources too: there are for example several libraries in London which may be consulted, and books and periodicals including those from our own collection may be borrowed by post from the National Lending Library. Moreover, most university libraries have an inter-library loan service.

The Council is at present considering the Library policy. This must naturally be guided by the wishes of members; but it will also have to take account of the cost of running the Library, which has risen very sharply in the last few years. Although many periodicals are received under an exchange scheme, an increasing number cannot be so obtained and are therefore purchased; all periodicals need to be bound.

In order to assess the extent to which members use the Library we are asking you to complete the questionnaire below and return it to Mrs. B. Shalit at Burlington House. Any suggestions for improvements will also be welcomed.

MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY

The Council of the Society is presently considering the possibility of holding the meetings of the Society on a day other than the third Thursday of each month. For example in December it is usually inconvenient to members to have a meeting so near to Christmas. In addition by changing the day of the week the Society might be able to hold its lectures in a more suitable lecture room than that used at present.

Before it makes a decision in this matter the Council would welcome the opportunity to receive members' views in the questionnaire.

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. About how often during the last five years have you used the Society's Library for:

    (*a*) consulting a work on the shelves?

    (*b*) borrowing a work in person?

    (*c*) borrowing a work by post?

2. How have the activities (*a*), (*b*), (*c*) under 1 been distributed over different libraries? Please indicate (approximate) percentages:

	Library of home institution	L.M.S. Library	Other (please name)
(*a*)			
(*b*)			
(*c*)			

3. In what way do you think the Library service could be improved (without substantial increase in cost)?

4. Other suggestions?

5. Approximately how often each year do you attend meetings of the Society?

6. Do you have any preferred day of the week for Society meetings (e.g. is Friday as suitable as Thursday?)?

   Or any day you feel unsuitable for meetings?

7. Do you have any other suggestions in connection with the meetings of the Society?

8. What is your name and institution?

If you have many suggestions, please enclose them with this questionnaire. When you have completed it, please send it to Mrs. B. Shalit at Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W1V 0NL, by 15th October, 1973.