



# Annual General Meeting 2014

## Welcome

Welcome to the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the ACCU. Here follows the agenda, the minutes for last year's AGM, the officers' reports and the accounts.

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## Agenda

Agenda of the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of ACCU held on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April at the Marriott City Centre Hotel, Bristol

### ***Apologies for absence***

### ***Draft Minutes of the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (to be circulated)***

### ***Annual reports of the officers***

### ***Draft accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013***

### ***Appointment of Auditor***

1. Chris Oldwood has finished his second year and needs to be replaced. Jonathan Wakely will start his second year.

### ***Election of Officers and Committee***

### ***Other motions for which notice has been given***

1. Hardship fund. Proposed by Alan Griffiths and seconded by Giovanni Asproni

### ***Any other Annual General Meeting Business***

(To be notified to the Chair prior to the commencement of the Meeting.)

## **Officers' Reports**

### **Chair's Report**

I hope we all as ACCU members believe the organisation is doing something valuable to us and to the developer community. Whether it is the community of caring professionals, the conference or the magazines we have jointly created something of value.

Over past two year the committee has taken steps to make the operation of the organisation more transparent and easier to get involved with -especially for those that can't attend the conference or AGM. This year, with the introduction of remote, electronic voting we have had more votes cast in the elections and on motions than ever before.

Members have been getting more involved and we have members actively updating and maintaining the website and spreading the ACCU presence across various social media.

However, the ACCU still faces a challenge: Our membership numbers are falling.

This has two consequences: firstly, the ACCU is the product of the efforts of its members, and with fewer members it can do less and reach fewer people; secondly, our activities are funded by membership fees and this revenue is falling.

I began my term as Chair repeating an old message: "If there is something that you think the ACCU should be doing, then do something about it." I think that is a fitting note on which to end.

***Alan Griffiths***

### **Treasurer's Report**

Our financial position has remained healthy during 2013 and there has been a small surplus of income over expenditure.

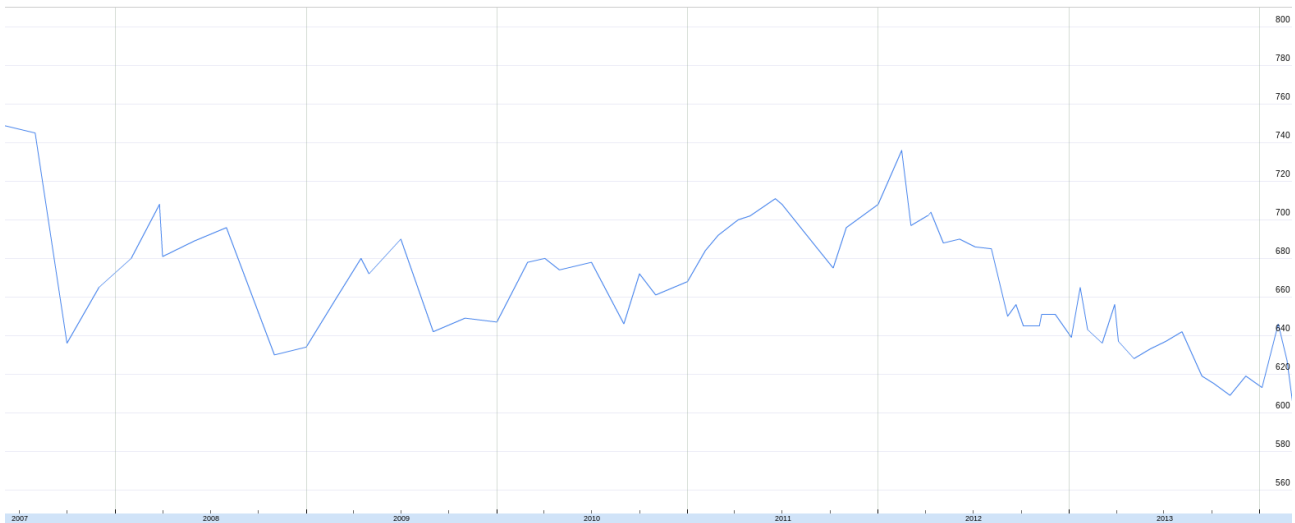
The firm that handled the distribution and postage of the magazines ceased trading during the year. This led to a review of our operations with the result that printing and distribution is now dealt with by one organisation – Parchment of Oxford. The bulk of our costs are related to the production and distribution of the magazines and it is pleasing that we have managed to see a slight reduction in this item.

The committee agreed to donate £2000 to the WG21 conference held in the early part of 2013 with this money coming from the ISDF fund in our balance sheet.

***Robert Pauer***

## Membership Secretary's Report

This year's membership statistics are shown below. We have around 40 members fewer than this time last year. For some context, here's a graph of Full Individual members over the past 7 years (vertical scale is from 560 to 800 members):



More data are available at <http://accu.org/memberstats.html>.

