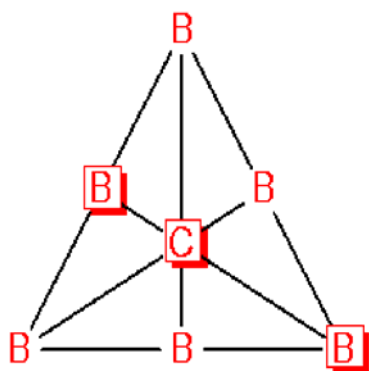


# British Combinatorial Bulletin 2006



## **BRITISH COMBINATORIAL BULLETIN 2006**

This is the 2006 edition of the British Combinatorial Bulletin, and it is the first one I have edited. Probably the first thing to do is to thank my predecessor as editor, Graham Brightwell, for the enormous amount of work he (and Jackie Everid, the secretary at the LSE) have put into the Bulletin over the last few years. Graham has also been a valuable source of advice in the preparation of this Bulletin.

The organisation this year is pretty much the same as it's been for the past few years – see below if you have any suggestions for changes in future.

Can I again thank all institutional representatives for their help in preparing this Bulletin. The BCB is very much what you make of it, and thus your suggestions (or those of your colleagues) for improvements are very welcome – a new editor is an obvious time for possible changes. For example, one suggestion I have heard floating around is that we should try to revert to a system of producing the bulletin at the start of the academic year rather than in April: your views on this, or other topics, are welcome.

If anyone is interested in becoming a representative for an institution which doesn't currently have one, please let me know – the object of the exercise is to spread information, and so the more representatives we can have the better.

Finally, a very large vote of thanks is due to Chris Saker and Sandra Upton for their technical help with the preparation of this Bulletin.

David Penman  
Editor  
25 April 2006.

The BCB webpage is: <http://www.essex.ac.uk/math/BCB/>

Email should be addressed to: [dbpenman@essex.ac.uk](mailto:dbpenman@essex.ac.uk)

## Committee Membership.

The Committee consists of: Peter Cameron (Chairman), Peter Rowlinson (Secretary), Keith Edwards (Treasurer), Anthony Hilton (BCC21 organiser), Matthew Higgs (2006 PCC organiser), David Penman (Bulletin editor), Bridget Webb (Archivist), Graham Brightwell, Mark Jerrum, Stephanie Perkins, and James Hirschfeld (co-opted member).

## Support for Conferences

Please contact the British Combinatorial Committee if you are thinking of organizing a meeting on combinatorial topics in the UK: in most cases, the Committee can offer financial support. Institutions requesting support are normally expected to make a contribution from their own funds or elsewhere. Proposals for consideration by the Committee, including outline plans and an outline budget, should be sent by email to the Secretary, Peter Rowlinson ([p.rowlinson@stirling.ac.uk](mailto:p.rowlinson@stirling.ac.uk))

## Archive

Bridget Webb now holds the archive at the Open University. If you have any items for inclusion or would like to see any items please contact her: [B.S.Webb@open.ac.uk](mailto:B.S.Webb@open.ac.uk)

## News of forthcoming meetings.

Those interested in forthcoming meetings are reminded that they can find two excellent lists of such events at <http://www.maths.qmul.ac.uk/~pjc/bcc/conferences.html> and also at <http://www.math.uiuc.edu/~west/meetlist.html> We concentrate here on events supported by the BCC.

### 1. Two-day Combinatorics Colloquium at Reading – 17-18 May 2006.

No, you did not misread the first word in the title. This year the Reading meeting will be on both 17 and 18 May, to celebrate 50 years of combinatorics at Reading. The conference webpage is <http://www.reading.ac.uk/combinatorics/colloq.html>

Those who have said they will come and talk include (with abstracts where available):

Adrian Bondy (Lyons)

Lars Andersen (Aalborg)

Curt Lindner (Auburn, Alabama)

P.D. Johnson, Jr. (Auburn, Alabama)

R. Häggkvist (Umea)

[Bill Jackson \(QMUL\) - \*Rigidity of molecular frameworks\*](#)

[Ron Aharoni \(Technion\) - \*A topological method in matching theory\*](#)

Neil Robertson (Ohio State)

[Peter Cameron \(QMUL\) - \*The Rado graph and the Urysohn space\*](#)

Imre Leader (Cambridge)

Dragan Marusic (Ljubljana)

[Andrew Thomason \(Cambridge\) - \*Edge weights and vertex colours\*](#)

[Ian Anderson \(Glasgow\) - \*Referee Squares\*](#)

Norman Biggs (LSE) - *The critical group revisited*

[Vadim Zverovich \(UWE\) - \*The Computer System GRAPHOGRAPH\*](#)

[Gregory Gutin \(RHUL\) - \*Dichotomy for the minimum cost graph homomorphism problem\*](#)

There may be a limited amount of financial assistance available – apply to the organiser, Anthony Hilton ([A.J.W.Hilton@reading.ac.uk](mailto:A.J.W.Hilton@reading.ac.uk)).

