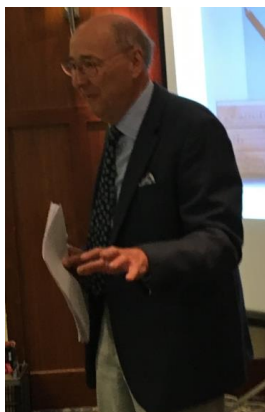


## IM2018 Report

IM 2018, Stratford-upon-Avon, the 24<sup>th</sup> such meeting and the UK's 7<sup>th</sup> hosting, saw 60 delegates and partners from 9 nations foregather at the Double-Tree Hilton for a weekend of great slide rule stuff! The meeting followed the traditional format by starting on Friday afternoon with swapping, discussion and the laying out of the slide rule display, this year some 240 slide rules with the theme of "long scale" and "pre 1914", but in truth being an eclectic layout of many mouth-watering rules and the first ever nearly complete (one missing?) display of Dargue slide rules. The evening programme, of interest to the partners as well, started with a Blue Guide light hearted talk about Stratford and its History and a General / Slide Rule knowledge quiz set by Rod. A good time was had by all!

The main business of the Saturday was an excellent and wide ranging series of 9 presentations, starting with the Keynote Address by Dr David Bryden (right) who had performed the same task at the UK's first meeting in 1996. These were interspersed with breaks for sustenance and discussion as well as the inevitable buying, selling and swapping of more slide rules. The talks were:



English Patents in the Georgian Era – Dr. David Bryden  
Weapons of Mass Destruction – John Hunt  
Long Scale slide rules – from words to scales – Jose Fernandez  
Fastest slide rule in the West – David Rance  
A different way of looking at Collections – Wolfgang Irlner  
Lafay and Kaufman: Two Home-based inventors – Nathan Zeldes  
Michael Stifel – Klaus Kuehn  
A rebuild of Marian Rejewski's Cyclometer – Jerry McCarthy  
The-I Flying Fish rule and its cubic equation solving – Jerry McCarthy

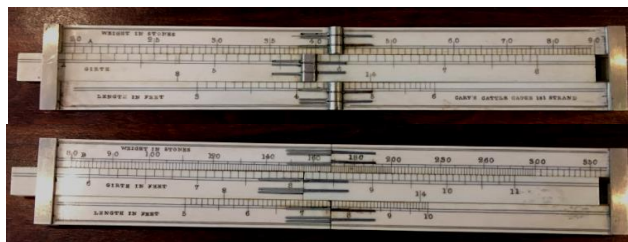
All were excellent, and the presenters have to be complimented on both subject matter and quality, it would be impossible to differentiate between them.

The business day concluded as always with brief reports from all the collecting organisations represented and the 2018 Oughtred Society Awards (see earlier); with our invite to the 2019 International meeting – see below.

The occasion concluded with a most enjoyable Gala Dinner for delegates and their partners, very efficiently presented by the Hilton staff. A really great weekend, well done the organising committee! I also loved the lament (sadly it went unpublished on the day) which Sylvia Martin had written and which I was able to acquire, which so accurately reflected an outsider's view:

*To Stratford I came for the Bard  
But found it to be very hard  
There were so many rules  
And other such tools  
My pleasure was totally marred!*

More will follow; our own Bardette gave me a page full!



My own small piece of perfection during the meeting was a slide rule, (above), ex Mick Taylor's display (inevitably), an exquisite 4" folding ivory Cary's Cattle Gauge, where even the slide folded! How it has survived is a miracle, now that really was something extra special!