Recent discussions on the accu-members list included questions about the geographical distribution of members. Some numbers I've collected<sup>[1]</sup> show that over the last 7 years the fraction of members from the UK has dropped from 70% to 60%, with members from Europe correspondingly increasing from 10% to about 20%. Within the UK I've not yet seen any evidence for movement in the distribution of members by postcode, which was proposed as a possible effect of changing the conference venue. With new (<2 years) members making up less than a third of the membership, we may have to wait a year or two more before any such effect becomes visible.

Below you might notice is the drop in the number of complimentary and gratis journals that we send out. This year we changed distributor for the journals, and they gave us the opportunity to add a return label to the mailings. When we did this we had lots of returns: many of the complimentary journals were not finding their target. This has likely built up over a long period of time but was only discovered this year.

For the last 6 months or so Matthew Jones has been shadowing me as membership secretary, and has increasingly taken over the day to day running of the membership systems. I'm sure the membership administration will be in safe hands.

Mick Brooks

(Data correct on 2013-03-29)

[1] <http://public.tableausoftware.com/views/ACCU-Membership/ACCURegions>

### Members by Category

Category	Members	(diff from 2013-03-29)
Individual (Full 609, Basic 40)	649	-38
Concession (Full 20, Basic 3)	23	+1
Corporate Members	27	+2
Honorary	23	0
Gratis	17	-3
<b>Total</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>-38</b>
Complimentary Journals	33	-22

**Activity by Month**

	2013-14		2013-2012		2011-12	
	Renewal	New	Renewal	New	Renewal	New
<b>Apr</b>	27	10	23	13	13	5
<b>May</b>	26	8	24	10	22	9
<b>Jun</b>	17	6	17	4	7	7
<b>Jul</b>	50	13	44	6	46	10
<b>Aug</b>	138	2	167	9	189	12
<b>Sep</b>	43	8	45	8	47	7
<b>Oct</b>	31	22	28	24	32	23
<b>Nov</b>	28	11	21	13	24	13
<b>Dec</b>	20	9	23	9	23	18
<b>Jan</b>	46	40	41	42	40	34
<b>Feb</b>	36	17	52	16	53	24
<b>Mar</b>	39*	18*	38*	19*	45	25

**Members by Joining Year**

Year	Mar '14	Mar '13	Diff	Loss (13-12)	Loss (13-12)
<b>1987</b>	10	10	0	0%	0%
<b>1988</b>	2	2	0	0%	33%
<b>1989</b>	6	6	0	0%	0%
<b>1990</b>	10	12	2	17%	14%
<b>1991</b>	12	12	0	0%	8%
<b>1992</b>	12	14	2	14%	0%
<b>1993</b>	10	13	3	23%	7%
<b>1994</b>	17	19	2	11%	17%
<b>1995</b>	14	19	5	26%	5%
<b>1996</b>	9	8	-1	-13%	0%
<b>1997</b>	11	13	2	15%	13%
<b>1998</b>	14	16	2	13%	16%
<b>1999</b>	24	31	7	23%	18%
<b>2000</b>	32	38	6	16%	10%
<b>2001</b>	27	30	3	10%	12%
<b>2002</b>	22	22	0	0%	4%
<b>2003</b>	21	22	1	5%	8%
<b>2004</b>	3	4	1	25%	20%

Year	Mar '14	Mar '13	Diff	Loss (13-12)	Loss (13-12)
2005	13	13	0	0%	7%
2006	23	23	0	0%	4%
2007	23	28	5	18%	26%
2008	31	39	8	21%	19%
2009	23	31	8	26%	14%
2010	42	52	10	19%	36%
2011	61	88	27	31%	48%
2012	64	137	73	53%	-
2013	132	76*	-	-	-
2014	73*	-	-	-	-

**UK Members By Postcode (449 total (-70))**

OX 40 BH 7 BR 5 CR 3 LL 2 SP 2 CV 1 ME 1 W5 1  
 CB 28 E1 7 EC 5 E8 3 LS 2 ST 2 DE 1 N5 1 W7 1  
 RG 23 N1 7 LE 5 M1 3 LU 2 W4 2 DY 1 N6 1 W9 1  
 GU 15 SL 7 NG 5 TA 3 M2 2 WR 2 E2 1 NN 1 WS 1  
 BS 14 TN 7 NR 5 TS 3 N2 2 WV 2 E3 1 NP 1  
 SE 14 CM 6 HA 4 WC 3 N3 2 YO 2 G4 1 OL 1  
 SW 14 DT 6 NW 4 AL 2 N7 2 B4 1 G5 1 PA 1  
 SO 13 HP 6 PE 4 DA 2 NE 2 B6 1 GY 1 RM 1  
 EH 11 MK 6 SA 4 DD 2 PL 2 BB 1 HD 1 SM 1  
 PO 10 TW 6 SK 4 DN 2 PR 2 BD 1 HR 1 SS 1  
 GL 8 B1 5 TR 4 EN 2 S3 2 BT 1 HU 1 TQ 1  
 KT 8 BA 5 WA 4 EX 2 SG 2 CA 1 IP 1 W1 1  
 RH 8 BN 5 CF 3 IV 2 SN 2 CO 1 LA 1 W3 1

