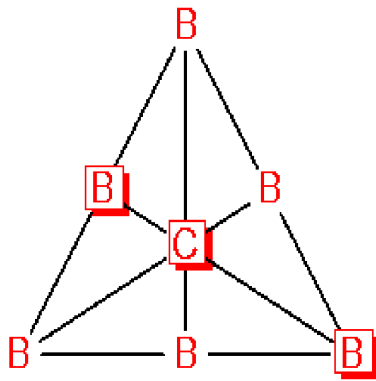


# British Combinatorial Bulletin 2007



## **BRITISH COMBINATORIAL BULLETIN 2007**

This is the 2007 edition of the British Combinatorial Bulletin. The format is essentially as in previous years. We hope that the additional Newsletter (now produced twice a year, in April and October) will help to convey some rather more informal information.

Can I again thank all institutional representatives for their enormous 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 remain very 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 for his technical help with the preparation of this Bulletin.

David Penman  
Editor  
27 April 2007.

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), Fiona Brunk (2007 PCC organiser), David Penman (Bulletin editor), Bridget Webb (Archivist), Graham Brightwell, Mark Jerrum, Stephanie Perkins, and James Hirschfeld (co-opted member). (Sophie Huczynska will join the committee in July 2007 when the 2009 BCC at St. Andrews becomes the next BCC, as she will be the Local Organizer).

## **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. There will shortly also be some information on some non-BCC events in the 2<sup>nd</sup> British Combinatorial Newsletter: <http://www.essex.ac.uk/math/BCB/BCBFiles/2006/BCN2.pdf>

### **1. Two-day Combinatorics Colloquium at QMUL and LSE – Wednesday 16 May and Thursday 17 May 2007.**

There will be a 2-day Combinatorics meeting in London on Wednesday 16 May and Thursday 17 May 2007. The meeting on 16th May will be at QMUL and that on 17th May will be at the LSE. Both meetings, especially that at the LSE, are in honour of Norman Biggs. See <http://www.cdam.lse.ac.uk/biggsfest.html> for more details. In particular, titles are now available at [http://www.cdam.lse.ac.uk/combinatorics\\_talks.html](http://www.cdam.lse.ac.uk/combinatorics_talks.html)

On 16 May at **QMUL**, start time is 10.30 a.m. The speakers will be Béla Bollobás (Cambridge and Memphis), David Conlon (Cambridge), Jackie Daykin (King's, London), Tony Gardiner (Birmingham), Anthony Hilton (QMUL), Svante Janson

(Uppsala, visiting Cambridge), Colin McDiarmid (Oxford), Robin Wilson (Open) and Douglas Woodall (Nottingham).

On 17 May at LSE, start time is 10.00 (N.B.) The speakers will be Norman Biggs (LSE), Chris Godsil (Waterloo), Peter Rowlinson (Stirling), John Shawe-Taylor (Royal Holloway), Derek Smith (Glamorgan) and Dominic Welsh (Oxford).

Queries about the QMUL meeting may be made to [Robert Johnson](#) and about the LSE meeting to [Graham Brightwell](#).

## **2. 21<sup>st</sup> PCC at St. Andrews: 6-8 June 2007.**

This year's meeting will take place at the University of St. Andrews. The organisers are Fiona Brunk (St. Andrews), Debbie Lockett (QMUL), Josephine Kusuma (QMUL) and Vincent Knight (Cardiff). The invited speakers will be Carrie Rutherford (London South Bank University), Bruce Sagan (Michigan State University) and Robin Wilson (Open University). The webpage is <http://www-circa.mcs.st-and.ac.uk/~pcc2007/> and queries should be sent to [pcc2007@mcs.st-and.ac.uk](mailto:pcc2007@mcs.st-and.ac.uk). The webpage includes already some of the titles for contributed talks to be contributed by students: please note that all titles should be sent in by **Friday 11 May 2007**.

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 two talks on "post-Ph.D life" by Colva Roney-Dougal (St. Andrews) and Stephen Waton (Goldman Sachs).

