2. News from the Scientific Secretary

The Council of the Bernoulli Society met during the European Meeting of Statisticians in Aarhus, August 20-24, 1995. The meeting was almost simultaneous with Council meetings in Beijing. Fortunately the major decisions taken at both places coincided!

The most significant event was surely the unanimous decision to hold the 5th World Congress of the Bernoulli Society at CIMAT, Guanajuato, Mexico, in the year 2000. The decision was based on both invited and unsolicited (but equally welcome) proposals from various locations. This world congress is planned to be a joint meeting with IMS, similar to the 2nd (Uppsala) and 3rd (Chapel Hill). The timing of the conference is still under discussion (January and May have both been suggested).

The year 2000 has been proclaimed World Mathematical Year by the International Mathematical Union, and sponsored by UNESCO, among other international bodies. One goal of the World Mathematical Year is to involve the less developed countries in mathematics, and the Bernoulli Society whole-heartedly supports this aim, as well as emphasizing its own international status, by the choice of location for our World Congress. A committee has been formed under the chairmanship of O.E. Barndorff-Nielsen to initiate Bernoulli Society activities in the World Mathematical Year. It will make proposals to our council and also coordinate our activities with those of the International Mathematical Union.

Council accepted a set of guidelines drafted by J. Teugels,
a) for affiliation of statistical societies, and
b) for the formation of local chapters of the Bernoulli Society.
To begin with the second type of arrangement, it should be recalled that the Bernoulli Society has had local chapters successfully operating in several countries of Eastern Europe for quite a number of years. These local chapters are specially aimed at helping groups of mathematical statisticians and probabilists in countries without convertible currencies to become members of Bernoulli Society. Dues are paid in local currency to the local chapter and used to circulate Bernoulli News, organize local activities, and so on. The new guidelines, in the main, formalize existing arrangements and will be the basis for founding new local chapters in the future. An affiliated society is an independently existing, national or international society for statistics and probability, which wishes to cooperate with the Bernoulli Society; perhaps in order to carry out some of the typical functions of a local chapter. Affiliation agreements could take more varied forms than local chapters, according to varied circumstances. But in both cases, affiliation agreements and local chapters will be reviewed by council every four years. The guidelines are available (e.g., by email) from any of the society officers.

With the new journal BERNOULLI, this newsletter Bernoulli News, and the fantastic programme of upcoming meetings, the Bernoulli Society has more to offer than ever before and the time is ripe for a membership drive for the Society. Bernoulli Society members are called on to help by encouraging individual colleagues to join; displaying on suitable notice-boards membership forms, brochures for BERNOULLI, posters for the Vienna World Congress, and so on. Do not hesitate to contact Bernoulli Society officers (in particular the scientific secretary or the membership secretary) for back-up.

Our journal *Stochastic Processes and its Applications* has a new editor: Jean Jacod will take over from Robert Adler next year.

Bernoulli Society goes WWW

Better late than never, the Bernoulli Society now has a World Wide Web site:

http://www.math.ruu.nl/bernoulli

Try us out and advise us on improvements to content and layout!
(by email to vanzwet@math.ruu.nl and/or gill@math.ruu.nl)
So far the site contains general information on the society, its journals, conferences, standing committees, and so on. We plan to add much more including (links to) the content of recent editions of Bernoulli News, the membership directory (and links to members?), links to sister-societies, etc.

The site has been set up by Erik van Zwet (Utrecht) and is currently administered by him and the scientific secretary.