

THE M500 SOCIETY
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON 12TH March 2025 at 19:00 BST via TEAMS

1. Members present

Colin Aldridge (Secretary), Dorothy Leddy (Membership), Nigel Patterson, Tommy Moorhouse, Tony Forbes (Editor), Jenny Oldroyd, Linda Skelton (Treasurer), Jo Wooding, Paul Chaston, Nico Reynolds, Milena Dragic and Josiah Aitchison.

The meeting was chaired by Linda Skelton and Colin Aldridge acted as Secretary. 41 members voted on all motions which satisfies the quorum required by the constitution.

Apologies for Absence were received from Judith Furner.

2. Welcome by Chair

The Secretary (temporarily acting as chair) welcomed attendees and explained the format of the Meeting.

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting

The Secretary reported that there had been no comments on the minutes. There being no comments from those attending, the minutes were approved.

Following a query at the previous AGM, the Secretary explained that an “audit of the accounts” was an OUSA requirement. However, this was not a formal Audit such as is required for a Limited Company but an independent check of the accounts by a qualified person. The cost was relatively small.

At this point the Treasurer joined the meeting and took over the role of Chair.

4. Annual report

The Treasurer summarised the Annual Report which had been circulated to members and is in the Appendix to the Minutes.

5. Financial accounts

The Financial Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st July 2024 had been circulated to members prior to the AGM. The Treasurer confirmed that the financial statements had been submitted in accordance with OUSA requirements. In answer to questions, the Treasurer informed the meeting that OUSA approval included confirmation that the accounts had been professionally audited.

The Society made a significant surplus in the year 2023/24 and this recouped some of the losses incurred during and immediately after COVID. The financial accounts were approved unanimously.

6. Election of Officers

The following Officers were elected unanimously in accordance with Clause 7 of the Constitution:

- Judith Furner – Weekend Organiser
- Dorothy Leddy – Membership Secretary
- Linda Skelton – Treasurer
- Tony Forbes – Editor
- Colin Aldridge – Secretary

7. AOB

The Secretary commented that the Committee planned to review the Constitution during the next year to specify general alignment with OUSA policies rather than seeking to specifically identify some OUSA policies as was the case with the current Constitution.

Nigel Patterson commented that OUSA guidelines were designed to assist societies rather to place onerous constraints on their operation.

The Chair thanked members for attending the AGM and the meeting closed at 19:25.

colin Aldridge

Colin Aldridge
Secretary
12 March 2025

Annual Report

M500 Society 2023/2024

Report from the Chair

The Society ran a revision weekend and a recreational Mathematics weekend in 2023 and published 6 issues of the M500 Magazine. It is intended to continue with these activities in 2025 and for the foreseeable future.

More details may be found at our website:

www.m500.org.uk

How you can help the Society

The Society would welcome members who want to help with our activities, either as a full member of the Committee or helping a committee member with a particular activity. The Society are particularly looking for help with

- Publicity and student engagement
- New articles for and proofreading of the Magazine

Treasurer's Report

The Society's financial statements for the Financial Year ended 31 July 2024 were submitted in January (ahead of the February deadline) in accordance with OUSA requirements and currently await approval by the Vice President, Administration.

The figures show an overall surplus of £6422, principally due to a high interest rate of return on the Business Money Manager Deposit of £60,000 and surpluses on the 2024 Revision Weekend and Winter Weekend. The closing fund balance of £81,491 indicates that the society's financial position remains extremely robust.

Whilst reserves remain adequate the Society aims to break even on each of its three principal activities with any surplus used to further the objectives of the Society.

Revision Weekend Organizer's Report

The 48th Revision Weekend took place at Kents Hill Training and Conference Centre over 10th – 12th May 2024. The Society ran 15 undergraduate Maths modules and 5 postgraduate Maths modules. The Society ran two Science modules – one for the first time. There were 208 students – of those 190 were residential and 18 non-residential. This was a considerable increase on 2022. There were six M500 'staff', including two committee members. The contract was for a minimum of 207 residential places, which we met with 215 places.

The feedback was very good – nearly all concerned clearly had an excellent weekend. All feedback was passed on to tutors, and an anonymised version was written up for the students. For the first time since the start of the covid epidemic, the event made a surplus. In 2025 the Society is offering 22 modules, including three Science courses, although some courses may not run because of a lack of students. Of those, 14 are undergraduate and five postgraduate courses.

Winter Weekend Organizer's Report

The Winter Weekend took place over 12th - 14th January 2024. The Society had 41 bookings, including four committee members. There were twelve new attenders. There were a variety of presentations, including one by our guest speaker, John Mason, which were all well-received. John was the instigator of the Winter Weekend in January 1982, so it was delightful to welcome him back.

Membership Report

Membership at the end of the 2023/2024 membership year, i.e. on 31st July 2024, stood at 233, 21 more than the previous year and thus an encouraging 9.9% increase. This figure includes overseas members, 5 in all, as well as UK members. All members receive a bi-monthly magazine in electronic (pdf) format; 27% of 2023/2024 members elected to receive printed copies also.

Webmaster

The Society has now implemented automation of Winter Weekend bookings and Membership and hopes to implement automated payments for membership in 2025.

Publicity

The Society continues to engage with the OU and OUSA to improve the visibility of our activities to the OU student community.

Magazine Report

The society continues to publish six magazines a year and offer printed versions at an extra charge.