

MSOR Connections

Vol 4 No 2 May 2004

Published quarterly by the LTSN
Maths, Stats & OR Network.

The Network is supported by the
four higher education funding
bodies in England, Scotland,
Wales and Northern Ireland.

The newsletter is available free of
charge to academics in UK
higher education institutions.

For those outwith this sector, a
paid subscription scheme exists.
Contact the Network for details.

Contributions are invited - please
contact the editors.

Advertisements and inserts can
also be accepted - see page 24.

The articles and reviews from
this newsletter will shortly be
published on the Network's Web
site. Many other resources can

be viewed at
<http://ltsn.mathstore.ac.uk/>
for Mathematics, and
<http://mathstore.gla.ac.uk>
for Statistics



ISSN 1473-4869

© LTSN Maths, Stats & OR Network

Maths, Stats & OR Network

Welcome to the May 2004 edition of MSOR Connections, a newsletter for those involved in teaching mathematics, statistics or operational research in higher education. We hope you will use this newsletter to share information and expertise with other practitioners, especially by contributing to our regular features *Have you seen this?* and *Something that worked for me...*

At present several national developments are relevant to UK MSOR departments. We await the government's response to the Post-14 Inquiry report *Making Mathematics Count* and the results of the bidding process for HEFCE's Centres of Excellence in Teaching and Learning. Our Network is about to move into the Higher Education Academy, and there are several National Teaching Fellowships in our discipline as well as FDTL and other projects. This issue carries articles relating to all these, contributions from those involved in teaching mathematics to other disciplines, reviews of books and e-learning materials that have proved useful, reports from recent conferences and workshops and news of events happening later in the year.

This is the last issue of the newsletter with which I will be associated, since I am leaving the Network at the end of May. It has been a very rewarding time for me, with opportunities to share in many exciting developments. Now there are ongoing changes to the national scene, which I will miss. But my colleagues in the Network will continue to support you through these changes and I wish you all well.

Contents

Current and ongoing activities	2
Have you seen this...? / DDA update	5
Where to publish education articles?	6
An extension pathway for more able students 14-19	8
Mathematics and computing	10
Mathematics Support Centres - the extent of current provision	14
Participation (Diagnosis+Prescription)=Resolution	19
Maths for Business and Computing Students	22
Numeracy, Mathematical Literacy and the Life Sciences	25
Enriching Learning Opportunities in Mathematics	29
Report of the Maths Association conference	30
18 months at the HELM	31
Don't just do it, Do it Right! Diagnostic Tests	35
Reviews: MathType 5.2 and Maple 9	38,40
Review of quality online stats teaching materials	43
News from Undergraduate Ambassador Scheme	45
Book Review: Mathematical Analysis by Lewin	46
Workshop Reports	48
Questionnaire feedback	51
Diary	52

Editors - Robert Surowiec and Pam Bishop

LTSN Maths, Stats & OR Network

School of Mathematics & Statistics

The University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT

Tel: 0121 414 7670

Fax: 0121 414 3389

Email: r.l.surowiec@bham.ac.uk, p.bishop@bham.ac.uk
