

Minutes from ACCU Committee Meeting – Feb 18th 2012

Present: Hubert Matthews, Astrid Byro, Mick Brooks, Stewart Brodie, Matthew Jones, Roger Orr, Tom Hughes, Andrew Marlow, Alan Bellingham, Robert Pauer. Remotely: Giovanni Asproni,

1. Apologies were received from Seb Rose and Giovanni Asproni, who hoped to attend remotely.
2. The minutes of the previous meeting (8th Oct 2011) were approved as correct, nem. con.
3. There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere
4. Officers' reports
 1. Chair (HM) – He spoke with Julie last week and they have agreed that AYA will pay a licence fee of [Redacted - commercial in confidence] in addition to the tutorial day. Rob raised the need to check on whether this might count as 'making a profit' – it is a promotion cost. There is nothing else to report that is not already covered below.
 2. Treasurer (RP). A high-level summary of the accounts was passed round. Subscription income is about £31,000, advertising £3,000 and miscellaneous £2,000. Magazine cost is about £30,000, minor amounts on web site and administration. Overall net profit of about £3,000 (this includes over £1K ISDF). This is a good change from the loss of the last two years (around £14K and £8K). All information for the year has gone to the accountants and they hope to have them completed by mid March, ready for the AGM. **RP** to verify they've all they need.
The deposit account, offering 0.1%, may be the best we can get as an association. It is probably better to concentrate our efforts on getting more members. Sorting out the internet banking is still ongoing but is taking a while. We hope to achieve Mick, Rob and Hubert as the three named individuals.
 3. Membership (MB). Mick had previously circulated a summary. Numbers are up around 50 on this time last year. Trying to get a members-only discussion list sorted out – a few false starts. Joining this will be a single check box on the website, set to default on.
 4. Conference (JJ, given by HM). Registrations currently 180, up 40 from last year. Expect we'll sell out again. 29/30 for Nico Josuttis's library tutorial. Angelica Langer's garbage collection has only a handful, Tom Gilb is ticking along with 8 booked. AYA have changed to a new system with different online systems. There will be a mobile app available this year: requires people permission and twitter channel/picture. Blackwells are finding things harder, will attend to unlikely to sponsor. There will be sponsorship from a new company, Wibu. We want some exhibition space at the conference for ACCU and membership forms will be available. There should also go onto the web site. We will have somewhere where people can put any comments about how we could improve ACCU. **Hubert** also hopes to send out an email questionnaire to existing members. **Asti** to discuss with Julie about a table for Bletchley Park.
5. Publications Officer (RO). We have come to the end of Richard Harris' excellent articles. As yet there has been no offer for a replacement for Ric Parkin, so we will continue to advertise the position. Guest editing might be a good way in. We need a job spec – **Roger** to chase him for this. We should have a birds-of-a-feather session on writing for CVu and Overload – **Andrew Marlow** would arrange – would approach Francis Glassborow as a good speaker for this.

6. Publicity Officer (AB). Asti is still waiting for a clear direction for ACCU and an updated website. In the meantime she has been working with Bletchley. Autumn conference suffered a bit from lack of focus as BP were otherwise occupied; we still raised £10-15,000. Asti would rather not run yet another Autumn conference on her own. Wants help with ideas for publicity and copy. Needs somebody to work with to help with, for example, brainstorming speakers. We suggested putting a request for help out to membership. Giovanni also offered to help. Hubert would contact BP to try and get some help.
 7. Advertising (SR). In Seb's absence, Rob reported that we have had a little advertising income, but not a great deal. CQF apparently offer office space – **Hubert** to inquire what this means.
5. Constitutional matters
1. Conference chair proposal – deferred. At last year's AGM there was a motion to defer discussion about the elected conference chair to this year. Spoken to Russel, Richard and Alan to defer it to next year as there has been too little time for discussion. It would be good to have a couple of articles in CVu putting the case each way.
 2. Proxy voting. As an international organisation it seems unfortunate that you can only vote in person. We would need an agenda published further in advance to support this, so we need to get better at producing an agenda. At the two week point before the AGM we should publish the agenda for proxy voting. Would proxy be per issue, or 'with the chair', or... We can propose a few alternatives to members at this AGM. We need to get the wording onto the agenda. **Giovanni** will research some alternatives. The item needs to go on the AGM agenda.
 3. Draft AGM agenda. The notice went out in Jan's CVu. Items to go onto the agenda include:
 1. Proxy voting.
 2. Section 4.1 student membership – to be renamed to concessions
 3. Note that the motion to elect the conference chair is deferred
 4. We need to announce we are actively investigating moving the location to Bristol (**Giovanni** is concerned we should maintain the community feel, as are we all). Note Marriott can take up to 700-800.
 5. Looking at the ISDF funds we have slightly over £1,000 which will go towards underwriting ISO 2013.

