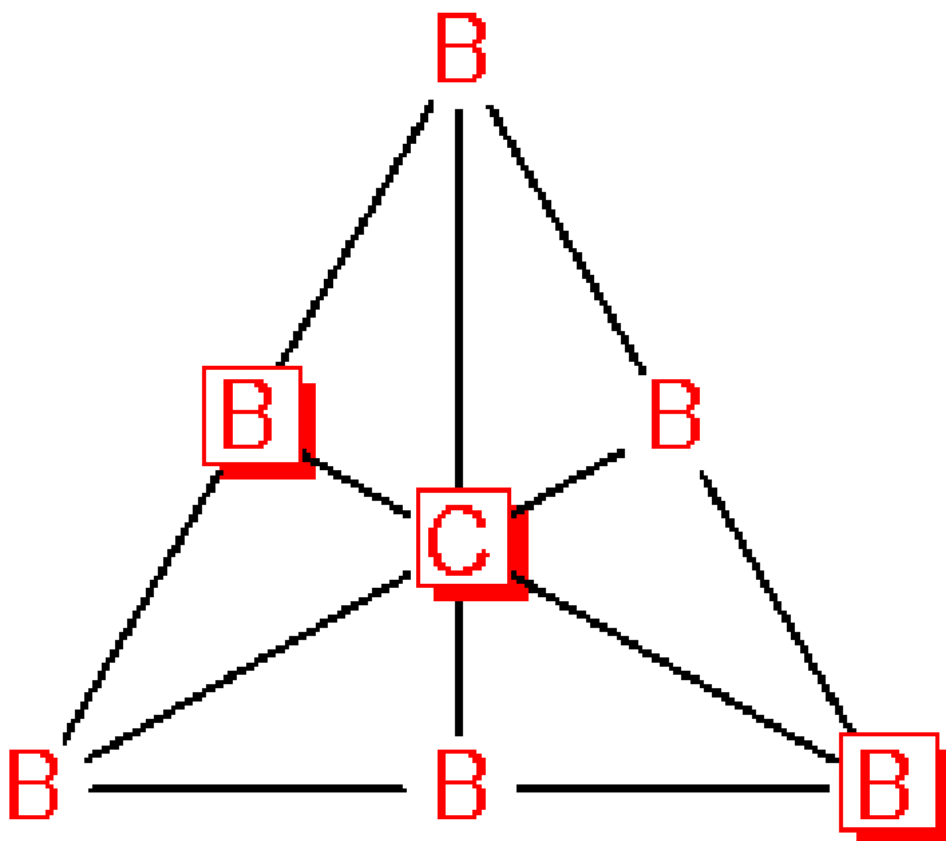


# British Combinatorial Bulletin 2002



# BRITISH COMBINATORIAL BULLETIN 2002

## Editorial

First of all, I'm sorry it's late. I hope nobody needs a catalogue of all the other things that, at various key moments, took priority over working on the Bulletin. It will happen again, but hopefully not to anything like this extent.

At the Business Meeting during the last British Combinatorial Conference, it was agreed to move to electronic distribution of the Bulletin. This is the result. We are sending the Bulletin to institutional representatives in the form of pdf files (as I write this, the plan is to provide one file containing the complete Bulletin, and also four smaller files containing the front matter and each of the three lists, since that might be more convenient for some). We think the Bulletin should be viewable on-screen, and also that it should print out reasonably neatly. Please let me know if you have any problems, and we'll look into it.

The Bulletin is also being placed on the website <http://www.cdam.lse.ac.uk/BCB/>, and a few copies are being printed out for archival purposes.

The website also features announcements of future meetings, and the definitive versions of Lists A and B; what you see here is simply the state of these lists at the moment. We are happy to make corrections to these lists at any time; please do email us any changes (ideally, via your institution's representative). List C is collated on an annual basis.

I do not maintain an electronic mailing list of all combinatorial mathematicians in the UK. What I do have is an electronic mailing list of institutional representatives, which we have always used to ask for material for the Bulletin, and is being found increasingly useful as a means to advertise combinatorial meetings etc. I'm willing to add others to this list, or perhaps to make up a separate mailing list; if you want to join it, just send me an email - this shouldn't expose you to more than about 10-15 messages a year. If you want to send a message to the list, send me an email.

Many thanks to all the representatives around the country who sent in material for the Bulletin. More particularly, I am grateful to Jackie Everid for all her efforts in preparing the Bulletin for publication.

Graham Brightwell  
Editor

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## British Combinatorial Committee

The Committee is: Peter Cameron (Chairman), Peter Rowlinson (Secretary), Keith Edwards (Treasurer), David Bedford, Graham Brightwell, James Hirschfeld, Mark Jerrum, John Lamb, Bridget Webb, Chris Wensley. Chris Saker, the organizer of the 2002 Postgraduate Conference is a co-opted member of the Committee.

## News

The British Combinatorial Committee has a limited sum of money available to support approved meeting on combinatorial topics in the UK. Any institution requesting support will be expected to meet part of the total cost from its own funds or elsewhere. Proposals for consideration by the Committee, including outline plans and an outline budget, should be sent to the Secretary,

Professor Peter Rowlinson  
p.rowlinson@stirling.ac.uk.

