

Minutes of the WFNMC General Meeting

Sunday 24th July 2022 – Sofia

President (+ Chair): K Bankov (KB)

Present: M Akveld, L Donner, T Sanders, G Kos, M Zeljko, N Sedrakyan, P Kenderov, D Claydon, L So, S Dorichenko, K Ciesielski, M Losada, E Khinko, J-M Conde, I Kortezov, R Kos, I Tzvetkova, A Soifer, N Safaei, S Petrova, S Blasberg, D Crawford (Secretary)

Present on Zoom: S Ramly, R Geretschlager, B Lazarov

0. SD and EK gave a short presentation in the memory of Nikolay Konstantinov, for many years a very active member of WFNMC, who died on 3/7/2021.

1. KB reported on WFNMC activities for the period 2018-2022

a) The three vacancies on Standing Committees after WFNMC 8 were filled by Liam Baker (Africa), Alexander Soifer (North America), Maria de Falk Losada (South America)

b) A formal agreement was reached with the Australian Maths Trust (AMT) for the period 1st Jan. 2021 to 31st Dec. 2023 by which AMT will design, manufacture and engrave the Erdős Awards, the AMT Publications Officer will do the designs for the WFNMC Journal and AMT will pay any 3rd party associated costs for hosting the WFNMC website.

c) KB informed the meeting that the Executive had agreed to a change in the Article 2 which they proposed should now read “The Federation is a Thematic Affiliated Organisation (TAG) with ICMI, the International Committee on Mathematics Instruction”. The meeting voted on this amendment – all in favour (bar 1 abstention).

d) The Journal: Alexander Soifer edited from July 2018 to Nov. 2019, Maria de Falk Losada edited from Nov. 2019 to Oct. 2020. Maria Losada took over as Editor and took up a position as an acting member of the Executive. Attempts were made to index the Journal in both 2019 and 2020 without success. These attempts will continue.

e) WFNMC related publications: 2 volume book edited by R Geretschlager “Engaging Young Students in Mathematics through Competitions” has been published. KB has written an article for a forthcoming book on Mathematics Competitions published by ZDM entitled “The Role and Significance of WFNMC in the International Mathematics Community”.

f) KB reminded all that there had been no Mini Conference in 2020 as ICME 2020 in Shanghai was postponed due to the pandemic and although it did happen online in 2021, it was not felt there was anything sufficiently important to warrant an online Mini Conference.

g) KB announced the winners of the Erdős Awards for 2020: Gangsong Leng (China), Jaromir Simsa (Czech Republic), Jaroslav Svrcek (Czech Republic) and 2022: Geza Kos (Hungary), Nairi Sedrakyan (Armenia), Sergey Rukshin (Russia) (The details of the citations are included later).

h) WFNMC 10 A proposal has been received from Singapore and Malaysia to host WFNMC 10 in Singapore in July 2026.

i) R Geretschlager gave a short talk on how to submit papers from the conference. He suggested that papers could either be submitted to a) the WFNMC Journal via the Editor M Losada (director.olympiadas@uan.edu.co) or b) the book to be published by World Scientific to be called “Engaging Students in Mathematics Through Competitions – World Perspectives and Practices: Volume III”. Submissions for the book should be in Word or Latex (not pdf) with graphics sent separately as eps, pdf or png although photos of people could be jpg. These should be sent to R Geretschlager at robert@rgeretschlaeger.com. Preliminary Versions/Notes of intent are due by 31/7/22 with complete papers due 30/9/22.

2. Awards: KB passed over to the Chair of the Awards Committee, Alexander Soifer, who briefly explained how the awards are made. Abridged versions of the citations are included here (the full versions are available on the WFNMC website).

2020

Professor Gangsong Leng of Shanghai University, China. Member of the China Mathematics Olympiad Main Examination Committee for the last 20 years, sometime coach of the National Training Team of the China Mathematics Olympiad and director of the CWNO Main Examination Committee. National Team Leader of the China Mathematics Olympiad in 2007 and Vice-Leader in 2006 and 2009. Guest Trainer of the Philippines team for the Southeast Asia Mathematical Olympiad in 2005/6 and special training facilitator for the Hong Kong IMO IMO team in 2006-2010 and the Macau IMO team in 2011-2014.

Professor Jaromir Simsa, Czech Republic. Chair of the National Committee of the Czech Mathematical Olympiad since 2000, involved in the training of the Czech IMO team for 25 years including acting as Leader on several occasions. Joint-founder of the Junior Czech-Polish-Slovak Mathematics Competition. Author of more than 250 problems used in the Czech Mathematical Olympiads in the last 30 years.

