

Annual General Meeting 2023

Welcome

Welcome to the 35th 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 35th Annual General Meeting of The ACCU

The 35th Annual General Meeting of The ACCU will be held at 13:30 BST on Saturday 22nd April 2023 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 34th Annual General Meeting
3. Annual reports of the officers
4. Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2022
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)**]
 - 7.1 The Association should, for this year only, allow members present at the AGM to nominate and elect any member of the ACCU committee.
8. Any other business (to be notified to the Secretary prior to the commencement of the Meeting)
None notified to date.

Notes:

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

Post	Nominations	Proposer	Seconder
Chair	Geoff Daniels	Robin Williams	Patrick Martin
Treasurer	Patrick Martin	Geoff Daniels	Matthew Jones
Secretary	No candidate		
Membership Secretary	Matthew Jones	Rhys Parry	Aaron Ridout
Publications	Roger Orr	Chris Oldwood	Steve Love
Local Groups	Phil Nash	James Pascoe	Patrick Martin
Standards	Guy Davidson	Steve Love	Frances Buontempo
At-Large	Ralph McArdell	Jez Higgins	Frances Buontempo
Web Master	Jim Hague	Bob Schmidt	James Pascoe
Publicity/Social Media	Adeel Nadeem	Geoff Daniels	Robin Williams
Reviews Editor	Ian Bruntlett	Roger Orr	Steve Love

The Advertising and Study Groups roles remain open. Any expressions of interest would be welcomed, and could be co-opted to non-voting membership of the committee.

(b) The motion proposed is:

Motion 1: The Association should, for this year only, allow members present at the AGM to nominate and elect any member of the ACCU committee.

Proposer: Bob Schmidt

Secunder: Matthew Jones

2. Minutes of the 34th Annual General Meeting

The draft minutes of the 34th Annual General meeting are available at <https://accu.org/members/documents/agm/AGM-2022-Minutes-draft.pdf> (login required).

3. Officers' reports

Chair's Report

As we gather again for another conference and AGM, it's hard to believe the year has passed already. Looking back, I would like to highlight some improvements that will keep ACCU running smoothly.

Throughout the year, we have continuously been improving our updated website, gradually replacing the need for the old one. We are also working on a plan for essential backend service and hosting updates, which we hope to implement soon. There should not be any noticeable changes, and it will set us in good standing for the future.

As part of this system overhaul, we have documented a number of our internal processes to ensure continued smooth operation. My thanks go to all involved in assuring we correctly dot the i's and cross the t's now and hereafter.

In other societal news, our membership has remained stable, and our finances are in good shape. This year the conference is being run by a new organiser, and it will be in person only for the first time since the pandemic began.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge the time and work freely contributed by all of our volunteers. We are a volunteer-run organisation, and we could not do what we do without the contributions of our members. I am proud to say that our volunteers have risen to the challenges presented by the last year, and I am confident that we will continue striding forward over the coming years.

Geoff Daniels, ACCU Chair

Treasurer's Report

Executive summary

The spreadsheet of payments and receipts for the year 2022, 1 Jan to 31 Dec. were prepared and passed to the auditors, who produced the draft accounts. These have been approved by one of the auditors; we are awaiting a response from another.

Starting 2022, the total cash balance was £76,067, and ending 2022 it was £65,465.

Revenue was £22,762, cost of sales was £31,824 and administrative expenses were £1,652. Full details are in the draft accounts which will be available separately.

The society has run a deficit of around £9000 this year, but remains solvent and has healthy reserves. It is reasonable to expect a deficit next year, but considerably smaller. There is not an immediate danger of insolvency, but ACCU must take steps to grow its revenue or control its costs if it wishes to continue.

