

Review of LMS events during the year 2014/2015

1. Open Challenge

As in previous years, this year's Open Challenge competition was synchronised with the MEM Challenge competition. The competition was posted in late January for completion during the February half term week. The competition was sent to all schools or colleges with a sixth form in the North West, resulting in some new schools taking part who had not done so previously. There were 74 individual entries from 26 schools, team entries having been discontinued this year. The standard of the entries was very high. This year's theme was 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland', 2015 being the 150th anniversary of its publication. The author, Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, wrote under the pen name of Lewis Carroll. He was born locally in Daresbury and was a mathematician who studied and lectured at Christ Church College, Oxford. Questions were created by Alison and Tony Carter with input from Sue Harkness, Peter Newstead and Ken McKelvie.

2. CPD programme

A Primary CPD event by Claire Martin entitled "Problem Solving and Reasoning Mathematically" was scheduled for 15 November but unfortunately had to be cancelled.

No Secondary CPD Events took place in 2014/15.

3. PopMaths Quiz

The LivMS PopMaths Quiz, held on Saturday 14th March 2015, attracted 110 sixth-formers in 31 teams from 13 schools/colleges supported by 15 teachers and 18 LivMS staff and PGCE trainees. The 2015 winning teams were from Liverpool Blue Coat School and Stockport Grammar School, with Professor Paulo Lisboa from LJMU who presented all the prizes. The event was organised by Sue Harkness and Julie Powell and was a great success.

The 2015 Quiz was sponsored by Chartwell-Yorke, Liverpool John Moores University, Qwizdom and WH Smith Promotions Ltd.

Many thanks to:

- LJMU for their excellent hospitality
- staff of LJMU maths department for their support at the event
- the members of LivMS who gave up their Saturday morning to help with the event

4. Ordinary Meetings

There were four public lectures in 2014/15.

1. Professor Paulo Lisboa "Mathematics - is it for real? A short walk through applications to real-world problems in data analysis" on 15 October at Liverpool Hope University.

Paulo looked at real world problems in data analysis, including the famous 'Monty Hall Problem', medical applications and football.

2. Professor Lasse Rempe-Gillen "'Chaos' in dimension one – An introduction and new results" on 26 November at the University of Liverpool.

Lasse described the complex phenomena which can arise from simple iterative formulas, illustrating them with stunning visual images, and indicating what current research is achieving in understanding the details of these phenomena.

3. Professor Colm Mulcahy "Mathemagic with Cards" on 2 March at the University of Liverpool.

Colm demonstrated some of the magic tricks that can be done with cards and explained the mathematical reasons behind why they work. He signed copies of his recent book 'Mathematical Card Magic' after the talk.

4. Professor Peter McOwan from Queen Mary, University of London "When Fridges Attack – Robots, Artificial Intelligence and Our Future" on 18 March at the University of Liverpool.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and robots are becoming a part of the world around us. From industrial and domestic settings to music and entertainment, things around us are getting smarter. In this talk Peter explored the new opportunities this world of synthetic intelligence can create and what challenges it might raise. The talk included some examples of AI generated MAGIC !

All events for the forthcoming year will appear on the LivMS Website.

5. Roadshow Development

There were no new developments during the year. The Welsh version is still not selling; sales of the English version continue but we are about £1500 down on last year's figure at this stage - not surprising in view of the lack of new developments. There is currently no further progress to report on the Polish version, but the updating of the Spanish version may be back on the books.

Lonnie Readioff
Secretary, 3 May 2014