

2022 AGM Minutes

Minutes of the 34th Annual General Meeting of the ACCU held on-line 13:30 BST Saturday 9th April 2022.

The meeting commenced at 13:30 BST with Geoff Daniels chairing the meeting and Robin Williams taking minutes. A total of 22 voting members were present, constituting a quorum.

1. Apologies for absence

Roger Orr.

2. Minutes of the 33rd Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 33rd Annual General meeting, available at <https://accu.org/members/documents/agm/AGM-2021-Minutes-draft.pdf>, were approved by online vote

Option: Minutes of 2021 AGM

Yes - I approve the minutes: 71 votes (97.3%)

No - I reject the minutes: 2 votes (2.7%)

Yes - I approve the minutes wins with 97.3% of the vote.

Votes tallied: 73

Abstentions: 23

Those present at the meeting confirmed this acceptance.

3. Annual reports of the officers

Chair's report

This year has felt like a year of consolidation, refining the work we had kicked off previously and tying off loose ends. Listing some of this year's efforts, we have a new advertising card, clearer processes and information for setting up local groups, potential improvements to the wording of the constitution, investigations into charitable status, and porting some remaining website features. There has been plenty going on and there is plenty more to do, but I am excited for another great year of progress ahead of us.

With the release of the new website last year, we have been slowly reviewing and updating content where needed. Reviewing our old advertising card was one of those tasks, the new version should help to bring us in line with similar organisations and simplify options for advertisers. On the note of advertising, the committee is currently lacking an advertising officer, please get in touch if you are interested in helping out.

Similarly, now that the world is allowed to go outside again, we have been working on improving the local group setup process. The website holds a wealth of information to help get started and links to the currently running local groups. I can see our local groups and conferences becoming ever more relevant with the rise in remote and hybrid work.

This year there have been a couple of motions proposed for the AGM. As times and technology change we regularly review our constitution to ensure that our practices best benefit the society without being

unnecessarily obtuse. Likewise, there has been some discussion on the legal status of ACCU. Given our mission and approach, registering for UK Charitable status could be a solution. Submissions of motions to the AGM are encouraged from everyone to help us keep promoting professionalism in programming. Many hands make light work.

The final "highlight" I wanted to mention from the year was the disclosure of a source code leak from our old website. It was great to see the committee leap into action upon the report. Battening down the hatches and ensuring we were in a safe place before returning to business as usual. Thankfully, the issue was from a misconfiguration that had already been resolved, and the only data exposed was the old website code. We are very keen to switch off the old website, and work is ongoing porting the few remaining features to the new stack.

Behind the scenes, all of this progress would not have been possible without the hard work of all the volunteer members who keep ACCU running. A big thank you to everyone for contributing their knowledge and time. Looking into the future I am hopeful for another successful year.

Geoff Daniels, ACCU Chair

Treasurer's report

Instead of last year's deficit, there is a surplus of £2,588 (note: precise figure per the accounts).

The ACCU's cash reserves remain healthy at £78,013, split between a current account and a deposit

The current and reserve accounts remain healthy and we are comfortably able to sustain operations like the magazine production and insurance payments to name a couple of outlays.

This year is the first year that we see revenues from the re-established ACCU conference, as a consequence the net cash flow has returned to being positive, in contrast to last year.

Yearly operations, in order of magnitude, consist of mainly magazine production, printing and postage, expenses and increasingly, maintenance of ACCU's web presence.

I'd like to highlight a couple of new things for this year.

We have an ACCU YouTube channel, and Digital Medium have been moderating comments for us, which of course keeps us looking professional and responsible.

In addition, due to the recent YouTube monetisation changes, we have opted to enable monetisation.

The reasons were two-fold: if we set the account up, we can give viewers a better experience by controlling the ads so they are the least invasive type.

There will ultimately be some revenue from this, which currently is not a large sum. Collecting this is presenting some bureaucratic problems which we are looking to resolve in due course.

The draft accounts have been passed by the auditors, and we are due to thank Alan Griffiths and Dietmar Kühl for their invaluable assistance and need to call for other auditors.

Patrick Martin, ACCU Treasurer

Membership secretary's report

Membership numbers have continued their steady decline. Fewer members have joined or renewed during the traditional spring rush to gain reduced membership rates for the conference. We continue to gain new members from all over the world.

