Mathematics support has a long tradition in Scotland. Indeed, in the 17th century John Napier hoped that his logarithms would help astronomers with their calculations. Now, in the 21st Century, many Scottish universities have some form of mathematics support provision. Therefore, in order to establish and foster links between those involved or interested in mathematics support within higher education in Scotland, with the generous support of sigma, the Scottish Mathematics and Statistics Support Network was established in 2008. Now, two years and three workshops/conferences later, again with generous sponsorship from sigma, the Network has just launched its website: http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/mathsnetwork/home/.

The idea of a regional hub for those involved in mathematics support in Scotland was first proposed at a conference entitled "Addressing the Quantitative Skills Gap: Establishing and Sustaining Cross-Curricular Mathematics Support in Higher Education" sponsored by sigma and the Wilkinson Charitable Trust and held in St Andrews in July 2007. A year
later, in July 2008, the first Scottish Mathematics and Statistics Support Workshop was held in St Andrews with 12 attendees from 8 institutions, and the Network was formed.

The second conference was held in June 2009 at Glasgow University. Updates about the then current mathematics support provision in their respective institutions were given by: Michael Allardice, University of Aberdeen; John Little, Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen; Wendy Lawrenson, University of Aberdeen; and Shazia Ahmed, University of Glasgow. Presentations covered topics including: measuring the effectiveness of mathematics support (Prof Tony Croft, Loughborough University and Director of sigma, and also Dr Ciaran Mac An Bhaird from the National University of Ireland, Maynooth); SUMS, Statistical Understanding Made Simple, a freely available automated resource generator for teaching statistics (Dr Maxine Swingler, University of Glasgow and Mr Kevin Swingler, University of Stirling); and MathAssess, a suite of open source tools for e-assessment in mathematics (Dr Sue Milne, ELandWeb). Additionally, a demonstration of robotic lego was given by Dr Ewan Russell and Mr Steve Joiner, both Coventry University.

The third Scottish Mathematics and Statistics Support Network Annual Conference was held in June 2010 at Edinburgh Napier University. The meeting opened with a presentation by Prof Tony Croft on supporting students at the transition to higher education. Ann Evans and some of her students gave a presentation about MathsPlus at Edinburgh Napier University (the first 22 years!) and John Little led a discussion on assessment and feedback. Institution-specific talks were given by Shazia Ahmed, who outlined the provision and evaluation of mathematics support at the University of Glasgow, Martin Grehan, who reported on first year students’ lack of engagement with mathematics support at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth, and Sue Barnes, who described the newly founded Maths Skills Support Centre at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow. Additionally, talks were given by Dr Sue Milne on open educational resources in mathematics support and by Dr Christie Marr on non-remedial mathematics support at the University of St Andrews and further afield.

To find out more about the Scottish Mathematics and Statistics Support Network please visit the website http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/mathsnetwork/home/ which, in addition to papers from the above conferences, has links to articles and reports regarding mathematics and mathematics teaching as well as to teaching resources. To suggest further links, find out more about current mathematics support provision within Scotland, or join the network, please email smsn-enquiries@gla.ac.uk.