MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS
NEWSLETTER

October 2004

CONGRATULATIONS

- To Colin Campbell on being elected Vice-President of the Edinburgh Mathematical Society for 2004-05. He will become President for the years 2005-6 and 2006-07. This is a great honour for Colin.

SEMINARS, LECTURES, RESEARCH VISITS

- Monique MacKenzie gave a talk at the Dept. of Statistics at the University of Glasgow on "Thin-plate regression spline mixed models" on the 20th of October.

- Freda and David Kemp were invited speakers at a Conference in Honor of Dr Ram Tripathi, held at the University of Texas, San Antonio. Freda's paper was on q-Series Survival Distributions, and David spoke on Properties of Some q-Hypergeomtric Distributions. They spent the rest of the week in the Department of Management Science and Statistics at the University. The weather was a pleasant contrast to the current St Andrews' autumnal climate.

- Ineke De Moortel visited the Centre for Plasma Astrophysics in Leuven (Belgium) on 1st October and gave a seminar on "Longitudinal Oscillations in coronal loops".

- Between the 18th-22nd October, Duncan Mackay attended the 22nd NSO Workshop at Sac Peak Observatory, USA. At the workshop which considered "Large Scale Structures and their Role in Solar Activity", he gave a 1 hour long invited review on "Role of Large Scale Magnetic Fields and Material Flows in Filament Formation". Following on from the meeting he visited Harvard Centre for Astrophysics where he gave a seminar on

"Magnetic Flux Transport Simulations of the Sun and Sun Like Stars" and discussed new research collaborations with Aad van Ballegooijen who is a frequent visitor to St Andrews.

CURLE MEMORIAL LECTURE 2004

The Curle Memorial Lecture for 2004 was given on the 27 October by Professor Chris Budd. Chris holds the chair of Applied Mathematics at the University of Bath and also at the Royal Institution - recognising his esteem in the popularising of mathematics. The lecture series was set up in memory of Professor Newby Curle who held the Gregory Chair in Applied Mathematics from 1967 until his death in 1989.

This year's talk entitled "101 uses of a quadratic equation" was aimed primarily at a general audience. The speaker was introduced by Bob Grundy who outlined the history of the event. Chris gave one of the most stimulating mathematics lectures in St. Andrews for many years. To a large and enthusiastic audience he outlined the history of the quadratic equation from Babylonian mathematics to modern ideas on chaos. The talk finished with a fascinating demonstration of the chaotic motion of the double pendulum. Ken Falconer, a former colleague of Chris's when both were at Bristol, gave a vote of thanks.

NEXT ISSUE
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