

MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS

NEWSLETTER

October 2003

CONGRATULATIONS

- Congratulations to Clare (Parnell) & Simon on the birth of their baby girl, Emma. All are well and we hope there are not too many sleepless nights ahead for them.
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SEMINARS, LECTURES, RESEARCH VISITS

- Sharon Hedley was invited to attend the International Whaling Commission Antarctic Minke Whale Survey Planning Meeting, in Tokyo, from 22nd-27th September. The Meeting's main objective was to finalize logistical and statistical planning of an 80-day survey of whales in the Ross Sea. Earlier this year, the survey vessels failed to enter the Ross Sea because of inaccessible ice conditions, so this year several new experiments needed to be devised as contingency research, should similar conditions be encountered again. If these experiments are successfully completed, they will help both in the design of a possible future Antarctic research programme, and in analysing data from the current programme using newly developed statistical methods. This is important since current estimates using standard abundance estimation methods indicate a startling (and as yet unexplained) decline in Antarctic minke whale abundance over the last 15-20 years.
- Louise Burt gave a talk titled 'Estimating wildlife populations' at a meeting of the General Applications Section of the RSS. The meeting was in honour of the 70th birthday of Professor Robert Curnow who was my PhD supervisor.
- Bernie Roberts gave the opening lecture at the international conference 'SOHO13: Waves, oscillations and small scale events in the solar atmosphere', held in Palma Mallorca; he also chaired the first session of the

conference. Ineke De Moortel gave a contributed talk on 'Theory and observations of longitudinal waves in coronal loops'. James McLaughlin presented a poster on 'MHD Waves in the Neighbourhood of a 2D X-type Neutral Point' and Gavin Donnelly presented a poster on 'Coronal Loop Oscillations'. Alan Hood and Keith Bennett also attended the meeting. While in Palma, Alan and Bernie took part in discussions for the formation of a new European network on MHD waves.

- In October, David Borchers and Louise Burt travelled to St John's, Newfoundland, Canada, to hold a two day workshop at the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. The aim of the workshop was to teach DFO scientists the new survey analysis methods and software being developed in RUWPA. The workshop was very successful and hopefully the collaboration between the DFO and RUWPA will continue.

APPOINTMENTS

- Edmund Robertson has been appointed as Edinburgh Mathematical Society representative on the British Mathematical Colloquium Committee. He has also been appointed to the Editorial Board of Proceedings A of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. A third new role is his election as Chairman of the GAP Council. The Council is an body consisting of sixteen mathematicians and computer scientists from Australia, Germany, Ukraine, the UK and the USA who advise on broad policy issues in the continued development of the computer system GAP and act as an editorial board for software contributions.
- Alan Cairns has been appointed Chairman of the Vulcan and Astra Target Area 2 Access Panel at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory Central Laser Facility. Vulcan and Astra are high power lasers and the Access Panel is one of a number of such panels which have been set up as part of new arrangements for access to these and other large experimental facilities at the Rutherford Appleton and Daresbury Laboratories.

NEXT ISSUE

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