

EWM General Assembly, Barcelona 2011
3pm Thursday 8 September 2011
Minutes taken by Laura Ciobanu and Colette Guillopé

1. **Welcome** from the EWM Convenor, Marie-Françoise Roy
2. **Appointed to take notes at the assembly:** Laura Ciobanu, Switzerland and Colette Guillopé, France.
Appointed to check the minutes: Marie-Françoise Roy, France and Frances Kirwan, UK.
Appointed to count the votes: Bodil Branner, Denmark.
3. **New members:** Two new members were welcomed to the meeting. Marie-Françoise Roy remarked that EWM did not have an efficient system of recording membership, but that it was hoped that this would change with an updated website and database.
4. **Minutes of the previous General Assembly:** The minutes of the previous General Assembly, held during the 14th General Meeting of EWM in Novi Sad in August 2009, were approved.
5. (i) **Auditors:** The current auditor and accountant will continue their duties.
(ii) **Secretary:** EWM no longer has a secretary; however Lisbeth Fajstrup said that she would investigate whether her department might provide some secretarial assistance.
6. **Financial report:** Marie-Françoise Roy presented the EWM Financial Report for August 2011 in the absence of the Treasurer, Camilla Hollanti, who was unable to attend the meeting. The report was approved by the Assembly. It was noted that EWM had very little money to spend on projects such as the planned renewal of the website. A request was made that T-shirts carrying the new EWM logo should be made available for sale to EWM members; it was agreed that Camilla should be asked to do this.
7. **Membership fees:** It was agreed that no change should be made to the membership fees, so that the low rate remains at 5 euros per year, the medium rate at 20 euros per year and the high rate at 50 euros per year. Members are free to choose the rate appropriate to their circumstances and country.

8. **Election of Standing Committee for 2011-2013:** Marie-Françoise Roy reminded the Assembly that the Standing Committee is required to have between 8 and 12 members, including the convenor and deputy convenor, and that members of the committee are elected for four-year terms. She reported that six current members of the committee were elected (or re-elected) for four years in 2009, but that one of these, Ruth Kellerhals, was resigning from the committee. Four others including Camilla Hollanti (the Treasurer) had completed four year terms as members of the committee; Camilla was standing for re-election but the others (including Frances Kirwan, the deputy convenor and previous convenor) would leave the committee. Four additional candidates for membership of the committee had been proposed by the current committee, including the newsletter editors, Sara Munday and Elena Resmerita, and also Olga Lukina who was responsible for the website and email list. Marie-Françoise observed that there was therefore room for up to two additional members of the Standing Committee and encouraged those at the Assembly to consider standing for election. Daniela Velichova and Corinna Ulcigrai agreed to do so, and all were elected unanimously by the Assembly.

The **continuing members**, elected for four-year terms in 2009, of the Standing Committee were:

Dorothy Buck, UK
Lisbeth Fajstrup, Denmark
Sylvie Paycha, Germany
Sanja Rapajic, Serbia
Marie-Françoise Roy, France.

The **retiring members** were:

Ruth Kellerhals, Switzerland
Frances Kirwan, UK
Daniela Popova, Bulgaria and USA
Magdalena Roszak, Poland.

One current member of the Standing Committee was **re-elected** for another four-year term:

Camilla Hollanti, Finland

The following were elected as **new members** of the Standing Committee:

Olga Lukina, UK
Sara Munday, UK
Elena Resmerita, Austria
Susanna Terracini, Italy
Corinna Ulcigrai, UK
Daniela Velichova, Slovakia.

It was agreed that Marie-Françoise Roy, who had become convenor in February 2010, would continue as convenor for 2011-2013, and Lisbeth Fajstrup was elected as deputy convenor.

9. **International and regional coordinators:** There was a brief discussion on whether international coordinators were needed; it was agreed to make no changes there for the time being. Reports had been received and presented to the discussion forum two days earlier from most of the regional coordinators on the situation in their countries. It was agreed that those who had reported and wished to continue as coordinators should do so; efforts would be made to fill the remaining gaps. It was noted that there was a change of coordinators in France and Finland; coordinators were needed in Austria, Belarus, Greece, Hungary, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Turkey. It was also agreed that Marie-Françoise Ouedraogo (Burkina Faso) would become the coordinator for Africa and that Adeeb Rashida (UK and Pakistan) might become the coordinator for Pakistan when she had completed her thesis and returned to Pakistan.

