

THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF MATHEMATICS
(A company limited by guarantee)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

COMPANY NUMBER: 03326816
CHARITY NUMBER: 1061229



THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF MATHEMATICS
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**THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF MATHEMATICS
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

Full name of the charity

The British Society for the History of Mathematics

Company registration number

3326816

Charity registration number

1061229

Governing document

Memorandum and Articles of Association

Trustees

Dr Troy Astarte
Professor June Barrow-Green
Dr Isobel Falconer
Professor Sarah Hart (since 1 January 2020)
Dr Snezana Lawrence
Ms Dorothy Leddy
Dr Ken Lord
Dr Mark McCartney
Dr Klaas Sijbrandij
Dr Fenny Smith
Professor Robin Wilson (until 31 December 2020)

Registered office

c/o Andrew Thurnburn & Co., 38 Tamworth Road, Croydon, Surrey CR0 1XU

Independent Examiner

Andrew Thurnburn FCA, 38 Tamworth Road, Croydon, Surrey CR0 1XU

Bankers

Lloyds Bank, Carfax, 1 – 5 High Street, Oxford OX1 4AA

THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF MATHEMATICS REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 3 March 1997 and registered as a charity on 13 March 1997. The charity was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up each member is required to contribute £1.

Recruitment and appointment of Board of Trustees

Trustees are elected to serve for one year at the Annual General Meeting. The President and those Trustees not appointed to an officer post may not serve more than four consecutive years in that capacity. The Board of Trustees establishes a Nominations Committee each year to advise on suitable potential Trustees but there is also an established procedure whereby names of other candidates may be put forward for election.

Trustee induction and training

New Trustees receive an overview of the organisation and key documents such as the Memorandum and Articles of Association, Annual Report and Statement of Financial Affairs, and receive informal advice and assistance in familiarising themselves with their new role. They also receive information directly from the Charity Commission on the responsibilities of Trustees.

Risk management

The Board of Trustees has a public liability insurance policy to cover all members against claims while working on Society business. An informal risk assessment is conducted as part of the planning process for each activity and all steps necessary are taken to minimise any risks to participants, organisers, meeting venues or the general public.

Organisational structure

The charity has a Board of Trustees of up to 14 members who meet approximately quarterly and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. The Board consists of 8 officers, 3 members elected at the AGM and up to 3 additional members co-opted by the Board. At present, the Board has 11 members from a variety of backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity. Sub-committees, working parties or panels are set up as and when required to deal with specific matters and all officers report to the Board at each of its meetings.

An Administrative Assistant provides support for the Treasurer and Membership Secretary. The agreement with Taylor & Francis which came into force on 1 January 2006 continues to provide benefit to the Society and its members. An editorial board for the *British Journal for the History of Mathematics* provides support and assistance to the *Journal* Editor. The *Journal* is published on behalf of the Society by Taylor & Francis – a new publishing agreement came into effect at the beginning of 2017.

Objectives and Activities

The Society's charitable objects are:

- (1) to promote and encourage research into the history of mathematics and the dissemination of the results of that research;
- (2) to develop awareness of the history of mathematics for the public benefit; and
- (3) to support teachers and lecturers at all levels of mathematics education to incorporate the history of mathematics into their teaching, enriching their students' experience.

The Society organises conferences and meetings, publishes a *Journal* in conjunction with a leading academic publisher, disseminates information about research and research findings in the history of mathematics and related fields, and promotes general activities in the history of mathematics.

**THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF MATHEMATICS
REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
(Continued)**

Achievements and Performance

Presidential Report for 2020

I am pleased to report that throughout 2020 the Society has continued to remain in a very healthy state with respect its membership and its finances, and despite the pandemic we have also managed to maintain a range of events across the year.

As the Statement of Financial Activities shows, financially we continue to be stable, and as the membership report shows our total membership remains steady. While it is good to report that membership numbers are stable, Council is not complacent, and we would like to see a growth in members over the coming years.

This year has seen the first award of the Taylor & Francis Early Career Essay Prize to Ellen Abrams, a recent PhD graduate and now post-doc at Cornell University. As part of this award, she has been appointed as media co-ordinator for the Society and along with some other members of Council has started a productive blog section of the Society webpages. This year the Undergraduate Essay Prize and Schools Plus Prize resulted in several strong entries, leading to the decision to award a larger number of 'runner up' prizes than in previous years.

