Paul Erdös and ‘The Book’
Saturday 18 - Sunday 19 September 2010
A weekend school to be held at Rewley House, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford

Course Tutors
DR ROBIN WHITTY
BSC CMA1H FIMA
Robin Whitty has published widely in mathematics, computer science and software engineering. He is the convener of the website www.theoremoftheday.org

DR CARRIE RUTHERFORD BSC
Carrie Rutherford has a PhD in mathematics from Queen Mary University London. Her research interests include matroids and coding theory.

Director of Studies
DR ROBERT LOCKHART
Director of Studies in Computing & Mathematics, OUDCE

ACCOMMODATION
in Rewley House is in modern, comfortably furnished rooms, all with tea/coffee making facilities, TV, telephone and private bath or shower rooms.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS
Fees will only be refunded in exceptional circumstances and there are no refunds for cancellations made with less than 72 hours (3 days) notice. The cost of any accommodation and meals booked will be retained according to the following schedule:
• 4-6 weeks notice, 25% accommodation costs retained
• less than 4 weeks, 50% accommodation costs retained
• less than 7 days, 75% accommodation costs retained
• 72 hours or less notice, 100% accommodation and meal costs retained
All refunds will be subject to an administration charge. Refund requests should be made, in writing to the Manager of Public Programmes, Rewley House, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA.

PAYMENT by credit or debit card:
3 Digit Card Security Number* ____________________________
Mastercard / Visa / Maestro account number ____________________________
Expiry date ____________________________
Maestro Issue Number ____________________________
Please charge my account with the sum of £ ____________________________
Signed ____________________________
Date ____________________________

* This number will be destroyed once we have taken your payment. If you do not wish to supply this number you can pay by cheque or pay online by going to the url for this course: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/X7108.

Please return this form with your remittance (cheques payable to OUDCE) to the Day & Weekend Events Office, OUDCE, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA.
Tel: 01865 270368 or email ppdayweek@conted.ox.ac.uk
Paul Erdös famously proposed that every mathematical theorem has a most-beautiful-possible proof, and that these proofs are kept by God in ‘The Book’. To no mortal will God vouchsafe more than the briefest glimpse inside ‘The Book’; still, a surprising amount appears to be known about it and several hundred pages have even been published by Springer-Verlag (see recommended reading).

This weekend aims to equip the non-professional with everything they need to browse Aigner and Ziegler’s lovely collection and perhaps to recognise other extracts from ‘The Book’ which they may come across. Very little mathematical knowledge will be assumed but we aim to make this a hands-on experience – you should leave the course feeling that you might discover a proof from ‘The Book’ yourself.

RECOMMENDED READING

PROGRAMME

SATURDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2010
10:30am Registration and coffee/tea
11:00am Introduction to the course: aims
11:15am Paul Erdös: the man, his work, his legacy
12:30pm Lunch
2:00pm Proof paradigms I: contradiction
3:00pm Discussion: logic vs intuitionism
3:30pm Practice with contradiction
4:00pm Tea/coffee
4.30pm Proof paradigms II: case-by-case analysis
5.00pm Break
7:00pm Dinner
8.30pm Guest Speaker: PETER M NEUMANN OBE

SUNDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2010
8.15am Breakfast (residents only)
9.00am Proof paradigms III: induction
9.45am Practice with induction
10.30am Coffee / tea
11.00am Proof paradigms IV: counter-example
11.45am Discussion: would you bet your life on a proof?
12.30pm Lunch
2.00pm Looking ahead: computers, polymath, superhuman proofs
2.45pm Discussion: does ‘The Book’ exist?
3.30pm Tea/coffee and course disperses

ENROLMENT FORM

PAUL ERDÖS AND ‘THE BOOK’
OtoPro8MAR [X7108]

Name
Address
Postcode
Daytime Tel
Email

Would you like to receive email publicity from the Department? (Please tick)

I would prefer not to be on your mailing list?

To enrol online, add the course code X7108 to the end of the URL for the Department’s website: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/X7108 and you will be able to enrol directly onto this weekend course.

FEE OPTIONS
Residential Single £200.00
Residential Shared £182.50
Non-residential with meals (excluding breakfast) £137.50
Non-residential with baguette lunches (Saturday & Sunday) £105.00
Non-residential without meals £100.00
Vegetarian option (meal or baguette)?
Do you have a disability or special need? If so, please state your disability / special need