Minutes for ACCU Committee meeting

24th January 2016, London

Meeting started at 14:30.

1. Attending

Dirk Haun (remotely), Nigel Lester (remotely), Ralph McArdell, Malcolm Noyes, Roger Orr, Robert Pauer (remotely), Jonathan Wakely (remotely), Emyr Williams(remotely)

Apologies for absence

Matthew Jones.

2. Minutes from last meetings

The minutes of the meeting on 22nd November 2015 were approved.

3. Resignation of Chair and AGM

Nigel Lester will organise the ACCU session at the AGM in the absence of Alan Lenton. Nigel will contact Fran/Steve to see if they will also do something.

Jon Jagger will stand in for Russel Winder if he is unable to attend.

There was a discussion about how a discussion on accu-general resulted in the conference ending up having a Code of Conduct. The committee noted that the conference committee can (and should) act autonomously if they feel it is necessary and members present at the committee meeting were in favour of the action taken by the conference committee to add a Code of Conduct for this year's event.

The committee were also clear that the CoC that we have now is a 'work in progress' and at the AGM should ask for volunteers to help enhance it for next year.

4. Website/mailing list hosting

After many years, Tim Pushman would like to stop hosting. The committee would like to thank Tim for the support he has give both to ACCU and WG21.

This leaves ACCU with a problem to migrate to a new hosting provider, either with a new website or a 'copy' of the existing site.

Roger and Jonathan volunteered to liaise with Tim to find out exactly what is hosted (including WG21 mailing lists). Tim is willing to extend the existing service until July and the committee intend to take up this offer.

Jonathan will post to accu-general/members asking for volunteers to help.

ACCU London logo needs to be updated to the same style as the others; Nigel will do this.

Ralph volunteered to submit a 'View without a Chair' article for CVu; Malcolm & Roger will provide some bullet points that he will add to.

5. Reports (not discussed at meeting)

Local Groups

Report from Nigel Lester:

Building Communities
Since late Nov 2015 the membership of the local group Meetup groups has grown by 286 members to 2494; a 13% increase - chart.

All groups seem to be active. A highlight was Bjarne Stroustrup presenting at the Silicon Valley Chapter with, according to meetup, 315 attending.

Oxford Asset Management (OxAM) is keen to sponsor this year one ACCU Oxford/OXaM special event. This is where we would arrange for a big

name speaker to present.

ACCU Greece
We have setup ACCU Greece. The key action remaining is to create the Meetup sub group; this is covered in Membership Secretary's report/communications.

Meetup
The Membership Secretary now "owns" our main Meetup acct. A Big Thank You to Ewan Milne for setting this up and sharing. Adopting Meetup has proved very successful for us.

How do I create an ACCU Local Group?
The process "How do I create an ACCU Local Group?" was drafted on the local groups starter kit page. The draft has been reviewed once. With one more pass we should be ready to declare it 1.0 and publish on ACCU Members.

Local Group Affiliation Process
The key process that is missing is a local group affiliation process. I will see if I can get round to drafting this; but I don't believe we can finalize this until we have a Chair. Francis Glassborow reminded me today that the original group affiliation process had morphed into the corporate membership that we have today.

Local Group and Conference
There has been some good collaboration between the Conference and the Local Groups.

- The local groups were asked if they could publicize that the conference sign up had been switched on.
- It has not been clear to me if we have published the full conference schedule; I recommend that, when published, we ask the local groups to promote the conference to their communities again.
- The Conference informed the Conference speakers that they should contact the Local Groups if they wanted to hold a dry run for their talk. This resulted in at least one request for ACCU Oxford, and a talk has been scheduled for Feb.
- An issue identified is that we need a contact for each group who is ideally listed on Local Groups Page; I will follow up.

Logos
I can now create these. A Big Thank You to Ewan Milne for doing this in the past and for training me up.

It was pointed out by Ewan that social media sites tend to use square logos where as the local group ones are rectangular hence not necessarily optimally shaped. We may need to change to fit with today's social media platforms. Any feedback on this would be much appreciated.