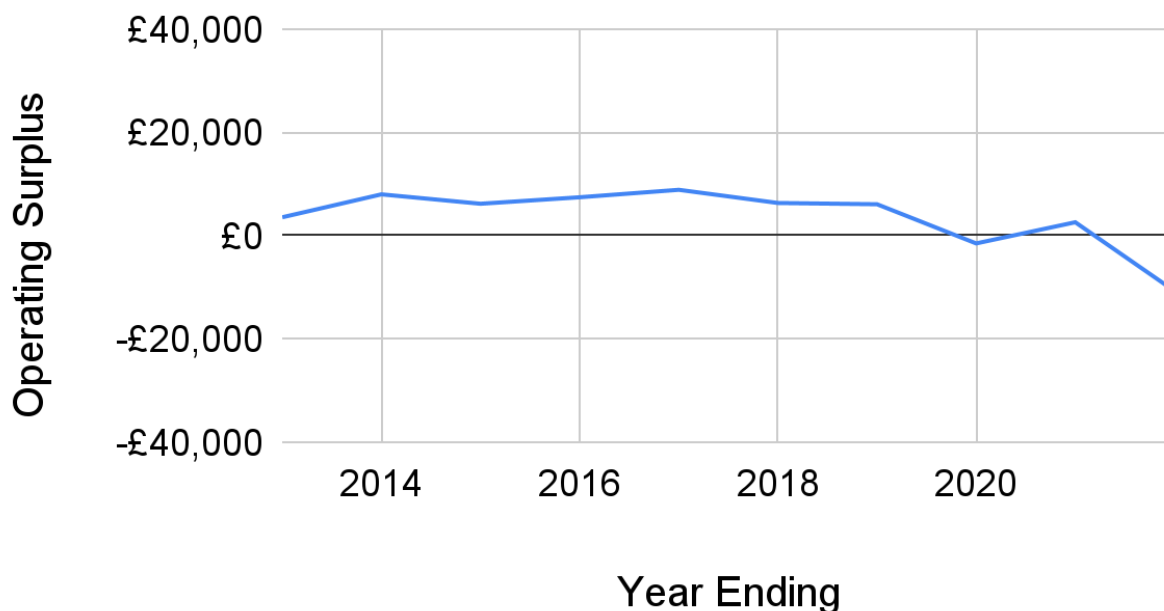
The accounts will be available at <https://accu.org/members/documents/agm/AGM-2023-Accounts.pdf> (login required).

Treasurer's comments

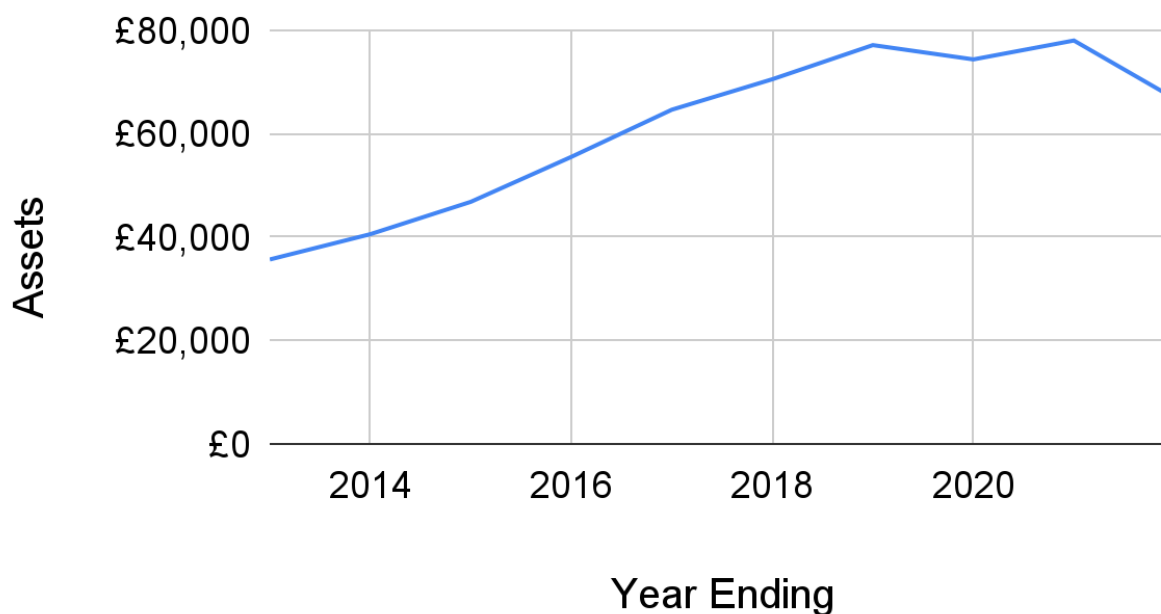
This year's deficit

This is the largest deficit going back 10 years, and the largest deficit since 2009, as ACCU has been largely steadily banking a significant amount of cash every year from that year on. The charts following have been extracted from the published accounts.

