

Minutes for ACCU Committee Meeting 11th of January 2014 (Google Hangout)

Started at 11am

1. Attending

1. Alan Griffiths, Dirk Haun, Roger Orr, Giovanni Asproni, Rob Pauer, Tom Hughes, Chris O'Dell, Matthew Jones

2. Apologies for absence

1. Seb Rose, Martin Moene, Mick Brooks, Andrew Marlow, Astrid Byro, Mark Radford

3. Minutes from last meeting

1. Approved

4. Actions arising

1. Alan and Chris asked what to do with Alan's action about asking the membership to decide what to do with the disabilities post (Silas confirmed nothing is happening with it at the moment). Alan proposed to just drop the post, after all is a co-opted role, and asking the membership would give no benefit.

5. Other matters arising

6. Reports

1. Advertising

- i. QBS have ordered another 12 months advertising - £2000
- ii. QBS have put a catalog insert into this month's journal - £200
- iii. An ongoing issue with OpenAds means that we have no statistics on ad views for over a year. Tim has been unable to track the problem down.
- iv. Archer Yates have not yet made a contribution based on sponsor's advertising in the journals in 2013. They have asked Seb to bundle that contribution with their contribution for this year's conference.

2. Conference

- i. See below (long).

3. Local groups

- i. Nothing to report.

4. Membership

- i. Matt continues to take on more of the membership role.
Membership counts have held steady in the short time since our last meeting. Details are at <http://sinking.in/accu-member-stats.html>.
23 members have now opted out of receiving hardcopy of the journals, up from 19 last month. I again sent out emails to those 23 announcing the availability of the new journal, but this time I included the text of Martin Moene's announcement to accu-general.
Just recently 3 corporate members have all renewed as individuals. I've contacted them, and the 2 that have so far replied intended to renew as corporates. This occasionally happened in the past, but after a few in close succession I've asked Tim Pushman to check if there's a problem with the renewal form on the website not offering the existing membership type as the default.

5. Treasurer

- i. Rob will add Matt as a signatory to the account. Rob has sent the transactions to the accountants for them to prepare draft accounts by mid-March thus allowing the honorary auditors sufficient time to examine them before the AGM. No requests received for local meeting expenses. The ones sent now will go to 2014. Because Alison always bills the same amount, Rob will set up a standing order to simplify things.

6. Publicity

- i. No report

7. Standards

- i. No report

8. Website

- i. From Martin. A/the new website requires interaction with a membership system to control access to member-only material. To a large extent, the implementation of the system is a "staffing problem" rather than a technical one I think. We need someone who understands the requirements and the technicalities of the existing and the new ACCU membership system and is willing to spend enough time to make this work in a Drupal setting (provided we continue that path [1]). Also remember that there's the need to migrate from old to new. CiviCRM [2] you mention can be used with Drupal [3,4], Joomla, Wordpress and it could be a useful tip.

[1] GitHub. [accu-org / website-v3](#)

[2] Wikipedia. [CiviCRM](#). CRM for Advocacy, Non-Profit and Non-governmental Groups

[3] Drupal.org. [CiviCRM](#)

[4] CiviCRM user and administrator guide. [Integrating with Drupal](#).

Website list:

[5] 4-Feb-2013 - [\[ACCU\] Info about the \(new\) ACCU website from the ACCU Committee minutes](#).

[6] 15-Mar-2013 - [\[Accu-website\] \[ACCU\] The road to the current website in 2005-2006 collected from CVu](#)

[7] 23-Mar-2013 - [\[Accu-website\] \[ACCU Website\] goto start \[originally posted to accu-committee on 20 Mar 2013\]](#)

[8] 30-Mar-2013 - [Announcing work on new website \[Easter egg\]](#)

ii. Overload Online

Alison Peck has been working on making Overload online (HTML) "doable" for the web editor. We're still fleshing out a few things (e.g. equations) but for me publishing Overload articles is now mostly copy-paste with maybe a few manual adaptations. For Alison there's still manual work, which she'll try to automate further.

First results are for Overload 118 at <http://accu.org/index.php/journals/c332/>

The idea is to work down to Overload 100, one per week, except when a new Overload or C Vu is published. Alan asked if we are paying Alison for this additional work.

