

ACCU

Annual General Meeting 2009

Welcome

To this, the 21st Annual General Meeting of the ACCU. Here following is the agenda, the reports, and finally, at the back to avoid confusion between its content and the current meeting's content, the minutes for last year's AGM. Beyond that, you should find the accounts, which have been printed as a separate document.

There being no constitutional issues, there seem to be no reasons why this should not be a quick meeting, perhaps even as brief as last year's.

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Agenda

Agenda of the 21st Annual General Meeting of ACCU held on Saturday 25th April at the Barceló Oxford Hotel, Oxford

- 1 Apologies for absence**
- 2 Minutes of the 20th Annual General Meeting**
- 3 Annual reports of the officers**
- 4 Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2008**
- 5 Election of Auditor**
- 6 Election of Officers and Committee**
- 7 Honorary Membership**
- 8 Other motions for which notice has been given.**
- 9 Any other Annual General Meeting Business (To be notified to the Chair prior to the commencement of the Meeting)**

Chair's Report

It has been a steady year for ACCU.

Membership participation is strong, perhaps stronger than it has been for a while. Contributions to CVu and Overload have, for example, have been wide ranging and interesting. CVu, in particular, has been almost bursting at the seams, so full was it. It interesting to set this against the decline in commercial programming magazines. The conventional wisdom has it that paid-for content can no longer compete with free content on the web. ACCU's recent experience would appear to contradict this. The last edition of Dr Dobbs Journal arrived in the same post as a recent CVu. Both were 48 pages long, and while Dr Dobbs was largely filled with adverts and its articles rather lacked technical weight, CVu was cover-to-cover with solid programming goodness.

In the middle of the year, we split the publication calendar. Rather than produce CVu and Overload in the same month, to the same deadlines, we now publish on alternate months. This is working very well. It makes ACCU presence more constant, which I believe has helped stimulate at least submissions activity. It has certainly helped make the advertising officer's job easier.

Book reviewing continues to be a popular ACCU pastime. We have a number of fairly regular reviewers, a largely number of irregulars, along with a steady trickle of new people. We have recently rebuilt the book reviews section of the website, with the aim of making it easier to search the reviews archive.

Following Tim Penhey's reign as editor of CVu, we have had difficulty in finding a long-term replacement. The initially ad-hoc series of guest editors has, in truth and despite the stress it caused our publications officer, worked very well. We have now taken some steps to reduce the work load on the editor, with the aim of steadying the CVu ship.

As well as magazines the credit crunch is also apparently hitting conferences. I say apparently because again ACCU is bucking the trend. There were a colossal number of submissions for this year's conference, and it's to the conference committee's credit that they weren't daunted by the sheer volume. The number of attendees, while perhaps not hitting last year's record high, held up well amid the doom and gloom.

Several good points, no significant lows. A steady, if slightly paradoxical, year then.

Jez Higgins

Secretary's Report

The main ACCU committee has been remarkably quite this past year, even more so than in previous years, due primarily to the fact that most of the real grunt work -- organising this conference, running the web site, and producing the publications -- are done by very capable subcommittees. As a result, I'm happy to have had very little to do.

Alan Bellingham

Membership Secretary's Report

Day to day, membership ran smoothly this year: the system successfully sent reminders and processed payments as expected. However, the membership statistics show that this wasn't enough to reverse the decline in membership numbers.

Summaries of the membership numbers and their changes over the last year are shown below. The number of new members signing up has remained about the same: the fall is mainly related to failing to retain current members. Last year I believed this trend was due to problems with the membership reminders in 2007, and wrote to many of the lost members to apologise and invite them back to ACCU; the positive response rate was only ~10%. A second year with a net loss suggests that the reasons for that loss are more complicated. I'll be asking the committee to consider ways to understand and reduce these losses. Suggestions from the members are welcome.

You'll also notice a particularly sizable drop in the number of corporate members. A small number (1 or 2) responded to questions about their decision to leave, and suggested that with reduced budgets this year they wouldn't be sending staff to the conference. This implies that that some organisations don't see value in ACCU membership beyond the conference discount, which is disappointing.

I planned to issue a new Membership Handbook as a PDF available on the website during this year. On reflection the committee had reservations about the privacy of members' information, and we decided against going ahead. We now plan to work on a member search feature on the website, which should allow members to find each other, while keeping tighter control of your information.