Next year the Society will announce the launch of the 'Bibby lecturers in the History of Mathematics'. We will use funds from the Bibby Bequest to the Society to support these Lecturers to give talks in schools and to create digital resources for use in teaching, with the overall aim of raising the profile of the history of mathematics in the secondary sector.

The Society's Journal continues to publish a steady stream of high quality and fascinating papers, and I would like to thank the journal editor Benjamin Wardhaugh for his continued work which keeps the Journal running smoothly.

The most significant event in 2020 has of course been the Covid-19 pandemic, and just as this has had a profound effect on society, so it has also impacted on the BSHM. This has been most clearly seen in the fact that the number of events run this year was lower than previous years. A number of events have been deferred, with the Birkbeck meeting on Decision Maths and the joint CSHPM/BSHM meeting in St Andrews have both been delayed until 2021. The annual Gresham lectures (this year on maths and money) and the Christmas meeting moved online and in keeping with the times we ran an online conference on Mathematics in Times of Crisis. This latter event functioned as a very creative replacement for the delayed conference in St Andrews. We were also involved in a very fruitful collaboration with the IMA and LMS running the 'Black Heroes of Mathematics' online event in October. The only event which ran 'normally' as a 'face-to-face' meeting was RiP in Oxford at the end of February.

The need to run nearly all our events online has brought both positives and negatives. On the positive side, it means the events are open to a wider range of people who might not otherwise be able to attend physically. Negatively it is hard to find adequate substitutes for the social interaction and conversations over lunch that naturally happen at such events.

Council meetings have also been running successfully online, and after 'normality' returns Council intends to continue having some of its meetings in this format. Online Council meetings have not only proved to be efficient, but they also reduce our costs and 'carbon footprint.'

Robin Wilson is stepping down from serving for two years on Council. I thank him for all his work on Council and for the Society, which has taken many forms over the years. And of course, I am also about to step down after three years as President. It has been a genuine honour to serve in the role. In passing the role to Sarah Hart I am confident the Society will have an excellent President for the next three years.

It has also been a pleasure to serve with my fellow members of Council. Each of them performs a key and important role, and those roles take time, commitment and enthusiasm, and all their work is done for free and with good humour. With their commitment the Society continues to run smoothly and effectively.

Mark McCartney, *President*

5 January 2021

**THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF MATHEMATICS
REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
(Continued)**

Membership Secretary's report 2020

The Numbers

	2020	2019	2018
UK Members	210	223	212
Non-UK members	85	85	98
Total	295	308	310
Ordinary	131	138	137
Retired/Concession	106	110	113
Under 25 years	4	8	3
from CSHPM	47	44	53
Prize Winners	7	8	4
Total	295	308	310
External Subscriptions	2020	2019	2018
Historia Mathematica	50	54	55
CSHPM	13	16	19
Direct Debit Subscribers	162	159	157

Notes

The membership numbers continue around the 300 level (where we have been for recent years). The numbers alone might suggest a small downward trend in membership. However, the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic has had a radical effect on BSHM activities during 2020. The pandemic is still ongoing, so we need to reserve judgement until the long-term effects on membership numbers become clear.

We had 162 members who paid by direct debit, which is the method most helpful to BSHM in terms of administrative time. Other methods of payment (cash, cheques and online) are spread over the year, and take much more time per transaction to administer.

Ken Lord, Membership Secretary

5 January 2021

**THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF MATHEMATICS
REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
(Continued)**

Journal Editor's report 2020

The *British Journal for the History of Mathematics* continues to serve the Society's charitable aims by publishing research on a wide spectrum of topics in the history of mathematics and its uses in education.

Volume 35 (2020) contained eleven research articles ranging from medieval to modern topics, plus book reviews and reports of the Society's meetings. It incorporated the special issue arising from the BSHM meeting on 'Mathematics, Networks and Practices around Early Modern Scotland', guest-edited by Isobel Falconer, as well as the essay which won the 2019 Early Career Prize, by Ellen Abrams.

The editor is grateful to Isobel Falconer for her work on book reviews and meetings reports, and the editorial board for their support in encouraging and refereeing submissions. The staff at Taylor & Francis have as always done much to ensure the successful running of the *Journal* by their support and hard work. Finally, many thanks are due to all those who submitted work for consideration: the *BJHM* depends on its contributors and we are very pleased that we have continued to attract excellent submissions from many parts of the world.