Elena Fernandez, who had agreed to propose a new regional coordinator for Spain, presented a report to the Assembly on recent activities related to women and mathematics in Spain, in particular in relation to the Spanish national society for mathematics RSME (whose committee for women and mathematics she chairs).

10. (i) It was noted that Sylvie Paycha was a member of the EMS committee for women in mathematics, and that Lisbeth Fajstrup was expected to join the committee, so they would provide a **link** between the EMS committee and the EWM Standing Committee.

(ii) Sara Munday and Elena Resmerita had agreed to continue as **editors of the EWM newsletter**; appreciation was expressed at the very high quality of their work as editors.

(iii) Olga Lukina had agreed to continue her responsibility for the **website and email list**.

(iv) Marie-Françoise Roy presented her paper with Olga Lukina arguing that EWM should get professional help to improve the website, so that in particular there would be a database of members and it would be possible to pay membership fees online. There would be a very substantial cost to this, perhaps in the region of 10,000 euros. The Assembly agreed to give the Standing Committee the authority to carry out this project, provided that sufficient funds could be found for it. Some suggestions were made of ways to raise the necessary funding.

11. The convenor reported that, as in 2009, no **proceedings** of the 2011 meeting would be published, but that recordings -and .pdf files of the lectures- were being made of most of the plenary lectures including the EMS lectures, and that (assuming that the lecturers were content) these would be used instead of published proceedings.
12. An **International Conference of Women Mathematicians** had been held in Hyderabad, India, immediately before the ICM. The speakers had been chosen by the EWM/EMS Scientific Committee augmented by two women mathematicians from India, and there was a panel discussion on 'Women mathematicians around the world' organised by Caroline Series and chaired by Beatrice Pelloni; Sylvie Paycha had represented EWM on the panel.
13. The convenor reported that the **EWM/EMS Scientific Committee** was working well, making suggestions of speakers for the meeting planned in Krakow in 2012 as well as EWM General Meetings and the ICWM in Hyderabad. She noted that its members had been appointed to four-year terms (renewable) in 2008, and that its membership had to be approved by the EMS Executive Committee.
14. The convenor reported that the **4th EWM Summer School** had been held in June 2011 at the Lorenz Centre (Leiden, Netherlands) organised by Dion Coumans (Nijmegen), Janne Kool (Utrecht), Erwin Torreao Dassen (Leiden) and Andrea Hofmann (Oslo, Norway). It was very successful.

15. The **16th general meeting** is being planned to take place in Bonn, Germany, during 1-6 September 2013. Marie-Françoise Roy, Sylvie Paycha, Christine Bessenrodt and Susanna Terracini had agreed to be members of the organising committee for the meeting.
16. The convenor reported that **future activities** included in addition:
 - (i) a one-day meeting in Krakow consisting of 4 or 5 talks and a small reception immediately before the European Congress in 2012;
 - (ii) a summer school in Trieste in 2013;
 - (iii) another International Conference of Women Mathematicians before the next ICM in South Korea in 2014.

It was noted that it is important to have activities announced well in advance and widely advertised.

17. At the discussion forum two days earlier there had been discussion of the use of **social media** such as Facebook. It was agreed that a suggestion from Corinna Ulcigrai that EWM might use existing Facebook groups to advertise itself and EWM activities was worth pursuing.

The new EWM logo proposed by the Standing Committee was approved by the Assembly.

18. Frances Kirwan reminded the Assembly that in 2009 a proposal was agreed to attempt to set up a European **Foundation for Women in Mathematics** under the auspices of the EMS. The EMS had been supportive but in the difficult financial climate no real progress had been made in finding donors. Discussions were now underway to modify the proposal from a European Foundation to an International Foundation for Women in Mathematics, in order to expand both the set of potential donors and the set of women mathematicians who might benefit from the foundation. The President of the EMS, Marta Sanz Sole, had approved this modification of the proposal. It was noted that EWM had traditionally interpreted 'Europe' in an extremely broad sense, and no objections were raised by the Assembly to the idea of making the proposed foundation more international.

It was noted that EWM would like to be able to provide grants to young women mathematicians to help them attend ICMs and ECMs.

19. Finally Marie-Françoise Roy thanked Dušanka Perišić for her work making the 2009 General Meeting in Novi Sad so successful, and since then as chair of the EMS committee for women in mathematics and as the IMU coordinator for women in mathematics. She also thanked Frances Kirwan for her four years on the Standing Committee first as convenor and then as deputy convenor. Many others, in particular the local organiser Núria Fagella, had helped greatly with the organisation of the 2011 General Meeting. There was no other business and the meeting finished at approximately 4.40pm.