The Daily Group Theorist

Rascals Rob Ribena Reserve 6th August 1997 **No. 10**

Talks Today

Chair E F Robertson:

09:00 Ruskuc: Groups, semigroups and presentations

10:00 Coffee

10:40 Linton: Recognising $\mathrm{GL}_n(q)$

11:40 Pahlings: Checking Dade's Conjectures

12:40 Lunch

Burnside Bibliography

Verity Mosenthal (now Jeffery) has donated a collection of preprints of *A Bibliography of Burnside* which Πeter mentioned in his historical talk. They are available free in the conference office. If you plan to take the last one, alert Geoff or Nada and some more copies will be made.

Thefts

The entire Tuesday conference delivery of soft drinks to go with lunches was stolen yesterday from the turning circle at the side of 1W. A security officer said "Fill in this form". If anyone tries to sell you a fruit drink in unusual circumstances, please deal with them appropriately. No jury would convict.

Cricket

The cricket was cancelled because of rain. This was completely according to plan. It is hoped that this cancellation will inspire wistful despair, and allow our visitors to share the full frustration of following this sport in an unsuitable climate.

Derek Robinson

Unfortunately Derek Robinson will not be attending the conference because of illness in his family. His talk on Friday is therefore cancelled.

Uranus

The planet Uranus was discovered in Bath by William Herschel. He manufactured his own telescopes in his kitchen, and made his observations from his garden. Thus the seventh planet of the solar system, and the first to be found since ancient times, was discovered by an observer standing between Sainsburys car park and the social security office.

The conference has a 15 minute tape recording (supplied by Bob Sandling) on Herschel and his work. It is hoped to play it in the University Hall today at 10:20 (arrangements permitting). There will be an announcement at morning coffee as to whether or not this will happen today.

Barn Dance II - review

Last night's barn dance was a remarkable success. Although our resident bagpiper *Postgrad Bill* was absent from the musical combo (he has been having difficulties with his tubes), the void was filled by *Light-fingered Willie*, the Cambridge keyboard captain now playing regularly in Birmingham. As ever, *Possum Pie* entertained on the fiddle, with his *blue grass* meets *blue stocking* style. Fred and Ginger Bryant gave wonderful directions, and we all had a splendid time.

Umbrella

Colin Campbell is keeper of lost umbrellas. For him, this is a labour of love, but he asks that people stop losing them since he has already acquired an extensive collection. Remember, an umbrella is not just for when it rains. It is a loving companion, and the source of the most affection a group theorist is likely to get. Each day we will feature the details of a particular umbrella in the hope of re-uniting it with its owner. Umbrella of the day: **Blue with red spots**.

Colin is a splendid fellah
Guardian of the lost umbrella
Sunshade, parasol, parapluie
are still left over from '93.

by *Mixed up ego, very loud*

William Fairweather Burnside

The British Society for the History of Mathematics (BSHM) is holding a meeting entitled *A celebration of William Burnside* on Saturday 25th October 1997 in the University of Greenwich. The meeting will be held in the Royal Naval College: lunch will be available in the famous painted room.

Speakers: Walter Feit, M. F. Newman, Walter Ledermann, June Burrows-Green, Peter Neumann, Martin Everett, A. J. S. Mann. Prebooking is essential; contact Tony Mann at the University of Greenwich. His email address is `A.Mann@gre.ac.uk`

Departure arrangements

People wanting to share taxis to the station when leaving Bath may wish to check the sign-up list in the conference office – to see if they can share with someone. Local taxi numbers include 444444 and 460606. Tim Hsu is the taxi-share Czar, and he suggests that one person in each team of 3 or 4 be designated taxi supremo, and telephone for the cab. We seek people with appropriate leadership qualities who will be able to cope with the pressures of this demanding rôle. This would look very impressive on your CV/resumé.

Bus Trip III

The *Groups 1997 caravan* will depart from Car Park F at 14:00. The tour will definitely involve the city of Wells with its large cathedral and bishop's palace, and a visit to Cheddar Gorge. The latter is a mini-Grand Canyon, but with an excellent cave. Cheddar is the home of the famous cheese, and you can purchase it in tourist traps in the village. You can also buy the local drink, *Scrumpy*, made from rotted apples. Scrumpy is to normal cider as aviation fuel is to lemonade. The containers on sale in Cheddar look very attractive, but the real thing can also be had in large ugly plastic containers in Bath market. It is not for recreational drinkers; you have been warned.

Burnside and Lyndon Dinner

Transport will leave from Car Park F at 19:45. Remember that participants wishing to drink wine during the meal must purchase it themselves.

Shopping Shuttle

The shuttle will not run today (Lyndon eve) and will run for the last time on Thursday evening 18:15–20:00.

Aftermath

When the conference is over, all conference documents will be made available at the conference web site. This will include names, addresses and email addresses of participants. Those conferees without easy access to the web will be given hard copy in the near future.