Requests from Groups
Besides creating a Meetup group for Greece, no others that I am aware of.

Thank You
A Big Thank You to all those running and assisting local groups.

4.4 Membership

Report from Matt Jones:

I haven't had time to update the membership graph but will do so ASAP next week. I'll send an email when this is done. From the automatic update emails, I see we had 140 members join last year. Bear in mind a small proportion of these will be re-joins after expired membership.

Of the 11 new joiners so far in 2016 the international trend continues:
GB 7
DE 1
FR 1
CH 1
NL 1

I have just taken over the running of Meetup from Ewan. It seems I have to make an old fashioned voice call on Mr. Bell's telephone apparatus, to get us upgraded to "Pro" so we can have >3 groups. This is necessary for the newly formed ACCU Greece.

Francis Glassborow got in touch:

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"I want to nominate a couple of people for honorary membership. Each for
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outstanding services to the programming community as a whole rather than
just to ACCU.

Jim Coplien
Andy Koenig

both have been major contributors to programming as a whole and C++ in particular.
It would be nice to be able to announce these (assuming the Committee
approves) at the coming conference.

I would also like to suggest that we start to make a number of annual awards,
in particular, lifetime achievement awards (limited to those who have reached
retirement age even though they may still be active). Perhaps we could have
a list of potential awards and ask for nominations, create a short list and
have an members vote, results to be announced at the ACCU Conference starting
with 2017 (which will be the 21st annual ACCU conference and the start of
C Vu's 31st year of publication -- perhaps it is time we started mentioning
the longevity on the cover)"
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I wholeheartedly support both suggestions, and put them to the rest of the committee.

Website

Report from Martin Moene:

Website report for ACCU committee meeting 24 Jan 2016

Some ACCU Website statistics:

Website non-member profiles: 10062
Website member profiles: 719
Pages [1]: 264
Conferences: 17(ca. 4 pages)
Confrence PDFs: 320
Conference images: 153
Bookreviews: 1911
HTML Articles: 1525
Article images: 1003
PDF Journals: 191
ePub Journals: 38
ACCU Complaints procedures: 1
ACCU Constitutions with diffs: 8
ACCU Committee minutes: 22
AGM packages/minutes: 32

[1] conferences, mailing lists, local groups, study groups, journals (and covers, bibliographies), community, membership, book reviewing, committee

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Notes from Matt Jones:

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had a phone conversation in December with Julie Archer about the possibility of using the Cvent membership system as an alternative to the current ACCU website system. The obvious problem (which is purely technical and therefore can be/already has been solved) is that there has to be some interface between membership and website so that the members only areas of the website can be enforced. It should also look like one site, rather than two, to anyone joining.

If anyone is interested, AYA migrated another client to CVent: the British Trauma Society (http://www.bts-org.co.uk/) so you can see how they have approached it.

Following on from the call AYA investigated further and I received an email from Stephanie, which I have forwarded to the committee list separately.

As far as I'm concerned, this is obviously a good move (consider the conference & marketing linkups), with two main downsides
1) cost (unknown at the moment)
2) dependence on CVent, and to a degree, AYA.

(1) is purely a budgetary consideration, and (2) isn't a big deal since we have previously depended on Tim Pushman/Gnomedia, and we already have a dependency on AYA for the conference, but maintain an excellent working relationship with them.

Given the speed with which Tim P. wants to hand over the website, we will probably have to pay someone (possibly some integration expert at CVent) to manage to transfer of data, and integration with the next website.

If falls within the activity restrictions due to no chair, I suggest that we obtain proper quotes for the various options & tasks so we can make more informed decisions. We should also think in more general terms about how much we are prepared to spend on the whole website migration project, since it won't be trivial, but is a very visible side of ACCU and therefore needs to be "done right".

Publications

Report from Roger Orr:

The editors ran a poll for the best articles in CVu and Overload which generated some interest and votes.

The "winners" will be listed in the next Overload; and they are emailing the top voted writers to say 'congratulations'.

We think the experiment worked and we intend to do it again this year.

