

May 17, 2004

To all COPS members

Dear Colleague,

Committee of Professors of Statistics
Annual Meeting
24th May 2004, 1.30p.m.
University College London

The papers for this year's COPS meeting are enclosed. As you will see, one of the main items, to which we should devote a good measure of time at the meeting, is the recent report of the International Review of Mathematics (including Statistics) commissioned by the EPSRC. Statistics features strongly in the report and we should certainly aim to respond to the issues it raises. If you haven't had a chance to look at the IRM report, it can be viewed on the website listed on the agenda.

One of the problems we always face at the COPS meeting is that the length of the agenda tends to squeeze out some items. This year, I propose to run through some of the standard issues, such as agenda items 8 and 9, at the very beginning of the meeting. This will ensure that they receive a brief airing (which didn't happen last year, I'm afraid) and it will also ensure that we give a proper vote of thanks to those who look after these activities to such good effect on behalf of us all. Apart from a very small number of specific decisions to be taken, I would not expect that to take more than 10 minutes or so.

Again on the question of time, I have agreed with Annette Bramley, the Programme Manager for Mathematical Sciences at EPSRC, that we will not have the usual general presentation on EPSRC issues, so that time can be preserved for IRM-related discussion. A small leaflet describing the Mathematical Sciences programme more generally is enclosed. If there are specific EPSRC issues, beyond those covered by the IRM, which you would like to raise, please let me know in advance as Annette will be present only for the first part of the meeting.

It would also be helpful for me to comment on some of the other papers enclosed.

- A map is provided to help you find the venue at UCL.
- Sir John Kingman has provided some information sheets on the Isaac Newton Institute for us to read in advance of the meeting. Sir John has to leave the meeting early so this should help to streamline discussion of the INI.
- It would be very helpful if you could check the COPS membership list and send details of any changes to lornam@stats.gla.ac.uk.

- The usual list of completed Ph.D.'s is enclosed, extracted from the annual questionnaires. I haven't included a questionnaire summary because we are still missing a few important returns. I will make some comments on the questionnaires at the meeting but it would be better to circulate the summary when it is complete.
- Doug Altman kindly agreed to represent COPS on an experimental design working group organised by the MRC. A brief report on this is enclosed.
- Finally, a financial statement from our Treasurer, Julian Stander, is included. This will be one of the items covered near the start of the meeting.

The agenda and papers are also available on the COPS web site at www.copstat.ac.uk

I look forward to seeing you on 24th.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Adrian Bowman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Adrian Bowman