

The 1988 Leslie Fox Prize Meeting

THE third Leslie Fox Prize Meeting was held at Imperial College, London on Monday, March 28th, 1988. Five finalists had been selected to present papers from an entry of seventeen, which included entries from the UK, Europe, China and America. The finalists were chosen by the adjudicating committee for the originality and quality of their papers, together with the suitability of the material for presentation to a general audience of numerical analysts. The five papers chosen for presentation provided a varied programme, covering widely differing areas of numerical analysis.

The meeting was divided into a morning and an afternoon session. The morning session opened with a talk by T. Hagstrom (SUNY) on "Asymptotic boundary conditions for computational studies of wave propagation." This was followed by P. T. Harker (Pennsylvania) speaking on "Accelerating the convergence of the diagonalisation and projection algorithm for finite dimensional variational inequalities," and I. R. H.

Jackson (Cambridge) on "An order of convergence for radial basis functions." After lunch T. Tang (Leeds) spoke on "The spline collocation methods for non-standard Volterra integro-differential equations," followed by the final speaker of the day, N. Higham (Manchester) on "Analysis of the Cholesky decomposition of a semi-definite matrix." The adjudicators then met to consider the awarding of prizes.

A first prize deservedly went to N. Higham, the only person to date to have been a finalist at more than one Leslie Fox Prize Meeting. The talk given by N. Higham not only contained new and interesting results but was clearly and carefully presented. Each of the other finalists was presented with a second prize.

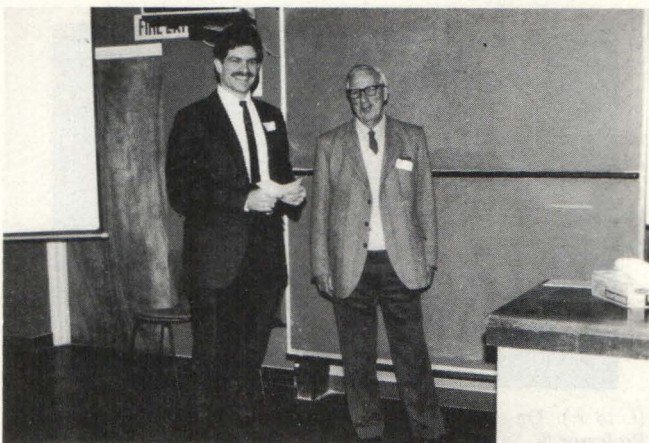
The whole day at Imperial College was, I believe, enjoyed by all those present. The atmosphere was relaxed (although the finalists themselves may not have felt relaxed) and there was ample opportunity to meet and chat informally with the finalists and other attendees



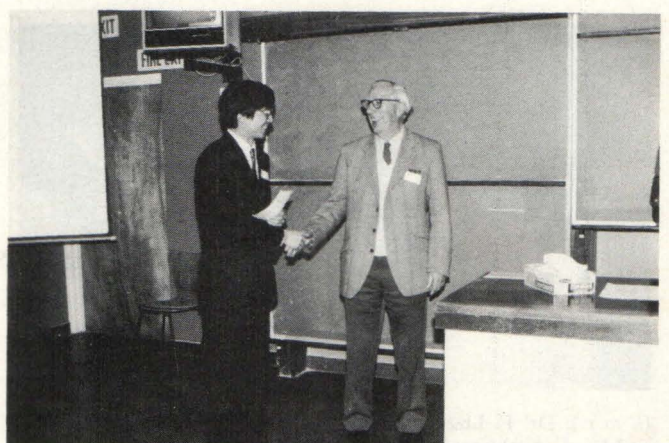
The finalists with Professor Fox (l. to r.) T. Tang, T. Hagstrom, N. Higham, I. Jackson and P. Harker



