

2020 AGM Minutes

Minutes of the 32nd Annual General Meeting of the ACCU held on-line 18:00 GMT Saturday 28th March 2020 at the Bristol Marriott City Centre Hotel, 2 Lower Castle Street, Old Market, Bristol.

The meeting commenced via web conferencing software at approximately TODO with Bob Schmidt in the chair of the meeting and Patrick Martin taking minutes

Apologies for absence

None received

Online Vote - Closed 28 March

Election Results for 2020 Elections

Started at: March 7, 2020 at 8:00pm

Finished at: March 27, 2020 at 8:00pm

Time zone: GMT +00:00, London

111 of 643 ballots cast.

Elections to committee

Candidate: Treasurer - Patrick Martin

Yes - I approve the candidate: 101 votes (100.0%)

No - I reject the candidate: 0 votes (0%)

Yes - I approve the candidate wins with 100.0% of the vote.

Votes tallied: 101

Abstentions: 10

Candidate: Membership Secretary - Matt Jones

Yes - I approve the candidate: 102 votes (100.0%)

No - I reject the candidate: 0 votes (0%)

Yes - I approve the candidate wins with 100.0% of the vote.

Votes tallied: 102

Abstentions: 9

Candidate: Non exec committee members

Roger Orr: 104 votes (17.6%)

Phil Nash: 103 votes (17.4%)

Guy Davidson: 98 votes (16.6%)

Ralph McArdell: 95 votes (16.1%)

Jim Hague: 95 votes (16.1%)

Ian Bruntlett: 96 votes (16.2%)

Roger Orr, Phil Nash, Guy Davidson, Ian Bruntlett, Jim Hague, and Ralph McArdell win with 17.6%, 17.4%, 16.6%, 16.2%, and 16.1% of the vote each.

Votes tallied: 591

Abstentions: 4

Nominations to committee at the AGM

Option: "The Association should, for this year only, allow members present at the AGM to nominate and elect the Chair and Secretary"

Yes - the members should elect the Chair and Treasurer at the AGM: 97 votes (95.1%)

No - the members should NOT elect the Chair and Treasurer at the AGM: 5 votes (4.9%)

Yes - the members should elect the Chair and Treasurer at the AGM wins with 95.1% of the vote.

Votes tallied: 102

Abstentions: 9

Draft minutes of the 31st AGM

Option: Minutes of 2019 AGM

Yes - I approve the minutes: 84 votes (98.8%)

No - I reject the minutes: 1 vote (1.2%)

Yes - I approve the minutes wins with 98.8% of the vote.

Votes tallied: 85

Abstentions: 26

In conclusion, all proposals were passed by the membership ballot.

Officers' Reports

Chair's report

ACCU's 2019-2020 term has ended, not with its usual bang (the conference), but with a whimper (courtesy of the novel coronavirus).

I know that many of you were looking forward to a week of education and socializing at ACCU 2020, as was I. As concerns about the virus grew, companies adopted no-travel policies, and the number of cancellations amongst the keynote speakers and presenters outpaced our ability to find substitutes. This led Archer-Yates Associates (AYA), in conjunction with the conference committee, to make the tough decision to cancel the conference. Given the rate at which the virus has spread, and the subsequent governmental reactions to the pandemic, cancelling the conference was absolutely the correct thing to do.

This was to be Russel Winder's final year as conference chair. It is a shame that he, and we, won't get to experience the culmination of his five years of dedication to the conference. Please join me in thanking Russel for his contribution to ACCU.

State of ACCU

2019 saw a slight decrease in paid membership, from 532 (non-corporate) members at the beginning of 2019 to 515 at the beginning of 2020. This is a lower rate of attrition than ACCU experienced in 2018. Membership numbers are flat for 2020 year-to-date. In order to try to boost membership, the committee was prepared to offer a temporary, basic membership to conference attendees who were not already members. (As the time of writing, we have asked AYA if they can send the offer to registrants via email.) Our hope is that a person who test drives a temporary membership will recognize the value and convert to a regular membership.

