

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release – Monday 19th July 2004

Gold, silver and four bronze medals for UK squad at 45th International Mathematical Olympiad

All six members of the UK's International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) squad won medals at this year's 45th IMO, held in Athens, Greece from 4th – 18th July 2004. The UK team won one gold, one silver and four bronze medals at the world's most prestigious maths competition for pre-university mathematics students. They were competing against approximately 500 competitors from 84 other countries.

The six students that represented the UK (with their medals) were:

Giles Coope (Fallibroome High School, Macclesfield, Cheshire) **bronze medal**

David Fidler (The Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School, Elstree, Hertfordshire)
silver medal

Paul Jefferys (Berkhamsted Collegiate School, Hertfordshire) **gold medal**

Martin Orr (Methodist College, Belfast) **bronze medal**

Alexander Shannon (The Kings School, Canterbury, Kent) **bronze medal**

Anne Marie Shepherd (Ilkley Grammar School, West Yorkshire) **bronze medal**

The team was accompanied by the Team Leader, Dr Geoff Smith of the University of Bath and the Deputy Team Leader, Adrian Sanders (Trinity College, Cambridge).

Angela Gould, Executive Director of the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust, the organization responsible for selecting and training the UK IMO squad said "This is a splendid achievement by the IMO squad; they have competed against the best young mathematicians in the world, and achieved terrific results. The six problems set over two four-and-a-half hour examinations are extremely difficult, and the squad has performed very well. In particular, this is the fourth IMO that Paul Jeffreys has competed at, winning a medal at each event, and in Martin Orr we have the only student from Northern Ireland to achieve two IMO medals". *(photo attached to email of Paul & Martin)*

Although students compete individually, country rankings are obtained by adding the team's scores. The maximum score for each student is 42 and for a team of six students the maximum is 252. The UK team placed 20th out of 85 competing countries with a score of 134

The top 10 teams and their scores were: China (220); USA (212); Russia (205); Vietnam (196); Bulgaria (194); Taiwan (190); Hungary (182); Iran (178); Romania (176).

Sponsors of the 2004 UK IMO team include: the Department for Education and Skills, the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries and ARM Limited.

The 46th International Mathematical Olympiad will take place in Cancun, Mexico in July.

For more information, please contact:

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