

2003 AGM Minutes

Minutes of the 15th Annual General Meeting of the Association of C & C++ Users
(The C Users' Group (UK))
held on Saturday 5th April at the Holiday Inn, Oxford

The Meeting commenced at 13:00, Alan Griffiths in the Chair, Alan Bellingham taking the minutes.

Approximately 70 members were in attendance.

1) Apologies for absence

No apologies had been received.

2) Minutes of the 14th AGM

These were printed in leaflets handed out at the meeting.

Proposed: David Hodge

Accepted unanimously

3) Matters arising

No matters arising

4) Reports

Chair report (Alan Griffiths)

Society business has been proceeding smoothly. However, due to pressure of other matters, Alan was declining to stand for re-election.

Treasurer (Bryan Scattergood)

A full breakdown of figures was presented in the membership pack.

After the tiny deficit of last year, the bottom line figure is strongly up, being £5,520.34 in surplus. However, as was mentioned then, some £3,740.00 had been outstanding invoices, meaning that the adjusted figure is actually £1,780.34, down from £3,683.95. The major reason for this is that printing costs have risen considerably, being over £5,000 higher than last time.

In addition, the turnover, at £47,237.36, is getting close to the VAT threshold of £55,000, although the adjusted figure of about £43,500 gives us a larger margin.

Also, the published figures cover the activities as seen by the treasurer. Some income and costs go through the US organisation without ever passing through the main accounts.

Francis Glassborow suggested that, in light of the VAT threshold, the society may wish to more formally split the activities between the VAT zone (i.e. the European Union area) and the rest of the world.

In answer to a question from the audience, Bryan pointed out that the lack of a figure for the cost of running committee meetings was due to committee members never actually claiming expenses for their activities – a tradition he strongly encouraged.

Bryan was also not standing for re-election, but was prepared to shadow his replacement.

Membership (David Hodge/Reg Charney)

Reg Charney (US Agent) reported that US membership is growing slowly. There is US \$4,200 in the US treasury, and 25 – 30 people attend per meeting. Also, the US branch produces the Accent newsletter. His ambition is to get the US membership to the point where he could hold a conference in the US – currently, US conferences as a whole are in a poor state.

David Hodge provided membership figures and breakdown in the membership pack. To summarise, at the time of the meeting, we have 1088 members, which is only a small distance behind the final figure for last year. With three months left to go, we should pass last year's figure. Also, we have renewed our registration under the UK Data Protection Act.

David also publicly thanked Detlef Vollman and Jon Krom for their work in the German area, and also Malcolm Ogden and Jon Lacey for their work as membership assistants. In response to a question from Francis Glassborow as to whether Malcom was still able to continue, David replied that he had asked him, and that Malcom was still happy doing it.

Electronic Communications (Steve Dicks)

There had been some hardware problems recently with the server, which needed fixing. Steve took the opportunity to upgrade the OS at the same time. He has plans for revamping the web site, but needs help for this.

As a side-note, ACCU now hosts the UK Fortran mailing list!

Journal Advertising (Pete Goodliffe)

A full report was presented in the membership pack.

To summarise, advertising is relied upon to cover printing costs. We have lost two long-term contracts, but have picked up Dr Dobb's Journal on a yearly contract. More advertisers are needed.

Pete has stepped down in favour of Chris Lowe, but is still shadowing him.

Standards (presented by Francis Glassborow on behalf of Lois Goldthwaite)

A full report was presented in the membership pack.

Francis mentioned that the major activity by ACCU in this area was the hosting of the WG14 and WG21 meetings (WG14 being the C standardisation committee, WG21 being the C++ one) at the same venue as the conference, in the weeks adjacent to the AGM. This is the first time that a voluntary organisation has done this.

Also, Chris Hills (in the audience) mentioned that, not only is Wiley about to publish the current C and C++ standards in hardcover, but that the C90 standard (referred to by the MISRA C coding standard among others) will also be republished at about £30.

5) Appointment of auditor

N Brisk and Co were re-appointed as auditors for another year.

Proposed: Bryan Scattergood

Accepted unanimously.

6) Election of officers and committee

Chair	Ewan Milne Proposed by Alan Griffiths	Seconded by Alan Kelley
Secretary	Alan Bellingham Proposed by David Hodge	Seconded by Bryan Scattergood
Treasurer	Paul Johnson Proposed by Bryan Scattergood	Seconded by Ewan Milne
Membership Sec.	David Hodge Proposed by Ewan Milne	Seconded by Reg Charney
Electronic Comms.	Stephen Dicks Proposed by Stewart Brodie	Seconded by Paul Grenyer
Publications Officer	Tom Hughes Proposed by David Hodge	Seconded by Phil Bass
Public Relations	No nominations	

Non-executive members of Committee

Stewart Brodie
Alan Griffiths
Bryan Scattergood
Mark Radford
Mark Easterbrook
Paul Grenyer
Antony Barrett-Powell

Proposed by Alan Kelley Seconded by David Hodge

Vote in block, accepted unanimously

Francis Glassborow asked ACCU to show appreciation of the work of Silas Brown over a number of years as the Disabilities Officer, saying that ACCU should be proud to be associated with his efforts in the field. Alan Griffiths seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

Other posts

Reg Charney	USA Group
Silas Brown	Disabilities Officer
Lois Goldthwaite	International Standards Officer
Chris Lowe	Advertising
James Dennett	CVu Editor

7) Motions where notice has been given

A motion was proposed by Alan Griffiths with regard to a change to the constitution, namely clause 1.1 (Title). This clause currently reads:

Title 1.1 The name of the Association shall be the C Users' Group (UK), to be known publicly as the Association of C & C++ Users.

The changed wording is to be:

Title 1.1 The name of the Association shall be the C Users' Group (UK), to be known publicly as ACCU.

This motion was brought forward in light of the continuing expansion of ACCU's activities beyond the boundaries of C and C++ - especially the Java, C# and Python languages. Since the society is widely known by the initial letters, the suggestion was made that the full meaning should be dropped, and that hereafter just the initials should be used.

Some debate occurred, with no arguments against, except that a suggestion was made that the T-shirts would need reprinting. However, the T-shirts didn't have the full name anyway.

Reg Charney mentioned that the USA group was also considering the use of the name 'Programming Animals', though the audience in general felt that this name was perhaps inappropriate as a formal name.

The motion was seconded by Reg Charney, and passed unanimously.

8) Any other AGM business

No other business had been raised.

9) Close

The business of the Meeting closed at 1355