Following the conference there is another meeting (11-15 July) on Permutation Patterns, see <http://www-circa.mcs.st-and.ac.uk/PermutationPatterns2007/> which may also be of interest.

## **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)) and the other organisers are Matthew Johnson (Durham), Matthew Henderson (Swansea), David Stirling (Reading) and John Talbot (UCL). The conference website is <http://www.personal.rdg.ac.uk/~smx05mj/bcc2007/>. It is financially supported by The Institute of Combinatorics and Its Applications, EPSRC and the LMS.

Please note that you can now register for the conference: the closing date for registration is **8 June 2007**. That is also the last date for would-be speakers to contribute abstracts of their 20-minute contributed talks. In association with this, there will be an opportunity for speakers to contribute a version of their talk to a special issue of Discrete Mathematics. (All speakers who intend to contribute a paper to Discrete Mathematics must meet the usual standard of the journal, and the papers will be subject to the usual refereeing process of the journal). See <http://www.personal.rdg.ac.uk/~smx05mj/bcc2007/contributed.html> for details of contributed talks, and how to submit one. There will also be a Problem Session and a

BCC Business Meeting.

There will be an excursion to Windsor on the Wednesday afternoon, for details see <http://www.personal.rdg.ac.uk/~smx05mj/bcc2007/excursion.html> There will also be a conference dinner on Thursday night. The usual entertainment will take place on the Tuesday evening. It is being organised by David Penman ([dbpenman@essex.ac.uk](mailto:dbpenman@essex.ac.uk)): please contact him if you are at all interested in taking part in the event.

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: you can see all the abstracts at once at <http://www.personal.rdg.ac.uk/~smx05mj/bcc2007/abstracts.html>

[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](#)

#### **4. PJC60.**

This year, on a one-off basis, the BCC is supporting a meeting at Ambleside from 23-26 August 2007 for Peter Cameron's 60th birthday. The organisers are Robert Bailey, Dugald McPherson, Sara Rees and Leonard Soicher. The conference webpage is <http://www.maths.qmul.ac.uk/~rfb/pjc60/>. More on this in the 2<sup>nd</sup> British Combinatorial Newsletter.

#### **5. Open University Winter meeting.**

The most recent Open University meeting took place on Wednesday 24 January 2007, see <http://puremaths.open.ac.uk/combin/index.htm>. There is likely to be a similar meeting at roughly the corresponding time in 2008.

#### **6. Oxford meeting.**

The most recent Oxford meeting took place on Wednesday 14 March 2007, see <http://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/combinatorics/>. Again, a similar meeting is likely to take place at roughly the corresponding time in 2008.

#### **7. BCC2009.**

The 2009 BCC will take place at St. Andrews from 5-10 July. 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 2005 to 30 September 2006.**

Year to	Year to
	30/9/2006
30/9/2005	
<b>Income</b>	£
£	
Interest	947.29
634.03	
Royalties from Cambridge University Press	931.09
114.21	
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>	<u>1878.38</u>
<u>15427.28</u>	
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Grants for one-day conferences	882.70
1234.29	
Travel expenses for one invited speaker to BCC20, Durham	67.00
Grant for Reading 2-day conference, May 2006	2500.00
Grant for Oxford conference on Discrete Mathematics	
500.00	
Postgraduate Combinatorics Conference 2005	
500.00	
British Combinatorial Bulletin 2005	220.00
215.45	
Open University Combinatorics Prizes	100.00
200.00	
Deposit for PCC 2006	
120.00	
Committee expenses	88.23
100.28	
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<u>3857.93</u>
<u>2870.02</u>	
Excess of income over expenditure/(expenditure over income)	(1979.55)
12557.26	

<b>Statement of Balances as at 30 September</b>	2006
2005	
	£
£	
Bank of Scotland Treasurer's Account	1717.97
1122.29	
Scottish Widows Bank Treasury Tracker Account	24464.70
27039.93	
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>26182.67</u></b>
<b><u>28162.22</u></b>	

The committee has no other investments, assets or material liabilities.

Queries relating to the accounts to the Treasurer, Keith Edwards.