SOLENT M202 NEWSLETTER No. 5 13th June 1973

Editor: (Mrs.) Marion Stubbs

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JOHN MASON at the Bay Tree, Southampton

About 30 people attended on May 21st, including 4 members of the part time staff, and students from M202, M201, M100 and MST282.

This is not a report on what happened, since most people reading this were there anyway. Others can obtain the information by contacting almost anyone on the list of M202 addresses.

This is, instead, a report on the administrative problems encountered in organising this event with no access to student addresses.

Copies of the pink invitation were sent out via course-tutors. 11 of the 40 M202, 7 of M100, and 4 of M201 bothered to reply. Of these, some were acceptances and some refusals. Much time and energy were spent in unsuccessfully trying to arrange lifts for 3 students in Portsmouth with no transport. The general lack of response was not encouraging. Under normal circumstances, one might have assumed that no response meant no interest, but a few telephone calls suddenly revealed that some who very much wanted to come had not received the pink form; others who intended to come had not bothered to return the form, thinking it was not needed, (in fact, it was needed, as a check that it had reached you at all.) In the end,, about half of those who came had not let us know.

In spite of these admin. difficulties, the evening was surely an unqualified success. People came from Wymouth, Dorchester, Bournemouth, Salisbury, Andover, Basingstoke, Farnham, Farnborough, Portsmouth, Reading and Southampton. Most of our more general problems must have been eased by explanations, and M202 went home a lot happier, if no more successful!

One M100 student was fascinated by all the arguments, and is now concerned in case M202 is modified in future years. He does not want to miss out on this unique experience!

SOLUTION TO PROBLEM CORNER No. 4

A doughnut can be sliced into 13 pieces by 3 simultaneous cuts. This includes 2 minute pyramids. If consecutive cuts are allowed, with rearrangement of the pieces in between, then up to 18 pieces can be obtained.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (The first letter EVER!)

Is it tactful to suggest that students use your pages to express views on M202? People certainly seem to have them.

Yours sincerely, (Counsellor) Peter Bailey, Chichester.

(Editor: Perhaps they are unprintable ?)

SUMMER SCHOOLS 1974

Kingsgate College, at Broadstairs, is now prepared to offer a residential course for OU mathematics students in 1974, in particular for those with no OU provision of summer schools.

My personal opinion was requested on what the course content and date might be. Since my ideas are limited to M251 + D222 in August 1974 I magnanimously volunteered to consult my fellow M202 students, who might have other requirements, and so the Principal has kindly prepared a questionnaire, of which a copy is attached. This does not commit you to anything, but is merely a straight request for information on which to base some sort of statistics on what demand and course content should be, remembering that this will be a totally new project.

The Principal hopes that the questionnaire is in a form which will provide the most useful information, but you may well find Q.4 almost impossible to answer at the present time, or you may wish to add other comments not specifically requested.

Even if your replies are negative throughout, do please return the form, especially if you are able to formulate any reasons for the negatives - e.g. cannot obtain time off from work/ cannot leave children/ hate all summer schools anyway, etc.

Whether pro or con this offer of a summer school tailored to our needs, please do return the form NOW - TODAY if possible - otherwise you will probably forget. It might be a sound idea to indicate any tentative plans for 1975, while you have the chance.

PROBLEM CORNER No. 5

QUICK THINK-IN (be honest - 2 minutes only!) - Alan Nicol

317 players enter a singles knock-out tennis tournament. How many games were played in the tournament?

A REMINDER OP HAPPIER DAYS

Find the inverse of the following matrix:

$$\begin{matrix} 0 & x & x^2 \\ x & 0 & x \\ x^2 & x & 0 \end{matrix}$$

This can take several hours - even days - by row and column operations, but is very beautiful when you find it. (Nering tells you how to do it in 5 minutes - see pp. 93-96)

KINGSGATE COLLEGE
BROADSTAIRS
KENT

June 1973 For the last three years we have included in our programme residential courses intended to be of help to Open University students. So far these have been in the arts and social sciences. We have now had enquiries about the possibility of including a course or courses for Mathematics students. The interest so far appears to be among those students who have chosen courses for which they have been advised there will be no Summer Schools in 1974.

In order to gauge the interest we are inviting any OU students taking mathematics courses to complete the questionnaire below.

The cost would be about £9 for a Friday to Sunday course and £18 for a Monday to Friday course.

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1. Would you be likely to support a residential course in Mathematics for OU students -
(a) if it were on a weekend (Friday evening to Sunday afternoon) ? .....
(b) if it were for a week (Monday to Friday)?.....

2 . If your answer to either or both of the above questions is "YES", in which particular month would you prefer the course to be held?.....

3. What courses are you taking in 1974 ?.....

4. In what particular aspects of the syllabus you are following would you especially welcome tuition?

5. We would welcome any other comments that you think would be of help to us in our attempt to assess the interest.

NAME.....DATE.....

ADDRESS (may be left blank if desired)

..... .....

Please complete and return this form to the Principal, Kingsgate College, Convent Road, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 3FX