Benjamin Wardhaugh, Editor

4 January 2021

Services

BSHM arranges activities as described under Objectives and Activities on page 3. None of the Society's services or activities includes regulated work activities with children or vulnerable adults.

Principal Funding Sources

The principal source of funding currently is voluntary donations in the form of membership subscriptions. The publishers Taylor & Francis make a contribution towards the editorial expenses of the *Journal*. All funds received are applied directly to work in the furtherance of meeting our charitable objects.

Plans for Future Periods

Trustees are working towards a growth in membership, with particular effort being applied to bringing in students and younger graduates. This will lay down a basis for continuity into the future. The Trustees have adopted a very positive approach to co-operation with other societies and related disciplines in order to promote the history of mathematics in a flexible way. Areas such as mathematics education, the history of computing and computation, the history of statistics and the marking of significant relevant anniversaries have received particular attention recently and will continue to do so.

Investment Policy

Historically BSHM retained all its funds in deposit accounts. However, given the continued low interest environment, Council has decided in 2019 to invest part of the Society's reserves in 1-2 year fixed rate deposits in order to benefit from higher interest rates. It has no monies held in speculative investments.

Reserves Policy

Monies which are not allocated to be used in the current year are held in reserves at the most favourable rate of interest obtainable. All funds are held in a form suitable for use in the short to medium term.

**THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF MATHEMATICS
REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
(Continued)**

Responsibilities of the Board of Trustees

Charity and company law require the Board of Trustees, as Trustees and Directors, to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charity and of the results for the year. In preparing those financial statements, the Board of Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The Board of Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy, at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.


They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Status of the Company

The company is a registered charity and is thereby exempt from income tax and corporation tax on its income and gains.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (issued in March 2005).

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 15 September 2021 and signed on its behalf by:


.....
Klaas Sijbrandij – Director and Trustee

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
OF THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF MATHEMATICS**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of The British Society for the History of Mathematics (the Charitable Company) for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Charitable Company (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited for this year under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102).
- (4) the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland – FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



.....
Andrew Thurburn
Andrew Thurburn & Co.
Chartered Accountants
38 Tamworth Road
Croydon CR0 1XU

15 September 2021

**THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF MATHEMATICS
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming Resources from Generated Funds:					
Investment income		960	-	960	260
Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities:					
Conferences & academic meetings		489	-	489	2,379
Historia Mathematica subscriptions		1,764	-	1,764	1,944
Membership subscriptions		6,272	-	6,272	6,810
Reciprocal membership – CSHPM		628	-	628	629
<i>Journal</i> income		4,521	-	4,521	4,328
Donations & miscellaneous		2,450	-	2,450	1,210
		<u>17,084</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,084</u>	<u>17,560</u>
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		17,084	-	17,084	17,560
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Charitable Activities:					
Awards & Projects		953	-	953	2,937
Publications	3	4,197	-	4,197	4,599
Advancing charitable interests	4	2,033	-	2,033	6,150
Governance costs	5	1,475	-	1,475	3,136
		<u>8,658</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,658</u>	<u>16,822</u>
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		8,658	-	8,658	16,822
Net Income for Year		8,426	-	8,426	738
Fund Balances Brought Forward		70,834	1,400	72,234	71,496
FUND BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD		79,260	1,400	80,660	72,234

THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF MATHEMATICS
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020		2019	
		£	£	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	6	3,298		2,721	
Cash at bank and in hand		81,417		75,221	
			84,715		77,942
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	7		(4,055)		(5,708)
NET ASSETS			80,660		72,234
Represented by:					
Unrestricted funds	8		79,260		70,834
Restricted funds	9		1,400		1,400
			80,660		72,234

In preparing these financial statements:

- (a) the directors are of the opinion that the company is entitled to the exemption from audit conferred by Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006;
- (b) no notice has been deposited under Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- (c) the directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:
 - (i) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006, and
 - (ii) preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of this Act relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 15 September 2021.

Klaas Sijbrandij

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Klaas Sijbrandij
 Director and Trustee

**THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF MATHEMATICS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

1. STATUTORY INFORMATION

The British Society for the History of Mathematics is a private charitable company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The company's registered number is 03326816 and the registered office address can be found on page 2.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the Financial Statements

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Section 1A "Small Entities" of Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", the Companies Act 2006 and the revised Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2005) – Accounting and Reporting by Charities. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted: these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the Trustees.

