

EDINBURGH MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

130th Session
2011 - 2012

POPULAR LECTURE – ALL WELCOME

Friday, 17th February 2012

At 4.30 p.m.
Lecture Theatre 3
Appleton Tower
University of Edinburgh

DR. C. WRIGHT
(Solipsys Ltd.)

Juggling: Theory and Practice

***Abstract:** Juggling has fascinated people for centuries. Seemingly oblivious to gravity, the skilled practitioner will keep several objects in the air at one time, and weave complex patterns that seem to defy analysis.*

In this talk the speaker demonstrates a selection of the patterns and skills of juggling while at the same time developing a simple method of describing and annotating a class of juggling patterns. By using elementary mathematics these patterns can be classified, leading to a simple way to describe those patterns that are known already, and a technique for discovering new ones.

This talk is suitable for most ages. Those with some mathematical background will find plenty to keep them occupied, and those less experienced can enjoy the juggling as well as the exploration and exposition of this ancient skill.

***The Speaker:** Colin Wright graduated in 1982 from Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, with a B.Sc.(Hons) in Pure Mathematics, and went on to receive his doctorate in 1990 from Cambridge University, England. While at Cambridge he also learned how to fire-breathe, unicycle, juggle and ballroom dance. Since then he has worked as a research mathematician, a computer programmer, and an electronics hardware designer, taking time to give presentations all over the world on "Juggling - Theory and Practice." Colin also enjoys sailing small boats and playing bridge, although not (so far) at the same time.*

Tea will be served from 4 p.m.
outside the lecture theatre

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