

TOPOLOGY

An International Journal of Mathematics founded by J.H.C. Whitehead

From the Editors

M.R. BRIDSON
R. COHEN
N.J. HITCHIN
F.C. KIRWAN
M. LACKENBY
J. LANNES
W. LÜCK
J. ROE
U. TILLMANN

The Mathematical Institute
24-29 St Giles
Oxford
OX1 3LB
United Kingdom
Tel: (01865) 273525
Fax: (01865) 273583

10 August 2006

Mr Robert Ross
Elsevier Science
400 Technology Square
Cambridge
MA 02139 USA

Dear Mr Ross,

We regret to have to tell you that we, the Editorial Board of Topology, are resigning with effect from 31 December 2006.

As you are well aware, the Editors have been concerned about the price of Topology since Elsevier gained control of the journal in 1994. We believe that the price, in combination with Elsevier's policies for pricing mathematical journals more generally, has had a significant and damaging effect on Topology's reputation in the mathematical research community, and that this is likely to become increasingly serious and difficult, indeed impossible, to reverse in the future.

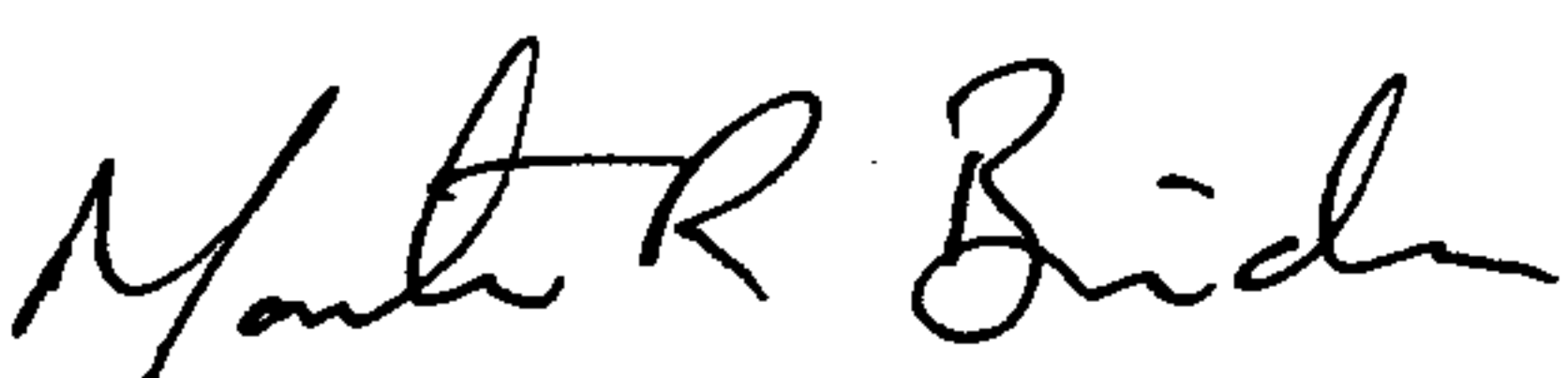


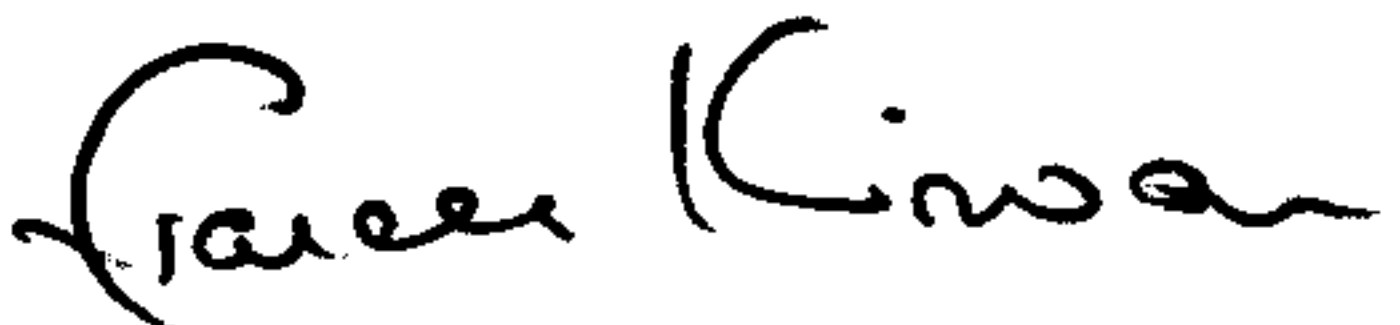




As you know, we have made efforts over the last five to ten years to negate this effect. When the alternative subscription option was introduced a few years ago (electronic access combined with annual print delivery for half the regular price), we were hopeful that it would help in this regard. However it made little impact, probably because most university libraries which subscribe to Topology do so through consortia deals.

The journal Topology has an illustrious history with which we, on becoming editors, were extremely proud to be associated. It owed its foundation to the inspiration and vision of the great Oxford topologist

JHC Whitehead in the late 1950s, and the Honorary Advisory Editorial Board and also our predecessors on the Editorial Board have included some of the greatest names of 20th century mathematics. We believe that the journal's ethos and structure, based around a group of editors making editorial decisions jointly in Oxford with the expert assistance and advice of highly eminent editors elsewhere around the world, has many strengths and has provided a great service to the mathematical community in the past. However we feel that Elsevier's policies towards the publication of mathematics research have undermined this legacy.

Therefore, with great reluctance and sadness, we have made the difficult decision to resign.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Bridson	
Ralph Cohen	
Nigel Hitchin	
Frances Kirwan	
Marc Lackenby	
Jean Lannes	
Wolfgang Lück	
John Roe	
Ulrike Tillmann	