New members of the EMS executive committee

-At its meeting in Uppsala (Sweden) in June this year, EMS council elected three new members to the societies executive committee for a four-year period beginning in January 2005. Victor Buchstaber (Newsletter 38) was reelected. Thanks were given to Bodil Branner, Marta Sanz-Solé and Mina Teicher who leave the committee after several years of service.

Olga Gil Medrano received a Doctorado from the Universitat de Valéncia in 1982 and a Doctorate from the Université de Paris VI in 1985. She has been associate professor at the Universitat de Valéncia since 1986.

Her research interests lie in differential geometry and global analysis (in particular, variational problems on Riemannian manifolds). She has visited several universities, while working in cooperation with colleagues from Austria, Belgium, Brazil and France.

Olga has been a member of the Executive Committee of the Real Sociedad Matemática Española (Royal Spanish Mathematical Society, RSME) during the last four years, and she is now one of the vice-presidents. Amongst other things, she has been the Editor-in-Chief of the newsletter of the RSME from its beginning.

Carlo Sbordone was born in 1948 in Naples, Italy. He was a visiting researcher in the Scuola Normale Superiore of Pisa for two years, working with Ennio De Giorgi. He has also been a visiting professor at the University of Marlyland, University of Syracuse, University of Paris VI and the University of Umea. He became a full professor at the University of Naples in 1980.

His research interests include: homogenization of linear and nonlinear partial differential operators, relaxation of integral functionals of calculus of variations, existence and regularity theory for solutions of variational problems, reverse Holder inequalities, weak minima of variational integrals, regularity theory of Jacobians and quasiconformal mappings.
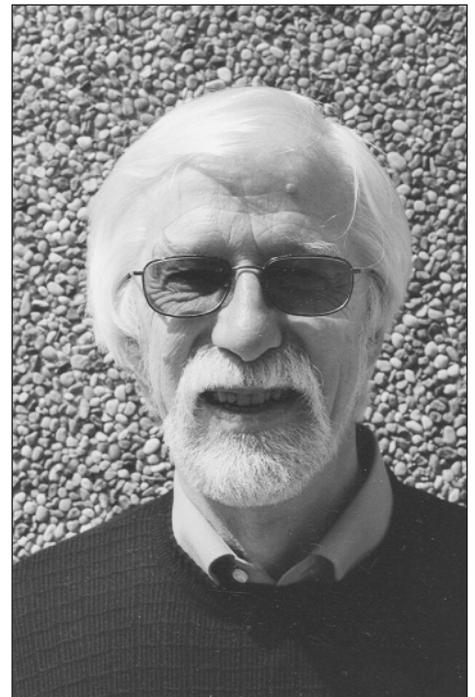
He has organized several conferences in Italy and France, and he is a member of the editorial board of various journals including "Annali di Matematica", "Rendiconti dell' Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei", "Ricerche di Matematica" and "Bollettino dell'Unione Matematica Italiana", which he currently edits.

Carlo is a Fellow of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Vice-President of the Accademia Pontaniana and Secretary of the Società Nazionale di Scienze Lettere e Arti in Naples. He is the President of the Unione Matematica Italiana and a member of the Technical Secretariat of the Italian Minister of Education, University and Research. He is also a member of the Italian Committee for the OECD-PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment).

In his opinion the EMS has a very important role in promoting mathematical research and supporting the European mathematical community. The EMS also gives considerable attention to increasing the level of understanding by the public of the nature and importance of mathematics. The decline in the number of mathematics students in some European countries is one of his main concerns. He believes we need to continue and expand our efforts to attract good students into our subjects by diversifying graduate programs and promoting excellence in the teaching of mathematics. His main hobby is singing Neapolitan songs.

Klaus Schmidt received a PhD from the University of Vienna in 1968. In 1969 he went to Great Britain, first as a one-year post-doc at the University of Manchester, then as a lecturer at Bedford College, University of London, and in 1973/1974 he joined Warwick University, where he was promoted to professor in 1983. In 1994, he returned to the University of Vienna.

Klaus Schmidt's research is mainly in the area of ergodic theory and its connections with other branches of mathematics (like operator algebras and arithmetic). In 1993, he was awarded the Ferran Sunyer i Balaguer Prize for the monograph 'Dynamical Systems of Algebraic Origin'. He became a full member of the Austrian Academy of Science in 1997.

From 1995 - 2003 he was one of the two Scientific Directors of the Erwin Schrödinger International Institute for Mathematical Physics (ESI), Vienna, Austria, and he is now President of the ESI.