

Minutes for ACCU Committee Meeting 7th of December 2013 (Google Hangout)

Meeting started at 11am

1. Attending

1. Roger Orr, Giovanni Asproni, Rob Pauer, Tom Hughes, Mick Brooks, Chris O'Dell, Astrid Byro

2. Apologies for absence

1. Alan Griffiths, Mark Radford, Dirk Haun, Seb Rose, Matthew Jones, Andrew Marlow, Martin Moene

3. Minutes from last meeting

1. Fixed and approved.

4. Actions arising

1. None

5. Other matters arising

6. Reports

1. Advertising

- i. No report. Rob said there has been a small amount of advertising. UBS renewed its ads for the magazines and another Wirth Research took some web space for the ads.

2. Conference

- i. Bloomberg and RedGate are speaking to Julie re being sponsors for 2014. The proposals are all in and wiki'd and are being perused by the committee. The schedule will be published 1st Jan. Julie is looking to start taking registrations in the coming week. Jon is meeting Julie at Bristol Marriott on Jan 10th.

3. Local groups

- i. Nothing to report on local groups. Nobody has asked for help or support.

4. Membership

- i. Membership numbers continue to fall. We're now on 619 individual memberships, compared to 651 this time last year, and ~700 the year before that. The trend is clear at <http://sinking.in/accu-member-stats.html>. Matt has been getting up to speed with membership secretary job. This month he took over the tasks for the December Overload mailing. Mick said we are on a decline. We have been on the last two years. Hopefully Matt is still on track for taking over next year. Rob thinks we need to give the declining membership problem some serious thought. We need to come up with some ideas. Roger said that the role of the magazines is now different as there is more information out there. We need to publicize the conference more. Local groups are doing well, and the mentored developers is in the same space for learning. The involvement varies a lot in the membership. Rob says we could potentially target universities. Giovanni said we need to clarify our message first. Roger proposed to something at the conference to talk about it, perhaps in the evening.
- ii. Roger asked about the breakdown between the UK and the rest of the world. Mick

will check and will put something on the committee reflector.

5. Treasurer

- i. Notes. HMRC sent a letter that we don't need to pay corporation tax. Nothing surprising on the financial front. Paying the bills regularly. No extraordinary payments. Subscriptions still rolling in. Bank balances about the same as of last year. Chris asked about the Meetup expenses have been received. We need to find out who paid that (Asti said that it might have been Ewan). Roger will find out who paid and tell them to talk to Rob. Rob will email the committee to let us know who has claimed what.
- ii. Roger said that Allison Peck is about to register for VAT, so we may be charged for it. She is currently billing us not through her company, so we are not charged VAT.

6. Publicity

- i. Notes: Asti. She took the action with the press release. She is dealing with the T-shirts, keeping along with the concert T-shirts. Pink Floyd dark side of the moon RGB codes. She will proceed with mock-ups.

7. Standards

- i. Mark says: I don't stand a chance of filing a standards' report pre-meeting, given the problems I currently have. I will do my best to file a report here on the committee reflector as soon after the meeting as I can. Roger said Mark is continuing to produce the report for CVu

8. Website

- i. Roger said Martin said he did some work, but he's been busy. Roger asked if we wanted to pay somebody to work on the site, and Mick said we don't really know the requirements we have. Chris pointed out that the sticky point is the membership system. Rob asking why the system is on the web, and is not a separate one. Mick said that some information has to be there. Perhaps we should have a membership system api so that the website is not that linked into it. Asti asked if there is a commercial package we can buy. Tom said he knows there are some open source ones. Roger said that it's important the membership information and the website are part of the same login. Chris said Martin looked into the membership system and found it impenetrable. Roger will follow it up with Martin to see what the options are for the best way forward and ask if he can start a discussion in the website mailing list. Chris said that if we were a company we would ask the users for their requirement for the membership system. Mick said there is a wiki page with a description of what the system does for us. Roger said It's a good start, but it may not capture some of the missing functionality; Mick says there is a section about that. Rob asked if there is a way to hack the system and steal our members details. We probably have the addresses, but the payment details are somewhere else, so the system should be secure enough. The data on the website is personal data, but not highly secure personal data.

