

Annual General Meeting 2022

Welcome

Welcome to the 34th Annual General Meeting of the ACCU. Here follows the agenda, the officer's reports and proposed motions. Links are provided to the minutes for last year's AGM and the draft accounts.

1. Agenda of the 34th Annual General Meeting of The ACCU

The 34th Annual General Meeting of The ACCU will be held at 13:30 BST on Saturday 9th April 2022 at the ACCU Conference, Bristol Marriott City Centre Hotel, 2 Lower Castle Street, Old Market, Bristol, BS1 3AD, United Kingdom and online.

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 33rd Annual General Meeting
3. Annual reports of the officers
4. Accounts for the year ending December 2021
5. Election of Auditors
6. Election of Officers and Committee [see note **(a)**]
7. Other motions for which notice has been given [see note **(b)** for full text]
 - 7.1 Revisions to election timeline
 - 7.2 Update description of Honorary Auditor role
8. Any other business (to be notified to the Secretary prior to the commencement of the Meeting)
 - 8.1 Discussion of corporate status of ACCU [see note **(c)**]

Notes:

(a) The nominations received for elected committee roles are:

Post	Nominations	Proposer	Seconder
Chair	Geoff Daniels	Mark Bownes	Roger Orr
Treasurer	Patrick Martin	Geoff Daniels	Ralph McArdell
Secretary	Robin Williams	Arnaud Desitter	Roger Orr
Membership Secretary	Matthew Jones	Ralph McArdell	Bob Schmidt
Publications	Roger Orr	Martin Waplinton	Steve Love
Local Groups	Phil Nash	Adeel Nadeem	Patrick Martin
Standards	Guy Davidson	Steve Love	Adeel Nadeem
At-Large	Ralph McArdell	Jez Higgins	Frances Buontempo
Web Master	Jim Hague	Matthew Jones	Felix Petriconi
Publicity/Social Media	Adeel Nadeem	Robin Williams	Matthew Jones
Reviews Editor	Ian Bruntlett	Melanie Allett	Robin Williams

The Advertising and Study Groups roles remain open. Any expressions of interest at the AGM would be welcomed, and can be co-opted to non-voting membership of the committee pending election at the 2023 AGM.

(b) Two motions have been proposed:

Motion 1: Revised 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

Seconder: Patrick Martin

Motion 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

(c) Discussion of the corporate status of ACCU

Increasingly, the committee are finding that proof of the legal status of ACCU is required to register for online services. There might also be financial benefits if we were able to register for UK Charitable status. Patrick Martin will report on what we have found with regard to the current legal status of ACCU, and present options going forward for discussion.

2. Minutes of the 33rd Annual General Meeting

The draft minutes of the 33rd Annual General meeting are available at <https://accu.org/members/documents/agm/AGM-2021-Minutes-draft.pdf> (login required).

3. Officers' reports

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 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 Kuhl for their invaluable assistance and need to call for other auditors.

Patrick Martin, ACCU Treasurer

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

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.

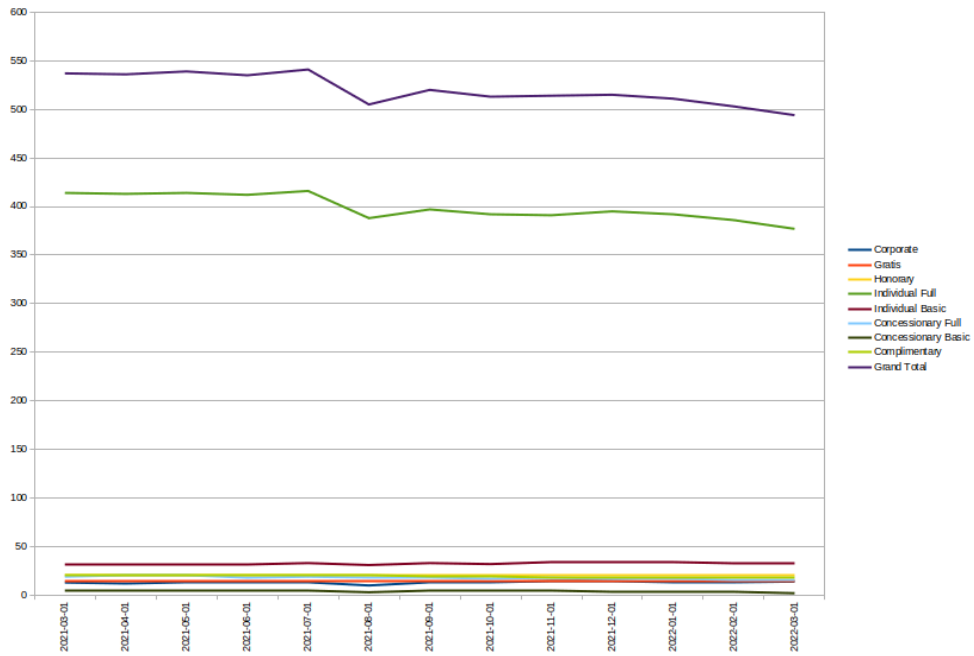
The numbers are (as of 2022-04-02):

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

ACCU One Year Membership



ACCU Long Term Membership