(Data correct on 2009-04-16)

| Members by Category | | (diff) |
|---------------------------------|-----|--------|
| Individual (Full 663, Basic 46) | 709 | (-51) |
| Student (Full 17, Basic 3) | 20 | (+2) |
| Corporate Members | 29 | (-18) |
| Honorary Members | 23 | (+1) |
| Gratis Members | 22 | (0) |
| Total | 803 | (-66) |
| Complimentary Journals | 55 | (-3) |

Activity By Month

| Month | 2008-9 | | 2007-8 | |
|-------|---------|-----|---------|-----|
| | Renewal | New | Renewal | New |
| May | 14 | 8 | 1 | 12 |
| Jun | 12 | 12 | 6 | 8 |
| Jul | 5 | 9 | 6 | 8 |
| Aug | 255 | 9 | 309 | 10 |
| Sep | 88 | 9 | 109 | 16 |
| Oct | 30 | 11 | 35 | 10 |
| Nov | 30 | 6 | 13 | 11 |
| Dec | 22 | 10 | 24 | 12 |
| Jan | 20 | 15 | 8 | 29 |
| Feb | 26 | 45 | 13 | 25 |
| Mar | 28 | 25 | 12 | 22 |
| Apr* | 14 | 7 | 27 | 33 |

Members By Joining Year

| Year | Members | Mar-'08 | Diff | Loss(09/08) | Loss(08/07) |
|------|---------|---------|------|-------------|-------------|
| 1987 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0% | 0% |
| 1988 | 4 | 3 | +1 | +33% | 25% |
| 1989 | 8 | 11 | -3 | 27% | 0% |
| 1990 | 19 | 19 | 0 | 0% | 21% |
| 1991 | 19 | 20 | -1 | 5% | 13% |
| 1992 | 18 | 20 | -2 | 10% | 20% |
| 1993 | 15 | 17 | -2 | 12% | 23% |
| 1994 | 24 | 26 | -2 | 8% | 13% |
| 1995 | 27 | 30 | -3 | 10% | 14% |
| 1996 | 9 | 12 | -3 | 25% | 37% |
| 1997 | 20 | 23 | -3 | 13% | 12% |
| 1998 | 22 | 28 | -6 | 21% | 10% |
| 1999 | 52 | 51 | +1 | +2% | 16% |
| 2000 | 60 | 72 | -12 | 17% | 23% |
| 2001 | 49 | 57 | -18 | 32% | 22% |
| 2002 | 38 | 49 | -11 | 22% | 26% |
| 2003 | 30 | 38 | -3 | 8% | 37% |
| 2004 | 14 | 15 | -1 | 7% | 29% |
| 2005 | 21 | 35 | -14 | 40% | 22% |
| 2006 | 47 | 93 | -46 | 49% | 34% |
| 2007 | 82 | 171 | -89 | 52% | - |
| 2008 | 124 | - | - | - | - |
| 2009 | 90* | - | - | - | - |

UK Members By Postcode

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|
| OX | 60 | SL | 12 | EH | 8 | YO | 5 | WA | 4 | CW | 2 | NN | 2 | B3 | 1 | DN | 1 | LN | 1 | TS | 1 |
| CB | 46 | BH | 11 | LE | 8 | AB | 4 | AL | 3 | G1 | 2 | NP | 2 | B4 | 1 | DY | 1 | M1 | 1 | W2 | 1 |
| RG | 34 | MK | 11 | NW | 8 | B1 | 4 | B7 | 3 | HR | 2 | OL | 2 | BB | 1 | E6 | 1 | M2 | 1 | W3 | 1 |
| SE | 27 | TW | 11 | PE | 8 | CM | 4 | IP | 3 | HU | 2 | S6 | 2 | BD | 1 | E8 | 1 | ML | 1 | W4 | 1 |
| SO | 24 | E1 | 9 | HA | 7 | CR | 4 | ME | 3 | IV | 2 | SM | 2 | CA | 1 | EN | 1 | N3 | 1 | W8 | 1 |
| GU | 21 | NG | 9 | NE | 7 | EC | 4 | NR | 3 | KY | 2 | SP | 2 | CH | 1 | FK | 1 | PA | 1 | WF | 1 |
| KT | 16 | RH | 9 | SG | 7 | EX | 4 | PR | 3 | L2 | 2 | TA | 2 | CO | 1 | GY | 1 | PL | 1 | WN | 1 |
| BS | 14 | TN | 9 | SK | 7 | LS | 4 | SA | 3 | L3 | 2 | UB | 2 | CT | 1 | HD | 1 | S1 | 1 | | |
| PO | 14 | BA | 8 | SN | 7 | LU | 4 | SS | 3 | LA | 2 | W1 | 2 | DA | 1 | IG | 1 | S3 | 1 | | |
| SW | 14 | BN | 8 | WC | 7 | N1 | 4 | W5 | 3 | N2 | 2 | WR | 2 | DD | 1 | JJ | 1 | SR | 1 | | |
| HP | 13 | BR | 8 | CV | 6 | RM | 4 | W6 | 3 | N4 | 2 | WV | 2 | DH | 1 | L1 | 1 | TQ | 1 | | |
| GL | 12 | CF | 8 | DT | 5 | ST | 4 | BT | 2 | N7 | 2 | B2 | 1 | DL | 1 | LL | 1 | TR | 1 | | |