Operating Surplus vs. Year Ending



Assets vs. Year Ending

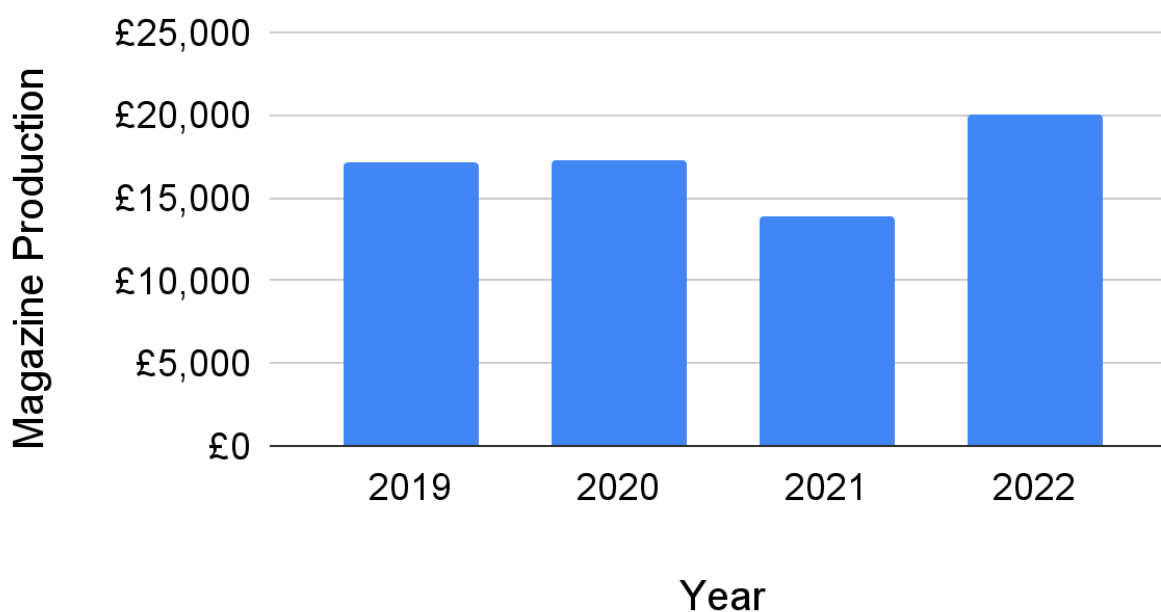


In 2022 the spreadsheet of incomings and outgoings added up perfectly with no need to chase up unpaid invoices and lost cheques. The majority of the deficit this year is due to 14 magazine production cheques being cashed this year and only 10 before, carrying 2 over. This looks like a change in revenue of £6,000 whereas it is merely delayed outgoings.

Ongoing trends

Printing costs have been remarkably static, as we can see from the printer's invoice figure

Magazine Production vs. Year



Point 1: until recently membership subscriptions would nicely balance members magazine production with a little left over to bank, a figure roughly the conference revenues. So, ACCU membership was close to cost neutral and the conference revenues increased the cash reserves.

Point 2: although over time we have acquired some more necessary outgoings as ACCU has acquired the burdens of the modern era, such as YouTube comment moderation and a public liability insurance policy, the majority of outgoings are the Magazine production and delivery costs.

Actual quantities have gone down a little, while the unit cost has gone up. Note that postage is covered in the invoice. Typesetting is constant each month and has stayed status for a while at £700 pcm.

2019 650 Overloads cost £1,185 - £1.82 each

2019 650 C Vu cost £1,421 - £2.18 each

2023 600 Overloads cost £1,325 - £2.21 each

2023 500 C Vu cost £1,616 - £3.23 each

On the average:

One year of Overload hence went from £11 to £13

One year of CVu went from £13 to £20

Point 3:

From our pricing

Full Individual Membership: £45.00/year.

Basic Individual Membership: £32.00/year. This is similar to Full Individual Membership except that the subscription to the ACCU journals does not include printed copies of Overload.

The final significant remaining benefit to the member is the conference discount.

Ongoing Investigations

Action 1: the task of contacting HMRC to determine our organisational status has hit its first birthday 🎂 I have had to restart the process as none of the agencies involved are able to help nor advise.

Action 2: there is a parallel action to follow up on letters related to the waiver for filing corporation tax. This was sent to an out of date postal address and in addition should have been followed up by HMRC in 2018.

The knock on effect is that it is not currently possible to identify ACCU to YouTube fully as an entity type they recognise for accepting ad revenue, hence we can't collect our Youtube revenue, such as it is right now. Around now, the monies would support 2 frugal members, so we are not perturbed, but it will be better to have full control of the channel, ad options and any revenue.