Our financial situation remains strong. ACCU finished 2019 with a £6,167 surplus. Once again the

revenues we received from AYA for the 2019 conference accounted for the surplus. This is important because we won't have a conference contribution in 2020; we expect our accounts for this year to be break-even.

Fran Buontempo and Steve Love continue to produce quality issues of Overload and C Vu (respectively), assisted by their teams of highly-capable peer reviewers. Getting content from authors continues to be a challenge.

Although we have filled several positions recently (Publicity, Study Groups, Reviews; see below), we continue to have chronically vacant positions on the committee. The Social Media and Web Editor positions have been vacant for over three years. Advertising isn't chronically vacant yet, but it is heading that way. Last year the committee adopted an incentive to fill chronically vacant positions, offering up to a year of membership in return for a year of service.

Our local groups continue to be a strong part of ACCU's outreach. We added a new local group in York this past year. Phil Nash has plans to expand the reach of our affiliated groups program. Thank you to all our local group and affiliated group coordinators.

ACCU Committee

We need volunteers to run for Chair and Secretary. If one or both of those positions remain vacant after the AGM ACCU will be placed into caretaker mode, where only day-to-day business can be transacted.

We had some changes to the makeup of the ACCU committee over the past year:

Seb Rose stepped down from the Advertising role last May, after many years in that position.

Ian Bruntlett has been doing a wonderful job as Reviews Editor since last summer, and has been nominated to continue in the role.

Phil Nash succeeded Nigel Lester as Local Groups Coordinator, and is running for re-election.

Guy Davidson took over as Standards Officer, and is also running for re-election.

The following assume the results of elections for people running unopposed for their positions.

Matt Jones will continue as Membership Secretary.

Patrick Martin is moving from Secretary to Treasurer.

After many years of service, Rob Pauer is stepping down as Treasurer. Rob will take on the ceremonial role of Treasurer Emeritus, and remain active with the committee, facilitating a smooth transition to Patrick as the new treasurer.

Roger Orr will continue in Publications; Ralph McArdeell will continue as the At-Large member; Jim Hague will continue as Webmaster.

We have two members interested in filling chronically vacant positions on the committee, and will be co-opted for the next year.

Ricardo Rodriguez will take over as Study Groups Coordinator.

Adeel Nadeem has volunteered to handle Publicity for ACCU.

I'll have more background on Adeel and Ricardo in the May edition of C Vu.

Our auditors for the past year are Alan Griffiths and Dietmar Kühl. Alan filled Guy Davidson's second year, when Guy became Standards Officer. (Auditors are separate from, and independent of, the committee. Guy couldn't be an auditor and serve on the committee at the same time.) Dietmar has just completed the first year of his two-year term. ACCU will need an auditor to fill a two-year term.

Daniel James has produced the ePub version of our magazine every month for two years. I have not yet gotten confirmation from Daniel that he will continue, but I am hopeful he will.

Felix Petriconi will be taking over as Conference Chair starting with the 2021 conference. He has been shadowing Russel for the past year in order to make the hand over as seamless as possible.

Finally, Thank You

As always my thanks go out to all of ACCU's volunteers over the past years. I think I have named everyone in the paragraphs above. You have made the past four years a wonderful experience for me.

A special thank you goes out to Rob Pauer, our Treasurer for many years. Rob has been retired from his "real" job for several years, and now is able to go into full retirement. Rob has the distinction of having been an active member of ACCU for the longest period of time (having joined a year before Francis Glassborow). Rob assures us that he will continue to be active in the organization, for which we should all be thankful.

- Bob Schmidt

Membership secretary's report

Matt Jones presented the Membership Secretary's report.

Election of Auditors

Alan Griffiths was proposed and elected as ACCU Co-Auditor for the period April 2020 - April 2022. Dietmar Kühl continues as the other Co-Auditor for the remainder of his term, May 2019 - April 2021.

Treasurer's report

The accounts were presented.