**Overseas Members By Countries (324 total (+11), 40 countries)**

USA	70	Hungary	5	Estonia	1
Germany	50	Austria	5	Croatia	1
Sweden	28	Russian Federation	5	Portugal	1
Switzerland	23	Romania	5	Cuba	1
Norway	16	Brazil	3	South Africa	1
The Netherlands	15	Hong Kong	3	Taiwan	1
Australia	11	Japan	3	Czech Republic	1
Belgium	10	New Zealand	3	Philippines	1
France	10	Finland	3	Turkey	1
Canada	8	Singapore	3	Slovenia	1

Denmark	7	China	2	San Marino	1
Spain	7	India	2	Israel	1
Ireland	6	Italy	2		
Poland	5	Greece	2		

**Country of New Members (for 2013)**

United Kingdom	50	Sweden	3	Czech Republic	1
USA	19	Canada	2	Denmark	1
Germany	12	Hong Kong	2	Estonia	1
France	4	Hungary	2	Finland	1
Norway	4	Japan	2	Italy	1
Spain	4	Switzerland	2	Poland	1
Australia	3	The Netherlands	2	Singapore	1
Belgium	3	Brazil	1	South Africa	1
Ireland	3	China	1	Taiwan	1
Russian Federation	3	Croatia	1		

**Mick Brooks**

**Advertising Report**

QBS continue to support the ACCU with a full page ad in every journal, occasional catalogue inserts and an online campaign. We have also had a few smaller advertisers over the past year, but enquiries remain slow. Please remind your friends and colleagues that we offer very effective, competitively priced advertising packages.

**Seb Rose**

**Publicity Report**

Improvements in the quantity of book reviews but large scope for improvement in the future with regard to how we handle the book reservation system as well as getting the resultant reviews onto the website.

**Astrid Byro**

**Study Groups**

Last year saw the release of the fourth edition of Bjarne Stroustrup's "The C++ Language" and a Study Group was created to go through the book. The group was lead by Ian Bruntlett and Jonathan Wakely. It is still in progress, but has gone quiet lately. If you wish to get involved sign up to the list as detailed on the Study Groups page on the ACCU website and please say hello.

After the conference we plan to start another book study, to run in parallel with the above, around a non programming book. The chosen book is "Thinking, Fast and Slow" by Daniel Kahneman. Details for joining this project can also be found on the ACCU website.

As always, I'm looking for volunteers to suggest and run study groups. These don't have to be book studies, but anything that a team could work on remotely. Please send your ideas to the ACCU study groups list.

**Chris O'Dell**

## Publications Officer's report

There have been no major changes to the print magazines this year; Steve Love and Frances Buontempo have continued to work as editors for CVu and Overload respectively; with Ric Parkin as guest editor for Overload 120.

Martin Moene has been working with Alison Peck to find ways to produce more web-friendly format than a single PDF of each magazine; the results have been visible for an issue or two and work is in hand to work on some of the recent back issues. This will help members who opt for a paper-free subscription, as well as those others who read articles on a range of different devices.

As always, it is encouraging to see articles from newcomers as well as from regular contributors.

**Roger Orr**

## Current Committee as of April 2014

The committee prior to the AGM is as follows:

Name	Role
<b>Executive Members</b>	
Alan Griffiths	Chair
Giovanni Asproni	Secretary
Robert Pauer	Treasurer
Mick Brooks	Membership Secretary
<b>Non-Executive Members</b>	
Astrid Byro	Publicity
Roger Orr	Publications
Seb Rose	Advertising
Tom Hughes	
Matthew Jones	
Dirk Haun	
<b>Non-Executive, co-opted Members</b>	
Jon Jagger	ACCU Conference Chair
Mark Radford	Standards
Chris O'Dell	Social Media and Study Groups
Ali Cehreli	US Agent
Andrew Marlow	

## Election Candidates

Here is the list of candidates for the committee roles. Please note that, according to the new rules, no new ones can be proposed.

