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978-1-108-72874-4 — Groups St Andrews 2017 in Birmingham

Edited by C. M. Campbell, M. R. Quick, C. W. Parker, E. F. Robertson, C. M. Roney-Dougal

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INTRODUCTION

Groups St Andrews 2017 was held at the University of Birmingham from 5th August to 13th August 2017. This was the tenth in the series of Groups St Andrews group theory conferences. There were over 200 mathematicians involved in the meeting as well as some family members and partners. The Scientific Organising Committee of Groups St Andrews 2017 was Colin Campbell, Martyn Quick, Edmund Robertson and Colva Roney-Dougal (all from St Andrews) and Chris Parker (Birmingham).

The academic business of the conference ran for seven days from Sunday 6th August to Saturday 12th August. Four main speakers delivered four talks each, surveying areas of contemporary development in group theory and related areas: Michael Aschbacher (Caltech), Pierre-Emmanuel Caprace (Université Catholique de Louvain), Radha Kessar (City, University of London) and Gunter Malle (TU Kaiserslautern). There were five invited speakers delivering one-hour plenary talks: Tim Burness (University of Bristol), Vincent Guirardel (Université de Rennes 1), Harald Helfgott (University of Göttingen), Andrei Jaikin-Zapirain (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid) and Donna Testerman (École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne). In addition there were about 115 contributed short talks from the delegates.

In the evenings throughout the conference there was an extensive social programme. The main conference outing was a choice between Stratford upon Avon (with a chance to visit buildings and sites associated with William Shakespeare) and Warwick Castle. Other highlights of the social programme were a wine reception, a musical evening and the conference dinner. Once again *The Daily Group Theorist* was a nice feature of the conference. We thank the various editors of this, by now traditional, publication.

The support of the two main United Kingdom mathematics societies, the Edinburgh Mathematical Society and the London Mathematical Society has, once again, been an important factor in the success of these conferences. As well as supporting some of the expenses of the main speakers, the grants from these societies were used to support postgraduate students and also participants from Scheme 5 countries. Financial support was also received from the Heilbronn Institute for Mathematical Research and the publishers de Gruyter, Elsevier and Springer Nature.

Once again all the main speakers have written substantial surveys, in one case a joint article, for these Proceedings. The other papers are also of a survey nature.

We would like to thank Martyn Quick and Colva Roney-Dougal not only for their editorial assistance with these Proceedings but also for all their hard work in organising the conference. Last, and by no means least, we would like to thank Chris Parker, the local hero, for all his untiring efforts in making Birmingham such a happy venue.

CMC, EFR

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