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Editorial –

The Third Annual *Mathematical Gazette* Writing Awards

I am delighted to say that more of you have responded than in previous years, perhaps in response to the associated prize draw – which was won Michael Mudge.

One of the purposes of the readers' poll is to provide information about what appeals to you. Almost every article and note received some support, which I interpret as meaning that the we are succeeding in meeting the needs of a wide range of *Gazette* readers.

The leading article received just over 13% of the votes and the leading Note received just over 9% of the votes. The articles and notes receiving 5% or more of the votes were as follows:

1997 Article of the Year

	<i>Author</i>	<i>Title of article</i>
1	Ann Hirst and Keith Lloyd	Cassini, his ovals and a space probe to Saturn
2	Tony Crilly	A mathematician extraordinary – J. J. Sylvester
3	John Silvester	The Political Frogs
4=	Keith Lloyd	The standard deviation of $1, \dots, n$ – Pell's equation and rational triangles
4=	Scott Johnson and Hans Walser	Pop-up polyhedra

1997 Note of the Year

	<i>Author</i>	<i>Note</i>	<i>Title</i>
1	Colin Dixon	81.46	Geometry and the cosine rule
2	Mark Harvey	81.36	Locus problems with complex numbers
3	Rev. L. M. Brown	81.41	An algorithm for square roots
4	Roy Barbara	81.48	Two short proofs of Morley's Theorem

I congratulate all the authors listed above, especially Keith Lloyd, Ann Hirst and Colin Dixon, to whom I have sent prizes and certificates. I also wish to thank all the readers who took the trouble to vote.

STEVE ABBOTT