Overseas Members By Country (278 total (+13), 44 countries)

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|----|--------------------|---|--------------|---|
| USA | 67 | Spain | 5 | Luxembourg | 1 |
| Germany | 26 | Romania | 5 | Cuba | 1 |
| Sweden | 19 | Austria | 4 | Hong Kong | 1 |
| Switzerland | 19 | Italy | 4 | Albania | 1 |
| The Netherlands | 15 | Brazil | 4 | Japan | 1 |
| Australia | 12 | Finland | 4 | Slovenia | 1 |
| France | 12 | New Zealand | 4 | Turkey | 1 |
| Norway | 11 | Czech Republic | 3 | Greece | 1 |
| Denmark | 11 | Croatia | 2 | Saudi Arabia | 1 |
| Poland | 11 | Portugal | 2 | Slovakia | 1 |
| Canada | 9 | Hungary | 2 | Singapore | 1 |
| Belgium | 7 | Russian Federation | 2 | Philippines | 1 |
| India | 7 | Israel | 1 | San Marino | 1 |
| Ireland | 6 | China | 1 | Bulgaria | 1 |

Country of New Members (for 2008)

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|----|-------------|---|-----------|---|
| United Kingdom | 79 | Germany | 2 | Canada | 1 |
| USA | 10 | Poland | 2 | Finland | 1 |
| India | 4 | Sweden | 2 | Hong Kong | 1 |
| Norway | 4 | Switzerland | 2 | Hungary | 1 |
| France | 4 | Austria | 1 | Romania | 1 |
| The Netherlands | 3 | Belgium | 1 | Spain | 1 |
| Australia | 2 | Bulgaria | 1 | Turkey | 1 |

Mick Brooks

Advertising Officer's Report

This has been a busy year and, with the help of Gnomedia, we launched website advertising and text links, both of which have contributed substantially to ACCU income. There are challenges acquiring and retaining advertisers for the journals which I will try to address over the next year.

Seb Rose

Publications Officer Report

When I took on the publications officer role last year I was expecting a sleepy back water of a job. I took it on because I believed the journals should be published on alternating months with one journal a month going to members. I'm pleased to report this changes was made and, so far, seems to work well.

The job was less sleepy because no sooner had I taken it on than the CVu editor decided to step down. Editing CVu is a non-trivial job so finding a replacement editor hasn't been easy. After a series of guest editors we are now moving to a joint editor model.

CVu will now have a Regulars Editor (book reviews, student code critique, etc.) – Jez Higgins is the first to take on this role – and a Features Editor. Steve Love has agreed to take this role on for the first three months. After that there may be a rotating editorship or maybe a regular features editor.

Thank you Jez and Steve for taking on these roles. Thanks to Tim Penhey for editing CVu until this year, thanks to Gale, Roger, Guy and Faye for being the guest editor.

Lest we forget CVu, thanks to the Overload team and especially the editor Ric Parkin.

As to the future this is not for me to decide. Having made the change I wanted I will be stepping down as publications officer this year.

With this I will, for the first time in 6 years, be without ACCU committee responsibility. In this time I have managed the website renewal, helped organise the conference and changed the journals. I don't rule out a return to the ACCU committee but not for a year or two at least.

Allan Kelly

Current Committee

The committee prior to the AGM is as follows:

Officers

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Chair | Jez Higgins |
| Secretary | Alan Bellingham |
| Treasurer | Stewart Brodie |
| Membership Secretary | Mick Brooks |
| Publications Officer | Allan Kelly |

Other named posts

| | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| Publicity | David Carter-Hitchen |
| Advertising | Seb Rose |

General members

Giovanni Asproni
Tony Barrett-Powell
Pete Goodliffe
Paul Grenyer
Tom Hughes

Co-opted posts

Lois Goldthwaite (International Standards Officer)
Walter Vannini (USA Agent)
Silas Brown (Disabilities)

Co-opted members are those that the committee votes to join them in order to better fulfil certain functions. These are not being elected, and are listed here for completeness.