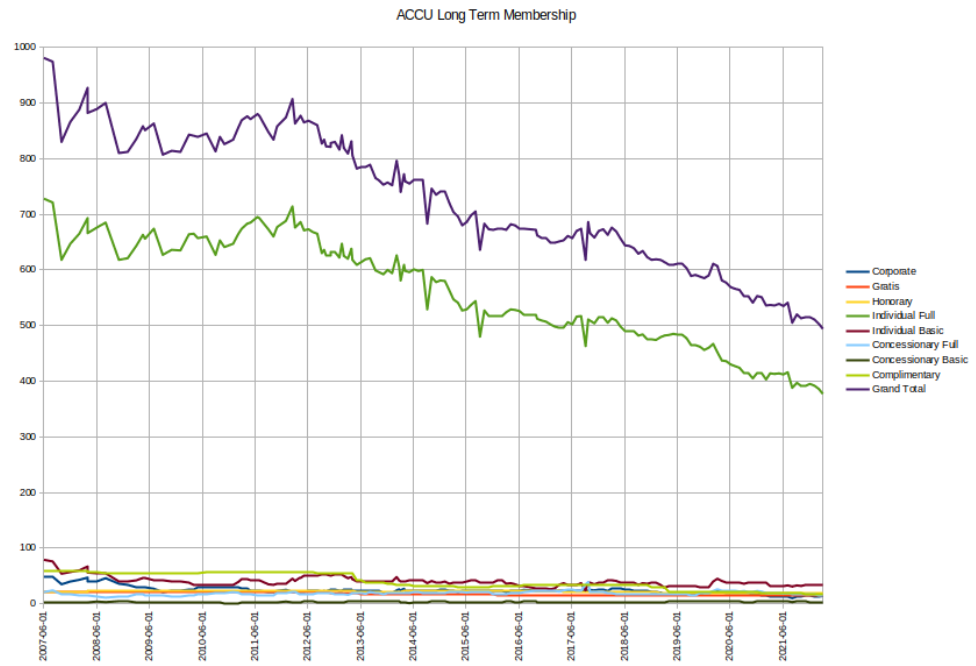
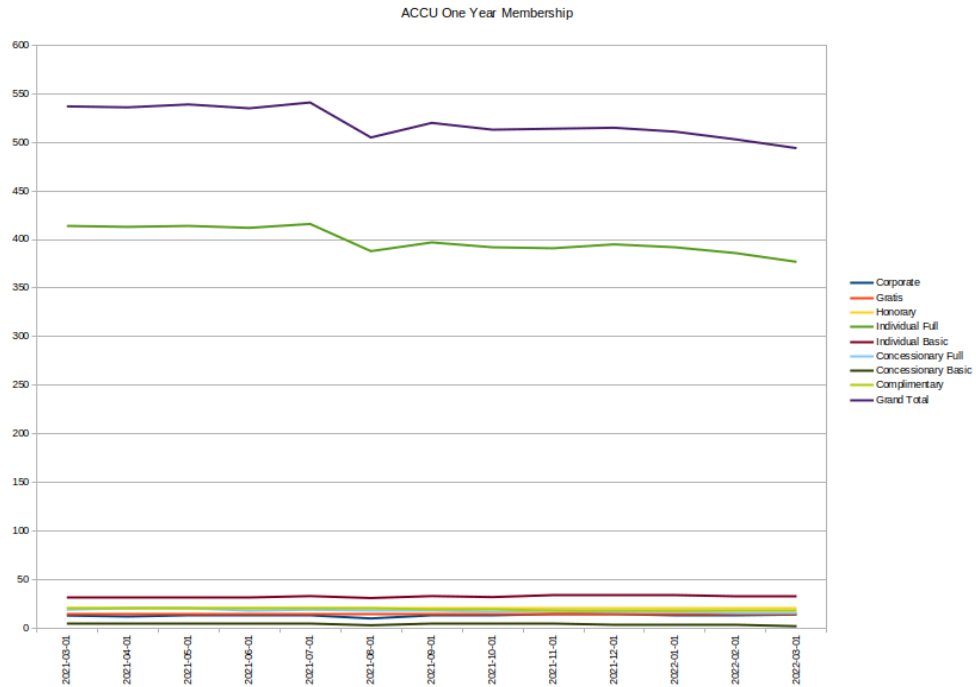
The two graphs included below show membership figures for the last year (AGM to AGM) and the overall figures since we began keeping accurate records.

The numbers are (as of 2022-04-02):

Category	Members	Difference from 2021 AGM report
Individual (Full 413, Basic 31)	412	-32
Concession (Full 20, Basic 5)	18	-7
Corporate Members	14	+2
Honorary	20	0
Gratis	14	-1
Total	478	-38
Complimentary Journals	18	-2

Matthew Jones

ACCU Membership secretary



4. Accounts for the year ending December 2021

The 2021 accounts are available at <https://accu.org/members/documents/agm/AGM-2022-Accounts.pdf>.

