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J. D. Lamb
University of Kent at Canterbury

D. A. Preece
University of Kent at Canterbury



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Preface

The British Combinatorial Conference, a biennial event, took place at the University of Kent at Canterbury in 1999, with ourselves as the Local Organisers. This volume contains the texts of the Invited Talks from this seventeenth Conference in the series. As at the previous Conferences, the Invited Speakers were distinguished research workers chosen by the British Combinatorial Committee to provide seminal surveys of topics representative of the main areas of present-day combinatorial mathematics. We are delighted with the excellence of the papers that have been produced.

In preparing this volume, we have been greatly assisted by being able to use the \LaTeX style-file and other documentation prepared by Professor Rosemary A. Bailey for the Invited Talks for the 1997 Conference [London Mathematical Society Lecture Note Series 241].

The Conference was very grateful for financial support from the London Mathematical Society and from the Institute of Mathematics and Its Applications.

John D. Lamb
Donald A. Preece

University of Kent at Canterbury

J.D.Lamb@ukc.ac.uk
D.A.Preece@ukc.ac.uk

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Richard Rado FRS (1906–1989)