9. Study Groups

- i. Ian still pushing through the C++ book. No other plans at the moment for other study groups. Roger asked if it was possible to run more than one group at the same time for people interested in other subjects. Action: Chris to ask people if there is interest in other groups to run in parallel

10. Publications

- i. Roger said there has been a reduction in amount in material people are putting forward, but the motivations are not clear. Chris said that we should advertise the fact that there are reviews. Asti said that a recent CVu had so much material that there was no space for the book reviews. Those problems seems to be more relevant for Overload. Roger will talk with the editors about these issues.

7. Finance

1. Covered in the treasurer report.

8. Discussion on the “no hardcopy option” on website for magazines

1. Mick shared what we've got now. There is a “no hard copy” in the bottom of a page in the internal site. So far 16 ticked the box to say they don't want hard copies. According to Mick a surprising high number. Mick sent an email to them to say that Overload was available. What is missing now is that if anybody did not want the notification by email, Mick would struggle to notify them about the box for the no-hardcopy.
Roger said that Herb Sutter asked him if he could be notified when magazines were out so he could link to them from his website.
Asti asked if the no hardcopy option is only on membership renewal, or at any time, Mick replied that it can be done at any time (if you can find the box) and it will take effect next time the journal is going to be sent.
Mick said that all the 16 **yesterday** were basic members that wouldn't receive overload in their mailbox, and he was wondering if they should be notified about Overload being out, Roger and Giovanni said no, and Mick agreed.
Roger asked how many prints we should reduce to save printing costs. Rob said that the postage costs are about a third of the costs. Mick will check that.

9. Any other business

1. Giovanni will publicise the deadlines for AGM and candidacies. and send them to the committee as well. (accu-general, accu-members, CVu).
2. Action: Giovanni to look for electronic voting systems.
3. Rob item. Hardship fund. Asked if we need to tell people that contributed to that to let them know about the fact that the money is going to be diverted. (Leave this one just for now)
Alan has an action for a motion to be publicised

10. Next meeting

1. 11th of Jan 2014

Meeting finished at 12:15

ACTIONS

- **Roger:** Talk with Jon about having organizing a conversation about membership and how to “sell” the association at the conference
- **Roger:** Find out who paid the Meetup expenses and tell them to talk to Rob. Rob will email the committee to let us know who has claimed what
- **Roger:** Talk with Martin about the work on the website and membership system to see what the options are for the best way forward and ask if he can start a discussion in the website mailing list
- **Roger:** Talk with the Overload and CVu editors about the reduction of material for publication

- **Mick:** Check the membership breakout by country and put something on the reflector
- **Mick:** Check how many prints we should cut to save on printing costs
- **Chris:** Ask people if there is interest in running several study groups in parallel
- **Giovanni:** Publicise the deadlines for AGM and candidacies. and send them to the committee as well. (accu-general, accu-members, CVu).
- **Giovanni:** Look for electronic voting systems
- **Alan:** suggest at next AGM we roll the hardship fund money into the general fund. (later)
- **Alan:** contact Mark for an update on contacting Nathan Myers re C panel
- **Alan:** Ask the membership to decide what to do with the disabilities post (Silas confirmed nothing is happening with it at the moment)
- **Mick and Martin:** Ask for help with an article in CVu, and emails to accu-members and accu-general for migrating the membership system
- **Mick** Send list of corporate contacts that returns journals to Asti
- **Asti:** Talk with the conference committee about a press release in January to attract new Joiners (Rob created a draft and circulated to her and Jon) and keep Rob in the loop.
- **Rob:** will make sure in January to give the accountants a deadline for the beginning of March (including a bit of a buffer), so that the draft accounts will be ready for the AGM. (later)
- **Matt:** to polish the wording of the proposal for the local group sponsorships and send it around for review
- **Matt:** Contact the US and european chapters and have an hangout to see how we can collaborate together, and investigate if they want to participate to committee meetings
- **Everybody on the committee:** Write down something about their roles to be put in the website. *(Alan wrote his and emailed to the committee. Mick did his as well, and sent it to Alan)*