

EGMO Board: Dr Jennifer Barnes, President of Murray Edwards College
Prof Marcus du Sautoy OBE
Prof Frances Kirwan FRS
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Prof Bernard Silverman FRS

EGMO Committee: Dr Ceri Fiddes, Competition Director
Dr Don Collins, Treasurer
Dr Vesna Kadelburg
Dr Joseph Myers
Miss Vicky Neale
Dr Geoff Smith
Mrs Mary Wimbury, UKMT Executive Director
Miss Alison Zhu



EGMO | 2012
European Girls' Mathematical Olympiad

March 1, 2011

UKMT Press Information

Embargo on publicity until 8 March 2011

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The date 8 March 2011 is the 100th International Women's Day, an important festival in many parts of Europe.

<http://www.egmo2012.org.uk/> will open on 8 March 2011

We announce the establishment of the first **European Girls' Mathematical Olympiad** (EGMO), to be held at Murray Edwards College (founded as New Hall) of the University of Cambridge. This event is created by a partnership between MEC and the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust, the educational charity which organises mathematics competitions in secondary schools in the UK.

The Olympiad will be held during 10–16 April 2012. Countries will send teams consisting of their strongest four female mathematicians of school age to compete at EGMO. This venture is inspired by the very successful *China Girls' Mathematical Olympiad* which has encouraged many more girls to develop and pursue their interest in mathematics.

Competitors will try to solve eight very hard problems during 9 hours of examinations over a two day period.

We intend that this competition will become an annual event, moving around Europe every year with host countries providing the competition funding. Preliminary contacts indicate that about 20 nations will send teams to the inaugural competition.

There will be a nationwide talent search to find the girls to form the UK team at EGMO 2012. A *Competition Challenge* (the UK Mathematical Olympiad for Girls) will be held in June 2011 to select those students who will engage in training for the competition.

Quotes

Carol Vorderman MBE: "A European Maths Competition for girls is a great idea. It's always great to have a focus for excellence and this will help bring on many female maths stars of the future."

"Having the smartest girls in Europe start to network as teenagers is a wonderful idea. There are so many talented and lovely youngsters in the UK, who rarely get a chance to show themselves on a grander stage. These children are critical for our economic success in the years to come. They will drive the industries of the future, and I wish

A partnership of



United Kingdom Mathematics Trust



Murray Edwards
College
founded as New Hall

them all every success.”

Dr Jennifer Barnes, President of Murray Edwards College, Cambridge:

“Murray Edwards College is both honoured and delighted to host the first ever European Girls’ Maths Olympiad in April 2012.”

“A commitment to excellence in mathematics has been part of our history since our founding as New Hall in 1954. In 2009, we endowed a Fellowship in Mathematics, and its first holder is our Fellow and EGMO organiser, Vicky Neale.”

“Murray Edwards College pursues talent and provokes potential. We look forward to welcoming the next generation of the brightest mathematical minds from across Europe to the College.”

EGMO people available for interview.

Dr Ceri Fiddes, former UK IMO deputy leader, Head of Mathematics at Millfield School. EGMO Competition Director. cfiddes@egmo2012.org.uk (+447801365490)

Miss Vicky Neale, Director of Studies in Mathematics at Murray Edwards College, Cambridge.
vrn20@cam.ac.uk +44 1223 765882

Dr Geoff Smith, University of Bath. Elected member of the Advisory Board (= Council) of the IMO. Chair of the British Mathematical Olympiad. G.C.Smith@bath.ac.uk. +447941147895

Miss Alison Zhu, former UK IMO team member (one bronze medal, one silver medal). Trinity College, Cambridge. ahz21@cam.ac.uk

Maths Competitions Background These began in the 19th century in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. They have spread across the globe since 1959, when the first *International Mathematical Olympiad* was held in Romania.

Though it started as a small scale competition for the countries in the communist bloc, the IMO has grown over the years. It is held annually, and was in Kazakhstan in 2010. In 2011 it will be held in the Netherlands and in 2012 in Argentina. These days about 100 countries send teams to the IMO, and it has become the World Championship of secondary school mathematics. Many of the leading mathematicians in the world were IMO participants in their youth. Three of the past four Fields Medallists (equivalent to the Nobel Prize for mathematics) were IMO participants in their youth.

Most countries now have a system of maths competitions in their schools. In the UK over half a million children take part in the *Maths Challenges* organised by UKMT every year.

There are now many regional maths competitions all over the world. The UK participates in the *Balkan Mathematical Olympiad* and the *Romanian Master of Mathematics* competitions. In 2010 the UK sent a team to the *China Girls’ Mathematical Olympiad* under the leadership of Ceri Fiddes and Alison Zhu. Inspired by the success of that competition, UKMT and MEC decided to launch a European Girls’ Competition in 2012.

Useful information and contacts

EGMO director: director@egmo2012.org.uk

EGMO information: info@egmo2012.org.uk

Murray Edwards College: <http://www.murrayedwards.cam.ac.uk/>

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UKMT: <http://www.mathcomp.leeds.ac.uk/>

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IMO Official: <http://www.imo-official.org/>

IMO 2011: <https://www.imo2011.nl/>

British Participation in Maths Competitions: <http://www.imo-register.org.uk/>

The British Mathematical Olympiad: <http://www.bmoc.maths.org/>

Photos The attached group photograph with a red background was taken at the 2010 China Girls' Mathematical Olympiad in Shijiazhuang. There are four UK students in green shirts, and their leaders Dr Ceri Fiddes (in dark clothing) and Miss Alison Zhu (in white clothing). From left to right, the students are Andrea Chlebikova, Ruth Franklin, Alice Ahn and Maithra Raghu.

Photos of Vicky Neale and Alison Zhu (with spectacles) are also available. UKMT holds the copyright, and permissions where necessary, and allows publication.