Candidate Committee

Most of the current committee have agreed to stand for re-election. The following are the candidates who have been nominated before the meeting, thus making the following the candidates for the 2009-2010 committee, together with any candidates arising at the meeting itself.

Officers

| | | |
|----------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Chair | Jez Higgins Proposed by Steve Love | Seconded by Frances Buontempo |
| Secretary | Alan Bellingham Proposed by Örjan Westin | Seconded by Alan Griffiths |
| Treasurer | Stewart Brodie Proposed by Ian Wakeling | Seconded by Jonathan Tripp |
| Membership Secretary | Mick Brooks Proposed by Alan Bellingham | Seconded by Paul Grenyer |
| Publications Officer | <no candidate> Proposed by <N/A> | Seconded by <N/A> |

Other named posts

| | | |
|-------------|---|-------------------------|
| Publicity | David Carter-Hitchen Proposed by Alan Bellingham | Seconded by Mick Brooks |
| Advertising | Seb Rose Proposed by Guy Bolton King | Seconded by Mudit Jain |

General members

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Giovanni Asproni | Proposed by Alan Griffiths | Seconded by Paul Grenyer |
| Tony Barrett-Powell | Proposed by Alan Griffiths | Seconded by Mick Brooks |
| Pete Goodliffe | Proposed by Alan Griffiths | Seconded by Paul Grenyer |
| Paul Grenyer | Proposed by Alan Griffiths | Seconded by Mick Brooks |
| Tom Hughes | Proposed by Alan Bellingham | Seconded by Mick Brooks |

2008 AGM Minutes

Minutes of the 20th Annual General Meeting of ACCU held on Saturday 5th April at the Barceló Oxford Hotel, Oxford

The Meeting commenced at 13:05, Jez Higgins in the Chair, Alan Bellingham taking the minutes.

Approximately 60 members were in attendance.

1) *Apologies for absence*

Apologies had been received from Paul Grenyer.

2) *Minutes of the 19th Annual General Meeting*

These were printed in the AGM pack handed out at the meeting. They were read, and approved unanimously.

Proposed: Jez Higgins
Seconded: Alan Bellingham

On matters arising from those minutes, JH had prepared a document on the role of the auditors, which was included in the AGM pack, and which he summarised.

3) *Annual reports of the officers*

Reports were as included in the AGM pack – these comprised reports from the Chair, the Secretary and the Membership Secretary

4) *Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2007*

A proposal was made to break out the Cost Of Sales figures for future years.

Ewan Milne (as auditor) stated "I do approve these accounts as presented".

The accounts were approved by the membership:

Proposed: Roger Orr
Seconded: Tony Barrett-Powell

Approved unanimously.

5) *Election of Auditor*

Ewan Milne was staying on to fill the second year of his term. As the second auditor, Guy Bolton King was proposed

Proposed: Seb Rose
Seconded: Allan Kelly

Approved unanimously.

6) Election of Officers and Committee

The following were listed as candidates in the GM pack, and no other candidates came forward.

Officers

| | | |
|----------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Chair | Jez Higgins Proposed by Tim Penhey | Seconded by Thomas Guest |
| Secretary | Alan Bellingham Proposed by Stewart Brodie | Seconded by Tony Barrett-Powell |
| Treasurer | Stewart Brodie Proposed by Alan Bellingham | Seconded by Paul Grenyer |
| Membership Secretary | Mick Brooks Proposed by Ric Parkin | Seconded by Tim Pushman |
| Publications Officer | Allan Kelly Proposed by Alan Griffiths | Seconded by John Merrells |

Other named posts

| | | |
|-------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Publicity | David Carter-Hitchen Proposed by Jez Higgins | Seconded by Allan Kelly |
| Advertising | Seb Rose Proposed by Jez Higgins | Seconded by Guy Bolton King |

General members

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Giovanni Asproni | Proposed by David Carter-Hitchen | Seconded by Mick Brooks |
| Tony Barrett-Powell | Proposed by Mick Brooks | Seconded by Tim Pushman |
| Pete Goodliffe | Proposed by Tony Barrett-Powell | Seconded by Seb Rose |
| Paul Grenyer | Proposed by Phil Nash | Seconded by Frances Buontempo |
| Tom Hughes | Proposed by Pete Goodliffe | Seconded by Giovanni Asproni |

Vote in block, accepted unanimously

7) Other motions for which notice has been given.

No other motions had been moved.

8) Any other Annual General Meeting Business.

No other business had been moved.

The business of the Meeting closed at 13:28