

Mathematics Masterclasses in North-West Wales Annual Report – 2008

The 2008 series was another successful one, with 47 pupils completing the course from 19 schools in Anglesey, Conwy and Gwynedd. (The committee had decided to reduce the number of invitations to 50, rather than the 60 of recent years.) As usual, all sessions were held at the School of Computer Science, Bangor University.

The programme was a varied one, with dates, topics and presenters given in the following table.

Tutorial support was provided by 3 local teachers, 5 PGCE students, and members of the committee.

19 January	Powersheets Polyhedra	Chris Parry, Ysgol Friars, Bangor Emrys Read, BU School of Education
2 February	Probability problems Discrete Methods	Bryn Roberts, Ysgol Syr Thomas Jones, Amlwch Joe Matthews, Ysgol Friars, Bangor
16 February	Exploring the Binomial Networks	Steve Holmes, Ysgol Aberconwy Chris Wensley, BU School of Computer Science
1 March	Problems with squares & triangles Taxicab Geometry	Margaret Jones, freelance consultant David Everett, BU School of Elec. Engineering
15 March	Codes Puzzles	Chris Kitchen, Ysgol Aberconwy, Conwy Catherine Neild, Ysgol Aberconwy, Conwy

The final session was attended by Gill Ronayne, Communities and Estates Superintendent at Anglesey Aluminium Metal Ltd., who presented the certificates. The University was represented by Nigel John, Director of Research in the School of Computer Science.

A presentation was made to Dr Jan Abas, who has given his session on *Symmetry of Frieze Patterns* for over 20 years, but was unable to do so this year.

Prior to the presentation ceremony, parents and friends were entertained by Prof. Ronnie Brown on the subject of *Knots, Symbolic Sculptures and Mathematics*.

The committee is grateful to all those who helped with the 2008 series in any way. Particular thanks are due to Anglesey Aluminium for their continued financial support over the 24 years that Mathematics Masterclasses have been running in Bangor.

Additional support for the series has been provided by WIMCS (Wales Institute for Mathematical and Computational Sciences) as part of its outreach activities: Dr Oscar Hugues and Dr Serban Pop, new WIMCS research fellows at Bangor, have support of the Masterclasses written into their job descriptions, and they provided administrative support at all five sessions.

These classes could not run without the enthusiastic support of committee members, in particular Heather McLeay (BU School of Education) – this has been her last year as programme secretary – and Eurgain Davies, mathematics advisor, who liaises with schools and tutors.

Chris Wensley, 20 June 2008.