Some suggestive facts

Thought 1: as raised above, most of our costs are magazine production. One can argue that currently the basic memberships and any memberships that opt out of hardcopy magazines are subsidising magazine production.

This is currently implemented as an option on the 2 memberships.

Should an electronic-only membership exist that costs considerably less, or perhaps even be free?

To give a concrete example: if a membership type existed that covered its share of YouTube comment moderation, insurance and expenses it would be about the price of a coffee per year.

At that price point one might consider not charging them. As a courtesy we should engage Mosaic, the event organisers, to see if granting a conference discount seems fair.

Thought 2: we have considered that the YouTube channel monetisation (see earlier) might go towards making basic channel maintenance cost neutral. The dream is that we would have a channel publicising ACCU and its goals and conference through high quality content, which would not need member subscriptions revenue for support.

Thought 3: should anyone be in the dead trees game in 2023? ACCU could retain the magazines by simply moving to electronic only delivery and end up back in yearly surplus. I would be sad to see the printed magazines go away, but they are quite costly. It's a mark of pride that they go to the British library to this day and I still recall Francis Glassborow's suggestion that we should be putting copies on the coffee tables of every computer science department in the country. Could we achieve this with PDF only? And does the Computer Science department have coffee tables?

Thought 4: there are other ways of publishing articles and content now, and perhaps this is not a crisis, but in fact an opportunity to reskill the organisation.

Conclusions

Operations proceed as normal with no significant issues to report. Reserves are healthy: we have used them this year to support the conference, with the aim of ensuring that the content produced is as good as we can make it. There is nothing impeding ACCU from operating for the foreseeable future of the next few years.

Patrick Martin, ACCU Treasurer

Membership Secretary's Report

Although there is almost no difference from last year, overall membership numbers have continued their very steady decline. There was the usual spring rush to gain reduced membership rates for the conference. We continue to gain new members from all over the world, with Europe and North America dominating the numbers after UK members.

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

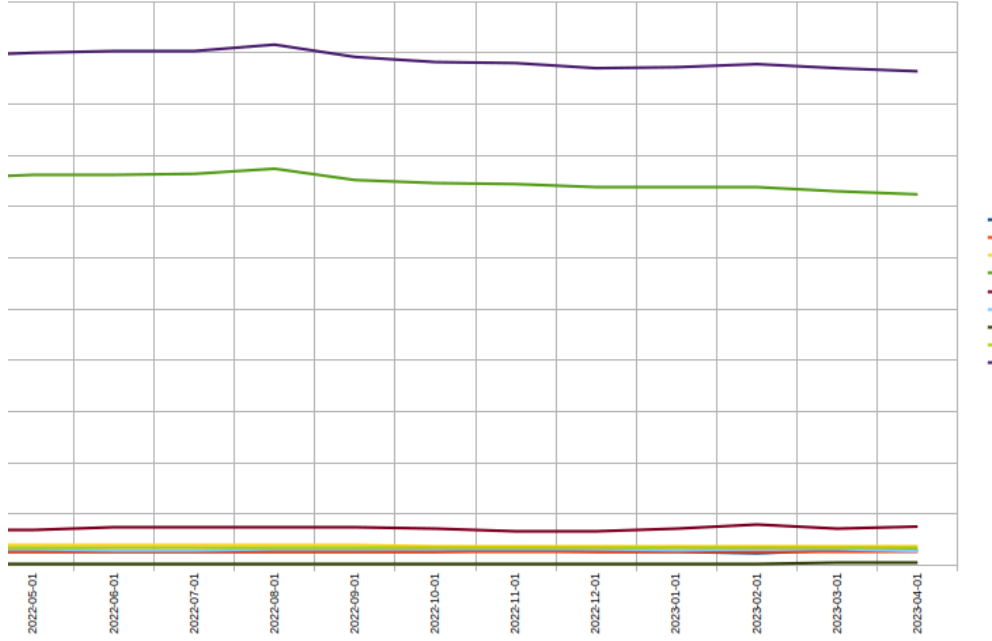
The numbers are (as of 2023-04-16):

Category	Members	Difference from 2021 AGM report
Individual (Full 363, Basic 39)	402	-10
Concession (Full 14, Basic 3)	17	-1
Corporate Members	15	+1
Honorary	19	-1
Gratis	13	-1
Total	466	-12
Complimentary Journals	18	0

Matthew Jones

ACCU Membership secretary

ACCU One Year Membership



ACCU Long Term Membership

