EDINBURGH MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

Prof. Tara Brendle
President
Edinburgh Mathematical Society
University of Glasgow
Glasgow, G12 8QR
Scotland
E-mail: tara.brendle @glasgow.ac.uk
Web: www.ems.ac.uk

Dear Members,

In last year's newsletter, I reflected on the "choppy waters ahead" that seemed to be the phrase du jour, and the past year has certainly delivered some challenges for our society (both in the sense of the EMS and the "usual" sense of the word!). But even in the face of those challenges, just as last year, my reflection on the EMS's operations over the past year has brought a strong sense of encouragement. Our membership is our greatest strength: members have displayed their energy and enthusiasm in support of the mathematical sciences, and continue to inspire me with their incredible and diverse achievements. So please let me begin by thanking all of our members for all the wonderful things you do and for all the support you bring to the society.

We are continuing to see good attendance at our society events, including our research-focused talks and also our recent public lecture by Dr Katie Steckles, who kept the audience engaged in an active-learning approach to understanding some open questions in mathematics. Our meetings secretary Dr Eric Hall (Dundee) has been doing a wonderful job of working with our local reps to identify speakers and support these important activities.

As I mentioned in last year's letter, 2024 was a year of regrouping and rejuvenation for our Education Committee, and in 2025 we were pleased to appoint new co-convenors Dr Helen Martin (Aberdeen) and Dr Lindsey Corson (Strathclyde). I will take this opportunity to thank Dr Steven O'Hagan, who stepped down from his role as convenor of this committee in August, in order to pursue exciting new opportunities in actuarial science. In 2025 we have taken a similar approach with our Research Committee, appointing ?? new members representing the full breadth of the mathematical sciences, as well as a new research convenor, Dr Vaibhav Gadre (Glasgow).

In August 2025 in Bayes Centre, the EMS held its first ever Strategy Day for members of General Council. The event was well attended, and we took the opportunity to reflect on the society's current strengths and vulnerabilities, and identified a number of priority actions that will be reflected in upcoming budgets.

Just as a reminder to members: the Research Support Fund and Schools enrichment fund are open for applications throughout the year. In addition, we have bursaries for student research

and for "pathways to teaching". Information about these is on our website: https://www.ems.ac.uk/. We also publish the Proceedings of the Edinburgh Mathematical Society which contains research papers on topics in a broad range of pure and applied mathematics as well as book reviews. Proceeds from this publication are returned back to the mathematical community in the form of all the aforementioned funding of various activities and bursaries. One challenge that the society will face in the future is to manage the impact of AI on our publication activity, and I'd like to express my gratitude to our publications secretary Prof. Sue Sierra (Edinburgh) for her leadership in steering us through this unchartered territory.

The year 2025 will see the award of the biennial Whittaker Prize and PhD Prize at the October AGM. I would like to take this opportunity to offer congratulations to Dr Jan Sbierski of the University of Edinburgh, who is awarded the 2025 Whittaker Prize for his fundamental contributions to general relativity, Lorentzian geometry, and nonlinear
hyperbolic PDEs, and to Dr Arman Sarikyan, now at the London Institute for Mathematical Sciences, who is awarded the 2025or his breakthrough PhD work in birational geometry, including the resolution of a long-standing irrationality conjecture for Fano–Enriques threefolds. As is often the case, the prize committee's task was a difficult one, with an incredibly strong pool of nominations, which accurately reflects the diverse and wonderful achievements of mathematical scientists based in Scotland.

As reported in last year's newsletter, EMS collaborated with the Glasgow Mathematical Journal Trust and ICMS in an effort to rejuvenate the Maths Week Scotland small grants fund, which did not run in 2023 due to a cut in government funding. I am extremely pleased to report that our joint efforts were successful, and in 2025 Scottish government renewed its commitment to supporting this important funding mechanism.

The EMS has continued to work with the other learned societies this year through the newly formed Learned Societies Forum (LSF) for the Academy for Mathematical Sciences, replacing the now-dissolved Council for Mathematical Sciences (CMS), and also through the Campaign for Mathematical Sciences (CaMS, formerly known as Protect Pure Maths). The Academy for Mathematical Sciences (https://www.acadmathsci.org.uk) is moving forward under the leadership of Professor Dame Alison Etheridge, and the EMS will continue to work together with the AcadMathSci and the UK's other learned societies in hopes of achieving the original aims of this transformative undertaking.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the people who contribute so much of their time and energy to the society and without whom we could not function as a society - the General Committee, the Policy Advisory Group (PAG), the Research Support Fund Committee, the Education Committee, the Investment Committee and the PEMS Editorial Board. On behalf of the EMS I'd like to extend a special thanks to the people who are stepping/have stepped down from their roles over the past year and offer a warm welcome to all the new incumbents of these various roles. I would like to particularly thank Jess Enright for her dedicated service as General Secretary over the past four years, as well as Jon Pridham for his tireless activity as the society's Treasurer and I am delighted to welcome Beatrice Pelloni as the society's new President following this year's AGM.

With best wishes,
Prof. Tara Brendle