Also, there is no candidate for Chair and Secretary. This is an unprecedented situation that, according to the constitution, can be handled in a couple of different ways:

- Appoint a caretaker during the AGM
- Let the committee take care of it

The details of the above options will be explained in more detail during the AGM

Candidate Name	Post	Proposer	Seconder
Roger Orr	Non executive member / Publications Officer	Irfan Butt	Sam Saariste
Matthew Jones	Membership Secretary	Ewan Milne	Martin Waplington
Seb Rose	Non executive member / Advertising Officer	Guy Bolton King	Alan Dobbie
Chris O'Dell	Non executive member / Study Groups Officer	Joes Staal	Martin Moene
Robert Pauer	Treasurer	Hubert Matthews	Roger Orr
Mark Radford	Non executive member / Standards Officer	Chris Oldwood	Malcolm Noyes
Dirk Haun	Non executive member	Jim Hague	Ewan Milne

## Motions

### *Hardship fund*

**Proposal:** That the ACCU discontinue the "Hardship fund" and roll this money into the general finances.

**Proposed by:** Alan Griffiths

**Seconded by:** Giovanni Asproni

**Background:** The ACCU has been maintaining a "hardship fund". This was originally created to support the memberships of individuals who could not finance themselves. However, there have been decreasing calls on this fund over time and nothing has been paid out for some years. (Many of the original reasons for "hardship" - such as difficulty converting currency are less frequent than they were.)

Some donations to this fund come via a "donate" option on the website - we could remove or re-purpose this. However, the website isn't the only source of donations. Some members have set up standing orders that include both membership fees and a donation to the hardship fund and/or the ISDF fund. Asking members to change these standing orders isn't always successful - so, regardless of what we do with the fund, we can anticipate some contributions to continue for a while.

The view of the committee is that this fund no longer serves its original purpose. We've asked for suggestions but none have been forthcoming. The approximate balance of this hardship fund is: £2,000 If, as proposed below, this is moved to the general finances then the committee can still allocate funds to hardship cases if and when they occur.



## 2013 AGM Draft Minutes

### *Minutes of the 25th Annual General Meeting of ACCU held on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April at the Marriott City Centre Hotel, Bristol.*

The meeting commenced at 13:30 with Alan Griffiths in the chair and Giovanni Asproni taking minutes. Approximately 70 members were present.

#### **Apologies for absence**

Robert Pauer, Mick Brooks, Chris O'Dell, Tom Hughes, Mark Radford, Tom Sedge, Matthew Jones

#### **Minutes of the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (to be circulated)**

The minutes were approved with 3 abstentions without changes.

Proposed: Francis Glassborow

Seconded: Charles Bailey

#### **Changes in officers**

Lois Goldthwaite stepped down from the Standards Officer role and was awarded the honorary membership by the committee.

Tony Barrett-Powell stepped down from the webmaster role.

Paul Grenyer stepped down from the mentored developers organiser role.

#### **Annual reports of the officers**

The full reports are available in the AGM 2013 Pack at <http://accu.org/index.php/members/agm> (requires login)

1. **Treasurer.** The report outlined a good financial situation, but, unfortunately, the draft accounts were not available on time for the AGM. Rob Pauer will email them to accu-members when they will become available. Rob will talk with the accountants to ensure this will not happen again.
2. **Membership Secretary.** Not a lot happening on this front. Francis Glassborow expressed his disappointment for the dwindling of the membership numbers, and proposed to produce standard promotional material for the conference. Alan Griffiths mentioned the fact that the website was clunky and in need of redesign. Francis Glassborow asked to raise awareness, and suggested to recruit more overseas members. There was a proposal of making the conference slides available only to the membership.
3. **Advertising.** Nothing to add to the report.
4. **Publicity.** The only thing to add to the report is Astrid Byro reminding people to submit book reviews and use them to generate content for the website.
5. **Publications.** Roger Orr mentioned that we changed printers for the magazines. Roger Orr asked members to check with the membership secretary to make sure ACCU had their correct address to send the magazines to. Ewan Milne asked if Parchment was still competitive; Roger Orr said the prices looked plausible and we were short on time to decide. Ewan Milne offered his help.

#### **Draft accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012**

See Treasurer report under the annual reports section.

#### **Appointment of Auditor**

Chris Oldwood and Frances Buontempo explained the role of the auditor.

Chris Oldwood has completed his first year.

Jonathan Wakely was elected as auditor to replace Brian Scattergood who completed his two year term.

Proposed: Chris Oldwood

Seconded: Frances Buontempo

#### **Election of Officers and Committee**

#### **Constitutional Changes**

Alan Griffiths proposed to vote for this changes at the start of the meeting Francis Glassborow seconded it.

1. **Allow remote voting**
  - a. Proposed by Giovanni Asproni, seconded by Mick Brooks.  
Voted with 2 abstentions from the floor and plus 4 yeses and 1 no by email to the secretary.
2. **Changes for elected officers**

- a. Proposed by Roger Orr, seconded by Ewan Milne.  
Voted with no abstentions and plus 5 yes votes by email to the secretary. No no votes recorded.

***Other motions for which notice has been given***

(No other motions.)

***Any other Annual General Meeting Business***

No other business

The meeting closed at 13:55