They were accepted by unanimous vote of the attendees.

5. Election of Auditors

Alan Griffiths volunteered to renew his term as Co-Auditor for the period April 2022 - April 2024, and was voted in favour unanimously.

Dietmar Kühl continues as the other Co-Auditor for the remainder of his term, April 2021 - April 2023.

6. Election of Officers and Committee

The results of the online election are given below.

The secure formatted report is available at <https://secure.electionbuddy.com/results/C3F5CT33VRXT>

Option: Chair - Geoff Daniels

Yes - I approve the candidate: 88 votes (98.9%)

No - I reject the candidate: 1 vote (1.1%)

Yes - I approve the candidate wins with 98.9% of the vote.

Votes tallied: 89

Abstentions: 7

Option: Treasurer - Patrick Martin

Yes - I approve the candidate: 88 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: 88

Abstentions: 8

Option: Secretary - Robin Williams

Yes - I approve the candidate: 89 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: 89

Abstentions: 7

Option: Membership Secretary - Matt Jones

Yes - I approve the candidate: 90 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: 90

Abstentions: 6

Candidate: Non exec committee members

Roger Orr: 83 votes (14.9%)

Phil Nash: 80 votes (14.3%)

Guy Davidson: 81 votes (14.5%)

Ralph McArdell: 77 votes (13.8%)

Jim Hague: 81 votes (14.5%)

Adeel Nadeem: 76 votes (13.6%)

Ian Bruntlett: 80 votes (14.3%)

Roger Orr, Jim Hague, Guy Davidson, Ian Bruntlett, Phil Nash, Ralph McArdell, and Adeel Nadeem win with 14.9%, 14.5%, 14.3%, 13.8%, and 13.6% of the vote each.

Votes tallied: 558

Abstentions: 6

Dietmar Kühl proposed a vote of thanks to current officers for their work on behalf of ACCU.

7. Other motions for which notice has been given

7.1 Revisions to election timeline

Proposal: That the wording of Section 7.3 of the Constitution be replaced as follows:

There are several deadline dates associated with a General Meeting. They are defined here, and referred to by name elsewhere in the constitution:

1. Announce Deadline: sent to members no less than 56 days before the GM
2. Proposal Deadline: received by Secretary no less than 35 days before the GM
3. Draft Agenda Deadline: sent to members no less than 28 days before the GM
4. Agenda Freeze: modifications received by Secretary no less than 21 days before the GM
5. Voting Opens: 14 days before the GM

Rationale: It has been observed that the existing timeline for general meetings is rather lengthy, now that routine communications are dealt with by e-mail rather than post. The wording of Section 7.3 is also somewhat ambiguous when read in isolation, relying on subsequent sections of the constitution for interpretation.

Proposer: Robin Williams

Secunder: Patrick Martin

Results: Motion 1: Revised election timeline

Yes - I approve the amendments: 90 votes (96.8%)
No - I reject the amendments: 3 votes (3.2%)

Yes - I approve the amendments wins with 96.8% of the vote.
Votes tallied: 93
Abstentions: 3

7.2 Update description of Honorary Auditor role

Proposal: That the wording of Section 7.9 of the Constitution be replaced as follows:
ACCU shall have two Honorary Auditors, appointed for terms limited to two years, and both subject to confirmation at the Annual General Meeting. Current committee members are not eligible for these positions.

Rationale: The description of the Honorary Auditor role does not reflect current practice.

Proposer: Patrick Martin

Seconder: Robin Williams

Results: Motion 2: Update description of Honorary Auditor role

Yes - I approve the amendments: 91 votes (97.8%)
No - I reject the amendments: 2 votes (2.2%)

Yes - I approve the amendments wins with 97.8% of the vote.
Votes tallied: 93
Abstentions: 3

8. Any other business

8.1 Raised from the floor

Francis Glassborow suggested that it would be beneficial for closed forum to be available for discussion of ACCU business to allow motions to be considered, now that more business is being done electronically. It was noted that the accu-members mailing list does exist for this purpose, but a discussion of ways to improve engagement with members on these matters will be included on the agenda for the next committee meeting.

8.2 Discussion of corporate status of ACCU

Patrick Martin discussed our findings to date on the current corporate status of ACCU, the need for a better-defined corporate status, and potential routes forward. Alisdair Meredith, Seb Rose and Anthony Williams said that they had practical experience of some of the alternative routes, and could offer advice.

8.3 Conference organization

A vote of thanks was made to Felix Petriconi and his team for their successful organization of the 2022 ACCU conference.