## **2. 20<sup>th</sup> PCC at Glamorgan: 21-23 June 2006.**

This will take place from 21 – 23 June 2006 in the Rhondda Block at the University of Glamorgan. The local organisers are Matthew Higgs and Richard Ward.

As usual the aim will be to encourage postgraduates to talk about their research for 20 minutes in a non-intimidating atmosphere. There will also be three invited speakers, who this year will be as follows:

Prof. Mike Grannell (Open) “Configurations in Combinatorial Designs”

Prof. Simon Blackburn (RHUL) “Runlength constrained arrays”

Dr. Steven Noble (Brunel) “The Tutte polynomial”.

Abstracts for the talks can be seen on the conference webpage

<http://babylon4.isd.glam.ac.uk/research/1419>

which also gives details of how to register.

## **3. BCC2007**

The 2007 BCC will be at Reading, from Sunday 8-Friday 13 July 2007. The Local Organiser is Anthony Hilton ([A.J.W.Hilton@reading.ac.uk](mailto:A.J.W.Hilton@reading.ac.uk)). The conference website is <http://www.personal.rdg.ac.uk/~smx05mj/bcc2007/>

As usual, a volume in the London Mathematics Society's Lecture Note Series containing survey papers by the invited speakers will be supplied to participants on arrival. Their titles are as follows:

[Béla Bollobás](#) (University of Cambridge and University of Memphis)  
[Hereditary Properties of Combinatorial Structures](#)

[Richard A. Brualdi](#) (University of Wisconsin-Madison)  
[Ordering classes of matrices of 0's and 1's](#)

[Darryn Bryant](#) (University of Queensland)  
[Cycle decompositions of graphs](#)

[Maria Chudnovsky](#) (Princeton University)  
[Excluding induced subgraphs](#)

[Mike Grannell](#) and [Terry Griggs](#) (Open University)  
[Designs and Topology](#)

[Johan Håstad](#) (Royal Institute of Technology Stockholm)  
[On the efficient approximability of NP-hard optimization problems](#)

[James Hirschfeld](#) (University of Sussex)  
[Maximal curves over a finite field](#)

[Keith Martin](#) (Royal Holloway, University of London)  
[The combinatorics of cryptographic key management](#)

[Stéphan Thomassé](#) (University of Lyon)  
[Branchwidth of Graphic Matroids](#)

## **BCC2009.**

The 2009 BCC will take place at St. Andrews from 5-10 July 2009. The Local Organiser will be Sophie Huczynska. More details will be announced later.

**BRITISH COMBINATORIAL COMMITTEE**  
**(Scottish Charity Number SC019723)**  
**Income and expenditure account for the period**  
**1 October 2004 to 30 September 2005.**

	Year to 30/9/2005 £	Year to 30/9/2004 £
<b>Income</b>		
Interest	634.03	445.59
Royalties from Cambridge University Press	1114.21	1020.07
Unused part of grant for PCC 2004	484.44	
Unused parts of grants for one-day conferences	154.87	
Surplus from 20th BCC, Durham, 2005	14039.73	
<b>Total income</b>	<b><u>15427.28</u></b>	<b><u>1465.66</u></b>
 <b>Expenditure</b>		
Grants for one-day conferences	1234.29	1449.63
Grant for Oxford conference on discrete maths	500.00	
Postgraduate Combinatorics Conference 2005	500.00	500.00
Refund of overpayment of surplus from 19th BCC		482.20
Refund of unused part of grant from LMS		55.00
British Combinatorial Bulletin 2005	215.45	270.79
Postage (Papers in special issue of Discrete Mathematics)		18.58
Open University Combinatorics Prizes	200.00	100.00
Float for 20th BCC, Durham, 2005		1000.00
Deposit for PCC 2006	120.00	
Committee expenses	100.28	248.98
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b><u>2870.02</u></b>	<b><u>4125.18</u></b>
 Excess of income over expenditure/ (expenditure over income)	 12557.26	 (2659.52)
 <b>Statement of Balances as at 30 September 2005</b>		
Bank of Scotland Treasurer's Account	1122.29	1177.12
Scottish Widows Bank Treasury Tracker Account	27039.93	14427.84
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>28162.22</u></b>	<b><u>15604.96</u></b>

Queries about the accounts to the Treasurer, Keith Edwards.