**News from General Council**

As Honorary Secretary and convenor of the Editorial task group it is my privilege to write the first of what will become a regular feature of the new combined journal.

In each issue the convenor of a task group will give a brief outline of the work undertaken by that task group and in addition a few details of key matters arising from General Council meetings.

Two key changes have taken place in the make-up of General Council. Paul Andrews has resigned both as Chair and from GC owing to the pressure of work commitments and Barbara Ball retired from her role as Professional Officer, being replaced by David Cowley. The role of Chair has been taken by Sue Johnston-Wilder.

During his time as Chair, Paul has driven forward changes to our way of working in order to make ATM more proactive and to enable us to respond far more quickly and effectively than has at times happened in the past. Given the huge amount of public consultation currently in progress, arising from both the Smith Report and the subsequent White Paper, we hope that these changes will enable us to represent your views more effectively. Instead of three two-day General Council meetings and three Executive meetings we now have six one-day GC meetings, with three having an additional task group day attended by GC members. The site is now so rich in resources and reference material that we felt it was no longer fair that anyone and everyone should benefit from the investment by ATM members. The website gets thousands of visitors a month: if only a fraction of those actually joined ATM then the work we do could be further extended.

For the past few weeks we have been reorganising the ATM website to provide secure private access for personal members. Over the next few weeks I am sure I will be receiving emails and calls from members trying to get access to the resources, downloads and support materials – did they register their email address? At the time of writing this, only a handful of members had registered their email address so they could get a username and password to log in to the private area of the website. So if you are confronted with a polite reminder at some parts of the ATM website – mainly the free resources area – please forgive the interruption.

Remember we do need an email address from each member. Either email the Web Editor (webeditor@atm-online.org.uk) with your name, membership number and email address. Or complete the web-based form on the website at: www.atm.org.uk/access/.

We will be continuing to develop and enhance the website both in general terms and in the provision of up-to-date resources and advice both for members and for teachers and learners of mathematics in general. I am particularly keen, over the next twelve months or so, to develop support for the thousands of young people who are home-educated.

Please make any comments you feel appropriate – the more constructive the better – by email to Marten Gallagher at webeditor@atm-online.org.uk.
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Membership of the ATM will help you through

- Six issues per year of a professional journal, which focus on the learning and teaching of maths. Ideas for the classroom, personal experiences and shared thoughts about developing learners’ understanding.
- Professional development courses tailored to your needs. Agree the content with us and we do the rest.
- Easter conference, which brings together teachers interested in learning and teaching mathematics, with excellent speakers and workshops and seminars led by experienced facilitators.
- Regular e-newsletters keeping you up to date with developments in the learning and teaching of mathematics.
- Generous discounts on a wide range of publications and software.
- A network of mathematics educators around the United Kingdom to share good practice or ask advice.
- Active campaigning. The ATM campaigns at all levels towards: encouraging increased understanding and enjoyment of mathematics; encouraging increased understanding of how people learn mathematics; encouraging the sharing and evaluation of teaching and learning strategies and practices; promoting the exploration of new ideas and possibilities and initiating and contributing to discussion of and developments in mathematics education at all levels.
- Representation on national bodies helping to formulate policy in mathematics education.
- Software demonstrations by arrangement.

Personal members get the following additional benefits:

- Access to a members only part of the popular ATM website giving you access to sample materials and up to date information.
- Advice on resources, curriculum development and current research relating to mathematics education.
- Optional membership of a working group being inspired by working with other colleagues on a specific project.
- Special rates at the annual conference
- Information about current legislation relating to your job.
- Tax deductible personal subscription, making it even better value

Additional benefits

The ATM is constantly looking to improve the benefits for members. Please visit www.atm.org.uk regularly for new details.

LINK: www.atm.org.uk/join/index.html