The 1986 Leslie Fox Prize Meeting

THE finalists for the 1986 Leslie Fox Prize presented their papers at a meeting at Imperial College, London on Friday, September 5th, 1986. The five finalists had been chosen from an entry of eighteen, and all gave performances well worthy of that honour. Indeed, one could attend many prestigious meetings before finding two sessions of such high quality.

The speakers in the morning session were Andrew Wathen (Bristol) on "Attainable eigenvalue bounds for the Galerkin mass matrix," Jennifer Scott (Oxford) on "A convergence recipe for discrete methods for generalised Volterra equations," and Jesse Barlow (Penn State) on "On the smallest positive singular value of a singular M matrix with applications to ergodic Markov chains." The more than adequate lunch that followed helped to remove a little of the EEC butter mountain and was enjoyed by all, except perhaps the principals in the afternoon session!

The afternoon session saw Jim Demmel (Courant) expound on "On condition numbers and the distance to the nearest ill-posed problem," followed by Nick Gould (Harwell) on "On the accurate determination of search directions for simple differentiable penalty functions." The jury then retired while a suspenseful tea and biscuits was enjoyed.

On a day when there were deservedly no losers, the adjudicating panel of Professor A. R. Mitchell (chairman), Professor C. W. Clenshaw and Dr. J. K. Reid announced that second prizes would be awarded to Wathen, Scott and Barlow and that first prizes would be awarded to Jim Demmel and Nick Gould.
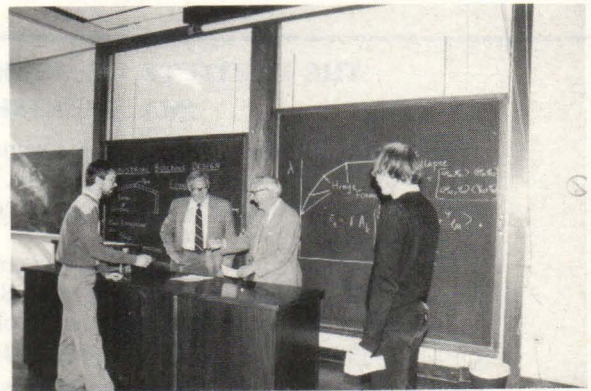
I think I can echo the sentiments of all fifty or so attendees in saying that the day was a great success. Our thanks go to Mike Bernal of Imperial for local organisation, to the adjudicators for selecting such a good group of finalists, and, of course, to the finalists themselves whose performances bode well for the future health of numerical analysis and paid fitting tribute to Leslie Fox, who I am sure enjoyed the proceedings as much as anyone present.

The next Leslie Fox Prize Meeting will be held at Easter 1988; further details are given in the call for papers on page 35 of the January/February, 1987, issue of the *Bulletin*. Contributions to the Prize Fund are still welcome. Cheques should be made payable to "The Leslie Fox Prize Fund" and should be sent to the IMA Office (c/o Catherine Richards) or to Nancy Nichols at the University of Reading. A donation by convenant enhances the value of the contribution. Covenant forms are available from the IMA.
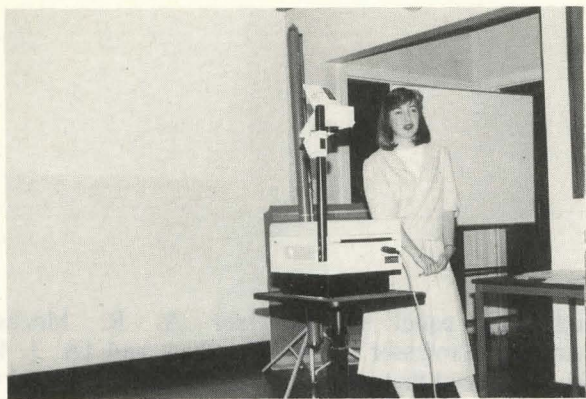
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The finalists with Professor Fox (*l. to r.*) Jennifer Scott, Jesse Barlow, Jim Demmel, Andy Wathen and Nick Gould
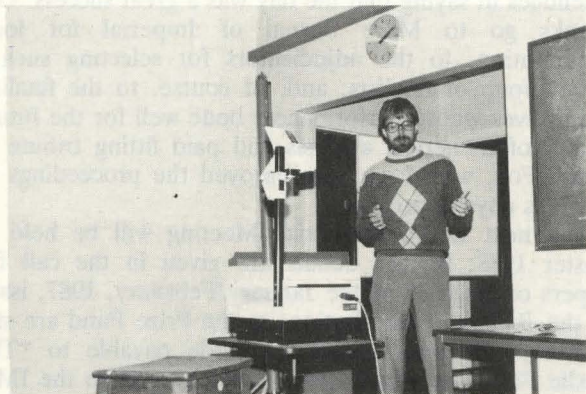

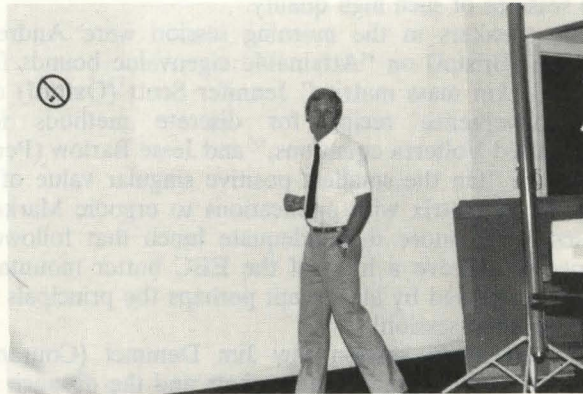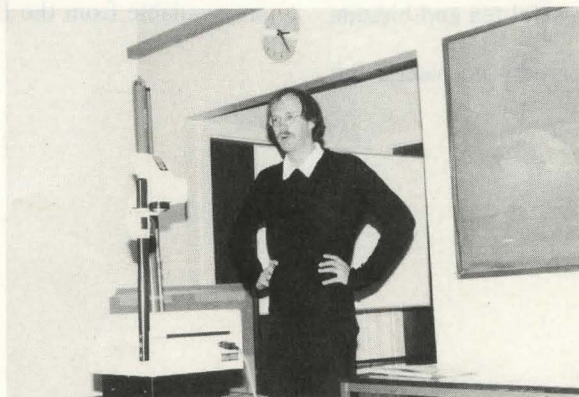(*l. to r.*) Jim Demmel, Professor Mitchell, Professor Fox and Nick Gould

Jennifer Scott

Jesse Barlow

Jim Demmel

Andy Wathen

Nick Gould

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The sweatshirts are available in four colours, grey, red, navy blue and white, and four sizes, small (34/36), medium (36/38), large (38/40) and extra large (40/44).

The tee-shirts are available in three colours, grey, sky blue and white, and four sizes, small (36), medium (38), large (40/42) and extra large (42/46).

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