

## Mathematics Teaching 2001 Conference Report

The conference took place on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2001 with a good attendance of over 135 participants. The reaction from those present was very positive and it is clearly evident that participants were very appreciative of the opportunity to attend such an event, finding the day both enjoyable and worthwhile.

Gordon Kirk, Dean of the Faculty of Education, opened the conference, highlighting the value of such an event and welcoming the keynote speaker, Dr Mike Askew of the Leverhulme Numeracy Research Programme, King's College, London. Dr Askew had stepped in at the last moment to replace his colleague, Professor Margaret Brown, who was taken into hospital unexpectedly. He gave a highly entertaining and thought provoking speech on 'Pupil Participation and Progress in Numeracy Lessons' which was very well received by the audience.

There followed three sessions when participants had an opportunity to choose workshops / discussion groups on a range of topics, mostly related to the overall theme of numeracy. Sessions on offer were:

- A *Using Structured Visual Imagery to develop Basic Arithmetic*  
Tony Wing, University of Brighton
- B *A Unified Teaching Approach to Fractions, Decimals and Percentages with emphasis on Prim-Sec Liaison*  
Joe McLaughlin, St Kentigern's RC Academy, Blackburn  
Frances Burns, Our Lady's Primary School, Stoneyburn
- C *A School's Perspective of the TENS Programme of Study*  
Karen Deveney, Queensferry Primary School
- D *Online Formative Assessment*  
Stephen Bruce, Napier University
- E *Making Sense of Number: an interactive numeracy package for Nursery and Early Years*  
David Thomson, University of Edinburgh
- F *Numeracy Strategy – successful approaches in the early stages of Secondary*  
Teresa Smart, National Centre for Literacy and Numeracy, London
- G *Soroban workshop*  
Kimie Markarian, Japan 2001
- H *NRICH and Numeracy (for primary and secondary)*  
Toni Beardon, Cambridge University
- I *The City of Edinburgh Early Numeracy programme*  
Susan Shipway, St Bernard's Centre, Edinburgh.
- J *Reasoning and Number*  
Lesley Jones, Goldsmiths, University of London
- K *Successmaker- A learning Tool for Numeracy*  
Garth McKain, Westhill Academy, Aberdeenshire
- L *Numeracy Sacks - a home-school initiative*  
Anthea Grierson, Sciennes Primary School, Edinburgh
- M *Funtastic Tables*  
Norma MacPherson, Musselburgh Cluster

- N *Mental Maths in the Community: Creating a Climate of Success in the Classroom*  
Audrey Gregor, Lumsden Primary School, Aberdeenshire
- O *The Crystal Maze - multicultural puzzles (12-14)*  
Lois Rollings & Eric Brown, The University of Edinburgh  
Kate Aitchison, Preston Lodge High School
- P *Using technology to enhance Primary Mathematics*  
Margaret Robertson, Inverclyde adviser  
(CANCELLED DUE TO ILLNESS)
- Q *Calculators and Numeracy (10-14)*  
Ruth Forrester, University of Edinburgh
- R *Two contrasting approaches to early addition*  
Alison Price, Oxford Brookes University

The standard of presentations was high and the evaluation forms indicate very positive reactions in general to these sessions. Many participants commented on the opportunities the conference provided for discussion with others interested in Mathematics Education from different parts of Scotland and beyond. This is the only annual Scottish conference bringing together teachers from both primary and secondary schools with teacher educators and others interested in Mathematics Education . (The SMC conference plays a similar role but concentrates on secondary Mathematics)

Conference participants also had an opportunity to view an exhibition of books and resources for teaching Mathematics.

The steering committee gratefully acknowledges the financial support given to the conference by the Scottish International Education Trust, Standard Life, Edinburgh Mathematical Society, Japan 2001 and the University of Edinburgh.