Designated: these are funds set aside by the Trustees out of unrestricted funds for specific future purposes or projects.

Restricted: these are funds which are subject to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Donations are recognised as they are received except in the case where they relate to a specific future project, in which case they are deferred until the commencement of that project.
- Investment income is included when receivable.
- Subscriptions received in advance of next year are carried forward in the balance sheet and will be included in the Statement of Financial Activities for the following year.
- Other income, including publication sales and conference and academic meetings income, is included in the accounts when receivable.

Resources Expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accrual basis. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.
- Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity.

Taxation

As a charity, the company is not normally liable to corporation tax and has incurred no charge this year.

THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF MATHEMATICS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020
(Continued)

3. PUBLICATION COSTS	2020	2019
	£	£
<i>Journal costs</i>	2,450	2,548
Historia Mathematica	1,747	2,051
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	4,197	4,599
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
 4. ADVANCING CHARITABLE INTERESTS	 2020	 2019
	£	£
Conferences and academic meetings	967	4,920
Publicity	-	270
External relations	170	170
Insurance	268	292
Website	628	498
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,033	6,150
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
 5. GOVERNANCE COSTS	 2020	 2019
	£	£
Bank Charges and Interest	112	130
Council Expenses	399	2,135
Accountancy	698	678
IT Costs	248	167
Other Costs	18	26
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,475	3,136
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
 6. DEBTORS	 2020	 2019
	£	£
Other debtors	3,298	2,721
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
 7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	 2020	 2019
	£	£
Accruals	4,055	5,708
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	4,055	5,708
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF MATHEMATICS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020
(Continued)

8. UNRESTRICTED RESERVES	General Fund	Designated Neil Bibby Fund	Designated John Fauvel Fund	Total
	£	£	£	£
At 1 January 2020	42,134	22,171	6,529	70,834
Income	17,085	-	-	17,085
Expenditure	(8,559)	(100)	(-)	(8,659)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 December 2020	50,660	22,071	6,529	79,260
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
9. RESTRICTED RESERVES				
Neumann Prize				£
At 1 January 2020				1,400
Income				-
Expenditure				(-)
				<hr/>
At 31 December 2020				1,400
				<hr/> <hr/>

DESIGNATED FUNDS**The John Fauvel Fund**

This fund was established in 2001 as a result of a bequest from the late John Fauvel who was a very active member, former President of BSHM and long-term Newsletter (now *Journal*) Editor. The money was provided for Council to use as it sees fit without restriction in order to enable the society to promote its charitable objects and to increase opportunities for others to participate in activities related to the history of mathematics.

The Neil Bibby Fund

This fund was established as a result of a donation by Mrs Katherine Bibby in memory of her son, Neil, who died in 2002. This was augmented by a generous bequest from Mrs Bibby when she died a year later. Neil was a very enthusiastic BSHM Council member and meeting organiser who was deeply committed to all aspects of the society's work, especially the educational aspects. The money was provided for council to use as it sees fit without restriction to enable the society to promote its charitable objects and to enhance its work in promoting the greater use of history in mathematics education. From 2015 the fund is being used to provide subsidies for 'Student'/'Under 25' attendance at BSHM events.

RESTRICTED RESERVES

As a result of generous donations received in 2016, the value of the biennial Neumann Prize, for a book on the History of Mathematics aimed at a general audience, was increased to £1,000 per award. These donations, shown as restricted reserves, part funded the past three awards and will part fund the next two awards.

THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF MATHEMATICS
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020
(Continued)

10. LAST YEAR COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2019 £
INCOMING RESOURCES			
Investment Income	260	-	260
Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities	17,300	-	17,300
	<u>17,560</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,560</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED			
Charitable Activities	12,986	700	13,686
Governance Costs	3,136	-	3,136
	<u>16,122</u>	<u>700</u>	<u>16,822</u>
Net Income (Expenditure) For Year	1,438	(700)	738
Fund Balances Brought Forward	<u>69,396</u>	<u>2,100</u>	<u>71,496</u>
FUND BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD	<u><u>70,834</u></u>	<u><u>1,400</u></u>	<u><u>72,234</u></u>