### **Professor William T. Tutte 14th May 1917 - 2nd May 2002**

We are sorry to report the death of Professor Bill Tutte on May 2, 2002. The cause was a recently diagnosed combination of lymphoma of the spleen and congestive heart failure.

An obituary of Bill Tutte by Dan Younger, an article by Tutte about his work at Bletchley Park, and other information can be found at:  
[www.math.uwaterloo.ca/CandO\\_Dept/index.shtml](http://www.math.uwaterloo.ca/CandO_Dept/index.shtml)

An obituary by Norman Biggs appeared in the Independent on May 9, 2002. This can be found at:  
<http://news.independent.co.uk/people/obituaries/story.jsp?story=293237>

## Meetings in Combinatorics

### 50th Anniversary of the Four-Colour Problem

23 October 2002 is the 150th anniversary of the four-colour problem (specifically, De Morgan's letter to Hamilton). On 23 October this year, the London Mathematical Society and the British Society for the History of Mathematics are holding a joint meeting in London (venue to be announced) to celebrate this event.

The speakers will be:

**Robin Wilson** (on the early history of the problem),

**Kenneth Appel and Wolfgang Haken** (on the Appel-Haken proof of the four-colour theorem),

**Robin Thomas** (on the recent proof with N. Robertson, P. Seymour and D. Sanders),

**Dan Archdeacon** (on recent work in topological graph theory).

There may be a special dinner in the evening.

Two days earlier, on 21 October, Robin Wilson will give a general talk on the history and proof of the four-colour theorem, at Gresham College, High Holborn, at 5.30 pm, followed by the launch of his forthcoming Penguin book 'Four colours suffice'.

Further details of these events can be obtained nearer the time from the London mathematical Society or Gresham College, or from Robin Wilson [r.j.wilson@open.ac.uk].

### One-Day Combinatorics Colloquium

The annual one-day colloquium will take place at the University of Reading, on Wednesday 15th May 2002.

Speakers are: D.J.White (Reading), R.J.Chapman (Exeter), R.Johnson (Cambridge), D.A.Preece (Kent and Queen Mary), J.Talbot (Oxford), I.Wanless (Oxford), I.Leader (Cambridge), I.Barany (UCL and Renyi Institute) and F.C.Holroyd (Open University).

The meeting starts at 10:30. Morning lectures take place in Rooms 113 and 314 of the Mathematics Building. Afternoon lectures are held in the Larger (Ditchburn) Lecture Theatre in the Physics Building.

For further information, including abstracts of the talks, please see the website: <http://www.rdg.ac.uk/~smr99mj/colloquium.htm>

## **13th Postgraduate Combinatorial Conference**

24th - 26th July 2002, University of Essex

The Postgraduate Combinatorial Conference is in its 13th year. The aim has always been to allow students to meet and talk about their research in an informal environment. The conference is aimed at British and European postgraduates working towards obtaining a PhD in mathematics in any area of combinatorics.

Each student attending is encouraged to give a short talk (20 mins) about their research. This will be the first time that most students have spoken outside their own department, and it is an excellent opportunity to gain practice in front of a small, friendly audience.

There are also three invited lectures. The speakers are:

**Prof. Peter Cameron** (Queen Mary, University of London)

**Prof. Dominique Perrin** (Universit de Marne-la-Valle)

**Prof. Graham Brightwell** (London School of Economics)

All the talks will take place in the Department of Mathematics at the University of Essex. The conference runs from the afternoon of Wednesday 24th July to lunchtime on Friday 26th. Accommodation is available on campus for all those attending the conference.

Further details are available from the conference website:

<http://www.essex.ac.uk/math/PCC2002/> or from the organiser, Chris Saker, [cjsake@essex.ac.uk](mailto:cjsake@essex.ac.uk). A registration form can be found on the website.

## **19th British Combinatorial Conference**

The next British Combinatorial Conference will take place at the University of Bangor, Sunday 29 June - Friday 4 July, 2003. For further information, see the website:

<http://www.informatics.bangor.ac.uk/public/math/bcc2003/index.html>

Invited speakers confirmed so far:

**Dr Simon Blackburn** (Royal Holloway, University of London),

**Prof Alexandre Borovik** (UMIST, Manchester)

**Prof Pavol Hell** (Simon Fraser University, British Columbia),

**Prof Dieter Jungnickel** (Universität at Augsburg),

**Dr Imre Leader** (DPMMS, Cambridge),

**Prof Arun Ram** (University of Wisconsin-Madison),

**Prof Anne Street** (University of Queensland, Brisbane),

**Prof G unter Ziegler** (Technische Universit  at, Berlin)

## Recent PhDs in Combinatorics

### University of Glamorgan

#### **Roberto Montemanni,**

Upper and lower bounds for the fixed spectrum frequency assignment problem, PhD, University of Glamorgan, January 2002 (Director of Studies D.H. Smith).

Thesis is available at

<http://web.glam.ac.uk/schools/sot/doms/Research/radiofreq.php>

Roberto is now working at IDSIA, Galleria 2, 6928 Manno-Lugano, Switzerland ([roberto@idsia.ch](mailto:roberto@idsia.ch)).