BRITISH COMBINATORIAL COMMITTEE

Report and financial statements for the year ending
30 September 2008

BRITISH COMBINATORIAL COMMITTEE

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2008.

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 (available on the Committee's website, or from the Secretary on request). The Chair and six members of the Committee are elected biennially; the Editor of the *British Combinatorial Bulletin* is an *ex officio* member, and three further members have been co-opted.

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 organizing (every two years) a conference in Great Britain devoted to this field of research. Previously five such meetings had been organized 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 an annual postgraduate conference, various shorter meetings and occasional prizes. The Committee also publishes the *British Combinatorial Bulletin*, which has appeared annually since 1975; the current issue, edited by Dr D B Penman at the University of Essex, is available at `http://www.essex.ac.uk/maths/BCB/`

The following is a list of the activities for which the Committee agreed to provide partial financial support in 2007-08.

30 January 2008
9th OU Winter Combinatorics Meeting
The Open University, Milton Keynes
Attendance: 40 researchers
£500

14 March 2008
One-Day Meeting in Combinatorics
Mathematical Institute, University of Oxford
Attendance: 50 researchers (including 25 postgraduate students)
£300

21-22 May 2008
London Combinatorics Conference
Queen Mary College (21 May), London School of Economics (22 May)
Attendance: 110 researchers
£1400

21-23 July 2008
18th Postgraduate Combinatorial Conference
University of Warwick
Attendance: 30 postgraduate students
£500

15-16 September 2008
Workshop on Extremal Combinatorics
University of Birmingham
Attendance: 34 researchers (including 17 postgraduates)
£500 (to be paid after 30 September 2008)

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 the sequence of 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. Accounts for the 2008 conference will be finalized in 2008-09. In round figures, income for 2007-08 was £1789 and expenditure was £3463. This leaves a balance of £22417, the bulk of which is held in interest-bearing bank accounts. The Trustees consider that the Charity is exempt from audit.

Plans for future periods

The 22nd British Combinatorial Conference has been arranged for 5-10 July 2009 at the University of St Andrews; details may be found at the website `http://bcc2009.mcs.st-and.ac.uk/`. It is planned to hold the 20th Postgraduate Combinatorial Conference at Royal Holloway College (University of London) from 22 to 24 June 2009. Additionally, the Committee agreed to support Combinatorics meetings at the University of Reading in November 2008, at the Open University in January 2009, and at the University of Oxford in March 2009.

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

On behalf of the Trustees

(signed)   (signed)

Prof P J Cameron   **Prof P Rowlinson**
Chair   Secretary

20 May 2009   20 May 2009

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 2008 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:

– to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and

– 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: 30 March 2009

Name: Dr G E Thomas
Relevant Professional qualification/professional body (if any):

(Formerly) Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society

Address:

Division of Mathematics
University of Dundee
Dundee DD1 4HN

BRITISH COMBINATORIAL COMMITTEE

Receipts and Payments Account for the period
1 October 2007 to 30 September 2008

	Year to 30/9/2008 £	Year to 30/9/2007 £
Receipts		
Interest	1140.44	1111.03
Royalties from Cambridge University Press	572.49	123.59
Unused parts of grants for one-day conferences	76.35	
Total receipts	**1789.28**	**1234.62**
Payments		
Grant for London 2-day conference (Queen Mary/LSE), May	1400.00	1500.00
Grants for one-day conferences	1300.00	850.00
Postgraduate Combinatorics Conference	500.00	240.00
Expenses for committee meetings (paid to 2 committee members)	162.93	226.90
Open University Combinatorics Prizes	100.00	100.00
(Insurance for BCC21, Reading, July 2007)		410.00
Total payments	**3462.93**	**3326.90**
Surplus / (deficit) for year	(1673.65)	(2092.28)

All funds are unrestricted

Statement of Balances as at 30 September	**2008** £	**2007** £
Bank accounts:		
Opening balances	24090.39	26182.67
Surplus (deficit) for year	(1673.65)	(2092.28)
Closing balances	**22416.74**	**24090.39**
Made up of:		
Bank of Scotland Treasurer's Account	726.23	531.58
Scottish Widows Bank Treasury Tracker Account	21690.51	23558.81
	22416.74	**24090.39**

The British Combinatorial Committee is a charity registered in Scotland, No: SC019723.

The financial statement for the period 1 October 2007 to 30 September 2008 was approved by the Trustees on:

20 May 2009

and is signed on their behalf by:

Dr K J Edwards (Treasurer)