Website layout

I made several changes to the layout of the website to improve its text and image presentation. Most important change is the scaling of images in articles to

approach a responsive design somewhat. (This makes a page to adapt to the window size.) Also, before some images wouldn't fit the page width before. Further changed type and headings, colour of listings (now non-bold). Also limited the width of the page to prevent the text lines to become too wide and contain too many words for good readability (more than ca. 15 words).

See for example [Object-Environment Collision Detection using Onion BSPs](#) by Stuart Golodetz.

9. Mentored Developers

- i. Nothing to report.

7. Electronic and remote voting

1. How to organize the elections, e.g., electronic voting provider, emailing members, advertising candidacies, etc. Allow for voting in person at the AGM by raising hands, emails and an online system.

8. Description of committee roles

1. Only a few written so far. Everybody to write them and send them to Giovanni.

9. Any other business

10. Next meeting

1. Saturday the 22nd of February.

11. Meeting ends at 11:50

Conference report

The schedule is decided. It will go live on or before Monday 13th Jan.

The registration site will also give live on or before the same date.

Julie has put quite a lot of work into making the registration a lot simpler this year.

Ewan and Jon met with Julie and Clare (from Marriott) Friday 10th Jan.

Both bars will have real-ale this year.

We have 6 pre-conference tutorials this year. This is a deliberate attempt to get more people to attend the preconference day since a percentage of this days fees goes to accu. If successful we may consider having 2 preconference tutorial days in the future. The 6 sessions are:

Nico Josuttis: Switching to C++ 11/14 in one day

Dan North: Accelerated Agile

Mike Long: Code Retreat

Tom Gilb: Architecture Engineering

James Grenning: Mock that legacy C Hands-on

Angelika Langer and Klaus Kreft: Lambdas and Streams in Java 8 workshop

See <http://accu.org/accuwiki/doku.php?id=conference:committee:2014-proposals>

Nespresso machines will be there again.

Maximum attendance last year was about 400. Will be capped to 5% growth this year. 420. Maximum the hotel could handle is about 550.

The outside terraced area was only accessible through the "vip" lounge in 2013. This year it is freely accessible without having to go through that. Depending on the weather this could be good for an outside sponsors reception? It is an option at least.

Upstairs bar area has been extended slightly by removing the wall made of wine bottles.

Bloomberg staff are visiting the Marriot the week of Jan 13th to decide how to best use the conservatory this

year. They have listened to the feedback from last year (eg lack of seats).

There will be greatly increased signage pointing to the Bloomberg conservatory this year.

Room volume for keynotes was not quite loud enough in 2013. This year we will have two extra speakers (electronic speakers that is!)

Registration area will be moving next to the cloakroom (above the few steps) and both sets of double doors will be opened. This increases the space for sponsors below the steps. Blackwells will be switching to the area on other side of the Bristol suite. The lighting in this area will be increased. The double doors from Bristol 3 into this area will be opened.

The internet pipe at Marriot has been considerably beefed up since last year.

Rates are the same as last year (conference and hotel room).

We are considering theming the accu banquet as a Bollywood night with Indian food and Bollywood dancers.

There will be no auction at the banquet.

ACTIONS

- **Roger:** Talk with Jon about having organizing a conversation about membership and how to “sell” the association at the conference. *In progress*
- **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. *In progress*
- **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
- **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:** Look for organising elections including electronic voting systems and other means
- **Giovanni:** Collect all role descriptions and send them to Martin
- **Alan:** suggest at next AGM we roll the hardship fund money into the general fund. (later)
- **Mick and Martin:** Ask for help with an article in CVu, and emails to accu-members and accu-general for migrating the membership system
- **Asti:** Follow up with corporate contacts (list sent to her by Mick)
- **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). *Carried over*
- **Rob:** Rob to talk with Martin about the work done by Alison Peck on Overload online
- **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
- **Matt:** Follow up to see what’s happening with corporate memberships (corporate members renewing as individuals)
- **Everybody on the committee:** Write down something about their roles to be put in the website, and send it to Giovanni