



London District Science Olympics

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4 June 1997

Minutes

1. Minutes of the meeting of 4 June 1997
2. Present: Tom Griffiths, Tom Haffie, Brian Hodgert, Jim Lodge, Elizabeth Mazzaro, Rhonda Milton, Bill Oldham, Amy Orr, Phin Perquin, Dennis Trankner, John Welbourn, Patrick Whippey.
3. Regrets: Frank Dyer, Jen Porter, Jean Surry, Dan and Sheila Thorsley.
4. Thank you all for the wonderful support that you gave to the Science Olympics this year. It was quite outstanding, and clearly it is one of the finest in Canada. Kelly Zuber has retired from the committee, because of his commitments to other events in May, particularly his camping trip to the Bruce. He has run Amazing Rodents for many years. Kelly, thank you. Jen Porter, also from Laurier, has taken over this event, and we welcome her to the Olympics family. Ivan Saika-Voivod was away this year, and Phin Perquin ran the Circuitous Circuits for us. Richard Hammond and Matthew Lynall designed and ran Dante's Peek. Tom Griffiths ran Lightning Calculators, and Chuck Scollard organised Mathematicians' Menagerie. Welcome all.
5. We discussed the day of the event. We agreed we will keep it on Wednesday in 1998 because this date has already been reserved by some schools. We will move it to Thursday in 1999 on a trial basis. This gives teachers one more day after the long weekend to prepare.
6. We will have to limit the number of entries in some events, because we are close to capacity. We will accept entries in date order until the event is full. The judges will determine how many teams they can manage on the day. Judges: please Email the maximum numbers of teams you can handle to pwhippey@julian.uwo.ca. We had 119 teams from 15 schools this year, up from 88 teams in 12 schools last year.
7. School Trophies: Another way to limit entries is to change the scoring for the school trophies, so that schools wishing to compete for the school trophies are not obligated to enter every event. Two models have been proposed:
 - a. Count the Grade Nine Pentathlon, the Grade Ten Pentathlon and any four others.
 - b. Withdraw the school trophies altogether, and just award prizes for each event.We will take a final decision on this at our February meeting.
8. Comments on individual events: please send these to Pat Whippey. Tom Haffie particularly wants feedback on Forensic Biology. A kit handed out at the workshop would be valuable, now that school budgets are so small. Murray Kucherawy requested that Robot Walker and Robot Rider not allow commercial construction kits such as Lego to be used in future, because the spirit of these events is that the devices be made from scratch.
9. Tom Griffiths suggested that we consider a special award for a major contribution by a

- student as is done at the International Mathematics Olympiad.
10. The recycled plaques worked well. One team did notice that theirs was a bit battered, but were satisfied when it was explained that it was recycled.
 11. We will modify the timetable so that we end at 2:00 pm to allow everyone to catch busses.
 12. A number of people volunteered for Bingos. Thank you so much.
 13. I still have a power supply belonging to the London Board, and an extension cord.
 14. Calendar: Committee meeting Thursday February 26 1998.
 15. Science Olympics Wednesday May 20 1998
 16. Dinner Friday May 29 1998