Meeting minutes will be printed by AYA's printers – one week before hand. One week before that we close the agenda, so need nominations closed mid April. Remind people nominations from the floor are allowed. It is unclear how that goes with proxy voting.
6. Committee matters
1. Succession planning – Matthew is a potential new secretary; we have already discussed Ric Parkin (Overload) above. As far as we know no other posts are becoming vacant. We intend to go for a block vote for all positions other than secretary. Alan Bellingham happy to remain co-opted to shadow the secretary. Stewart doesn't think Rob needs any support, but willing to stand as a general member. We should co-opt Jon Jagger and ensure he is on the email list.
 2. Frequency of meetings. We are currently having three a year, in the past we have had four. However, we are busy, so do we really want more meetings?
 3. Telecoms. We could have more, shorter, meetings if we have conference calls in between

the existing three physical meetings (hopefully also with telecom facility). **Asti** is happy to continue offering the use of Webex.

4. Committee mailing list – security and membership. **Mick** to check whether the mailing list is now locked down and whether the archive has been removed from answerpot.com. **Rob** would liaise with Tim Pushman to chase the mailing lists we currently run to purge ones that were no longer relevant.
7. Lunch break. Thanks to Alan for his hospitality!
8. Conferences
 1. Spring conference preparation appears to be going well.
 2. Videos – Skills Matter again? It seemed to work last time. In hand with Jon Jagger.
 3. Survey and joining forms + lunchtime strategy session.
 1. **Hubert** to arrange survey forms at the ACCU table.
 2. Can we arrange online joining? Probably need to set up a rota: each committee member? **Roger** to arrange a rota: email the committee and accu-general for volunteers. **Rob** happy to man Sat am (if there).
 3. **Hubert** to arrange a lunchtime session with white board on “what do people want from ACCU/what can you offer to ACCU”.
 4. T-shirt competition. There are two entries from Nigel Lester and a Motorhead style design. B&W only. QR code on the code inside the Motorhead design. Pre order and add a few extra to be sold on a first come/first served basis.
 5. Location for 2013. Discussed above, and in 14 below.
 6. ISO C++ 2013 – venue, sponsorship. Currently provisionally booked to Bristol, the week after ACCU conference and underwritten by ACCU, AYA and BSI panel members. WG14 (C) may meet the week of ACCU. **Hubert**: Nvidia have a connection with Oxford University.
9. Website

A rough first draft is up and running. The software has a Lucerne based search engine behind it which is nice for the journals. Mick asked if we could open source it and put the code on github? Our current web site doesn't match “Professionalism in Programming”. The web site could be an interactive learning activity for the members – those who know the technologies can help those who don't. We need control over the *production* website but that simply requires a gatekeeper. We could have a monthly report in CVu of what has changed. We need to set up test harnesses for the web site and may need to spend some money on front end design; or ACCU members may have contacts. We can also aggregate accu-general and members' blogs. Local groups could have an area for events and calendars. We need to get a VM (£15/m) as a staging site with, for example, Jenkins linked to github. Who will be the mentor/mentors? **Hubert** is happy to do the agile deployment side of things. We want to push this out to the membership: we would like a core of three people to be gatekeepers. Put an item on the website, in CVu and a membership email. Perhaps we could set up an accu-beta website with member only access. **Hubert** to get a VM and put it into github, set up both a staging and a live site, and elicit interest from membership. **Mick** will try and write something about the ideas. We want to present something at the conference.
10. Journals
 1. Electronic versions. We don't save much by reducing the print run. If people don't want the printed copy we can use them for promotional material and it saves the postage. We will send the PDF out via the website. If we can get open-sourcing working we might have volunteers who could convert to Kindle, and other, formats.
11. Education
 1. Year of Code, Raspberry Pi, NextGen/ICT in schools report – how can the ACCU help? Could we get a talk at ACCU from someone from Raspberry Pi? Is there anything we can do

to get in contact with the *next* generation of programmers? The head of CAS (Computing as School) is Simon Peyton-Jones, who spoke at ACCU a couple of years ago.

12. Promotion and marketing

1. Local groups – joining forms, magazine stocks, Bristol/Bath. **Rob** intends to visit York and Leeds university computing laboratory and leave some magazines. If there's stuff moving to Bristol in 2013 can we jump-start the local group ready for this?
2. Meetup.com (This is an online website for starting local groups.) It costs \$12/m to start a group. It provides, among other things, notifications of other groups in your area. Can we try it with Bristol group? We need a local organiser – would Ewan Milne be interested?
3. Links to other groups. Do we need to link up with other groups in order to grow? Having moved from a very specific technology into multi-lingual areas are we fighting our name?
4. 25th anniversary of the C users group (AGM in 2013 in the 25th). In two months time we're in the "25th year". Could we track down Martin Huston to get exact details from that era? We could pick up on "the next 25 years" as a tag line.

13. AOB. Andrew Marlow – reviews for speakers for conference: we ought to make the names of speakers mandatory. **Roger** to pass this information on to Jon or Julie.

14. Date and location of next meeting – Bristol **City** Marriott, 12th May 2012 starting at 12noon. **Roger:** talk to Jon and Julie. We would like lunch for about 12 people and a conference room for about 4 hours and a short presentation on the hotel facilities. We would also like wifi connectivity.