Professor Jaroslav Svrcek, Czech Republic. Editor WFNMC Journal Mathematics Competitions from 2004 to 2016. Actively involved in the training of the Czech IMO team between 1996 and 2014, including acting as Leader or Deputy Leader on many occasions. Joint founder of the competition “Mathematical Duel”. Vice-Chair of the Czech Mathematical Olympiad for 20 years.

2022

Dr Geza Kos, Eotvos University, Hungary. 2 Gold and 1 silver medals in the IMO. Since 2006, a regular member of the IMO Problem Selection Committee and IMO Coordinator. Member of Contest Committee of the Jozsef Kurschak Competition since 1991, Member of the Jury of the International Olympiad of Metropolises, Moscow since 2016, involved with the International Mathematics Competition for University students since 1998, Coordinator of the Putnam University examinations in 2000/21 and 2021/22. Team leader for Eotvos University at the Vojtech Jarnik competition many times since 1999 and Chair of the Jury on 13 occasions. Permanent member of the Problem Committee of the Competencia Iberoamericana Interuniversitaria de Matematicas since 2009.

Dr Nairi Sedrakyan, Armenia. Republic of Armenia Ministry of Education and Sciences Gold Medal winner for Achievement in Teaching. Author of 14 books and around 70 articles on problem solving and Olympiad style mathematics. Member of the Jury of the International Olympiad of Metropolises, Moscow and a Member of the Problem Selection Committee since 2016, Member of the Problem Selection Committee and the Jury of the International Zhautykov Olympiad, Kazakhstan since 2006. Author of 11 problems shortlisted for the IMO, IMO Leader or Deputy Leader of the Armenian Team on multiple occasions. Professional coach for the IMO having trained 1 Gold, 4 Silver and 15 Bronze medal winners. President of Republican Mathematical Olympiads of Armenia 2011-2013 and Jury member 1996-2005 and 2009-2013, President and Organiser of the Tournament of Towns in Armenia 1986-2013, President of Yerevan state Mathematical Olympiad 1996-2013. Gold Medal winner for contributions to World Mathematical Olympiads and Scientific Activities from the University of Riga.

Professor Sergey Rukshin, St Petersburg, Russia. Awarded People's Teacher of the Russian Federation in 2017. Professor in Department of Mathematical Analysis at Russian State Pedagogical University, Scientific Director of Physics and Mathematics Lyceum No. 239 in St Petersburg. Created the Summer Camp of the Leningrad Mathematics Centre in 1981 and started their Open Olympiad in 1992. Member of the Public Council of the Ministry of Education and Science on the reform of the Russian Academy of Science. Trainer of the Kazakhstan IMO team in 2001, when they finished 6th. Teacher of many IMO medallists and 2 Fields Medallists.

Dr Kos and Dr Sadrakyan received their awards in person to the applause of the meeting. Professor Rukshin received the applause of the meeting via Zoom and gave a brief speech of thanks.

3. Elections

KB presented the list of proposals for election (shown below) and asked for any further nominations. None were forthcoming. In the absence of any contested positions, KB proposed the list be voted on en mass. This was unanimously accepted and the list was unanimously approved.

Executive

President: Robert Geretschläger

Senior Vice President: Krzysztof Ciesielski

Vice Presidents: Sergey Dorichenko, Meike Akveld

Publications: Maria Losada

Immediate Past President: Kiril Bankov

Treasurer: Peter Taylor

Secretary: David Crawford

Past Presidents: Alexander Soifer, Maria de Falk Losada, Petar Kenderov

Standing Committees

Regional Representatives

Africa: Liam Baker

Asia: M Sahaimi Ramli

Europe 1: Borislav Lazerov

Europe 2: Jaroslav Svrcek

North America: Alexander Soifer

South America: Maria de Falk Losada

Oceania: Peter Taylor

Awards Committee

Chair: Kiril Bankov

Members: Alexander Soifer, Maria de Falk Losada, Peter Taylor, Romaldas Kasuba

Program Committee

Chair: Krzysztof Ciesielski

Members: Alexander Soifer, Geza Kos, Yahya Tabesh, Iliana Tsvetkova

Editorial Board

Editor-in-Chief: Maria Losada

Members: Krzysztof Ciesielski, Sergey Dorichenko, Alexander Soifer, Peter Taylor, Jaroslav Svrcek

Meeting closed 4:36

D Crawford

Secretary