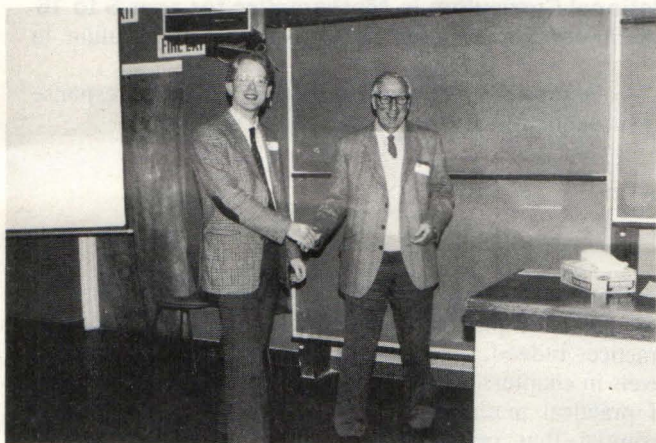
T. Hagstrom with Professor Fox



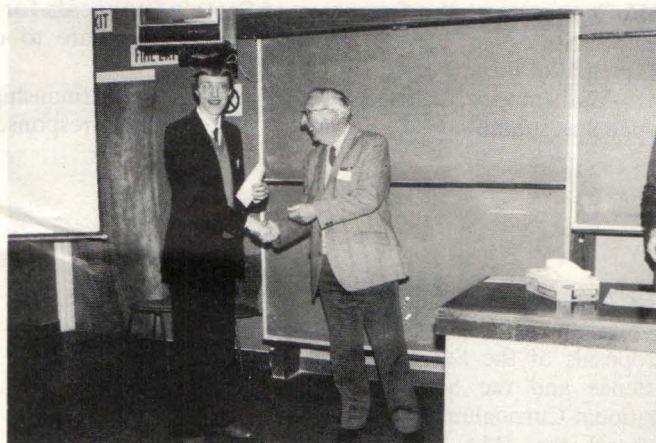
P. Harker with Professor Fox



T. Tang with Professor Fox



I. Jackson with Professor Fox



N. Higham with Professor Fox

over lunch and tea. Our thanks are given to Mike Bernal of Imperial College for local organisation, to the adjudicating committee for their work in selecting five interesting and varied papers, and, of course, to the finalists themselves.

I felt the one disappointment with this meeting was that only 38 people attended. I think that the quality of the meeting merited a larger audience and I hope that at

future meetings the high standard of the papers presented will be more accurately reflected in the size of the audience.

The next Leslie Fox Prize Meeting will be held in Cambridge on September 4th, 1989.

JENNIFER SCOTT
AERE, Harwell

Meeting of the IMA Journal of Numerical Analysis Editorial Board held on September 9th, 1988 at the Geological Society, London



(l. to r.). Dr. A. Spence, FIMA (University of Bath), Professor C. M. Elliott, FIMA (University of Sussex), Dr. J. K. Reid, FIMA (AERE, Harwell), Mrs. M. Drake (IMA), Professor K. W. Morton, FIMA (Oxford University Computing Laboratory), Miss A. Sharples (IMA), Dr. G. A. Watson, FIMA (University of Dundee), Dr. I. S. Duff, FIMA (AERE, Harwell), Professor M. J. D. Powell, FRS, FIMA (University of Cambridge) and Dr. J. A. Gregory, AFIMA (Brunel University, Uxbridge).

Numerical Analysis

The primary benefit of membership of this Group is the receipt of the *IMANA Newsletter* 3 times per year. The Editor (Iain Duff) and the IMA Office produced the usual superb issues in 1988, giving 120 pages of information to about 800 members, including, for example, notices of forthcoming seminars and conferences, news from NAG, announcements of recent technical reports and short articles. The October issue invites members to submit papers for a minisymposium that the Specialist Group will hold at the IMA Silver Jubilee Conference on September 5th, 1989, but it is unusual for the Group to stage its own meetings because the pages of the *Newsletter* show that there is no lack of interesting activities for IMA numerical analysts. In particular, the



Professor L. Fox, FIMA (Formerly University of Oxford)



The finalists of the 1988 Leslie Fox Prize Meeting with Professor Fox. (l. to r.) T. Tang, T. Hagstrom, N. Higham, I. Jackson and P. Harker

Leslie Fox Prize Meeting at Imperial College on March 28th, 1988 was highly successful, and we congratulate N. Higham (first prize), T. Hagstrom, P. T. Harker, I. R. H. Jackson and T. Tang on awards for their excellent contributions.

M. J. D. Powell, Chairman

Systems and Software Engineering

The major activity this year was a conference on "Mathematical Structures for Software Engineering" which was held at Manchester Polytechnic from July 13th to 15th. During the conference 23 papers were presented on both theoretical and practical aspects. The proceedings of the conference are to be published for the Institute by OUP. On the day before the conference a tutorial on the topic was held.

A 1-day symposium on "Mathematics for Software Engineering" took place at the Royal Institution on October 20th. During the symposium six projects were presented which represented a cross-section of the use of mathematics (and statistics) in building complex software products.

The group also helped coordinate the Institute's responses to various Government reports.

The major on-going project is the John Wiley Book Prize which will be awarded as part of the Silver Jubilee activities. The competition is open to anyone who will not have reached his/her 25th birthday by December 31st, 1988. Further details are available from the group chairman.

D. Simpson, Chairman