Otherwise things keep ticking over; however you might have noticed from the page counts that we are still a bit low on material

Martin is generating e-pub versions of the magazines and this does seem to suit a number of people

Added by Frances Buontempo:

Myself and Steve have emailed the authors who came top in the survey and got responses back from almost everyone immediately to thank us. The latest Overload has more in - there seem to be some very dry patches and then the odd bumper moment.

6. Items deferred due to resignation of Chair

6.1 Officer for Disabilities

At the AGM Francis Glassborow raised the issue of an ACCU officer for disabilities. ACCU previously had a an officer for disabilities but apparently this officer was never required to carry out any actions so the post lapsed. The committee felt that it was something that ACCU *should* have a policy on and something should be added to the webpage - possibly a statement on diversity on the 'About' page? Chair needs to consider potential wording.

6.2 Were the conditions for a quorum at the SGM met?

There was some discussion about how to interpret the constitution; the view of the committee at the time was that the only things that could be decided at the SGM were items that would be voted on using electronic voting (which clearly did have sufficient numbers), however a strict interpretation of the constitution (7.8) suggests that there the meeting should have had a quorum of 10 voting members. There was also some discussion about what it means for voting members to be 'present' at the meeting (Hangouts, phone-ins, chat are all possibilities). Malcolm's view is that the constitution does not need changing as it is now clear for any future SGMs that 10 members should be present and SGMs are rare (AGMs generally have well above the quorum as they are held at the conference venue). The 10 members limit should not be hard to achieve and is beneficial as a check on the committee.

Chair will consider this for future meeting.

6.3 Future direction of website and membership database

No-one has a clear idea of what we want the system to do; the current system is acceptable but could be improved:

- there are no links with the conference data held by Archer Yates.

- we cannot automatically check members who go to conference.
- we cannot remind members who previously attended that conference is approaching.

Matt to contact Julie and ask her what is the best way of doing this check.

Schedule another discussion for next meeting.

6.4 Computing in Schools

Chair has been asked (by Russel Winder) to consider what we can do to support computing in schools. See also
http://www.computingatschool.org.uk.

7. Schedule for 2016 AGM

Sunday 24th January 2016 - Announce (AGM -90)
Tuesday 23rd February - Proposal deadline (AGM - 60)
Saturday 12th March - Draft agenda (AGM -42)
Saturday 26th March - Agenda freeze (AGM -28)
Saturday 2nd April - Voting opens (AGM - 21)
Saturday 23rd April - AGM

8. Date of next meeting

The date of the next committee meeting will be Sunday 20th March 2016 @ 2:30, physically at Roger's house (35 Kitto Road, SE14 5TW).

The meeting ended at 16:50

Outstanding Actions

40. ~~Malcolm to send email to Martin asking about handover of social media accounts.~~ Alan will consider how we should deal with this - agenda item for next meeting. Malcolm/Nigel will talk to Emyr to see of he would be interested in monitoring Social Media presence.

42. Alan needs to consider potential wording for statement on diversity (including disabilities).

43. ~~Matt to check with Ewan that we are paying the Meetup fee and that he is claiming it back.~~ Matt will take over this account

45. ~~Roger to talk to Overload/CVu editors regarding sending requests for articles via Twitter and offering a prize for best article.~~ See note below - we are finding more contributors but not yet clear where these come from. A prize was thought to be a good idea; details to be published.

46. Alan to consider incentives for writing Overload/CVu articles for the next meeting.

47. Matt to contact Julie and ask her what is the best way of doing member checks for conference. Waiting for a response.

49. ~~Nigel will contact Ewan to find out how to generate logos for new local groups.~~ Nigel has instructions but hasn't yet tried to make it actually work.

50. Matt will ask Archer Yates what their policy is re. security of membership information and also confirm with Tim Pushman how the ACCU server is secured.

51. Nigel Lester will organise the ACCU session at the AGM in the absence of Alan Lenton. Nigel will contact Fran/Steve to see if they will also do something.

52. ACCU London logo needs to be updated to the same style as the others; Nigel will do this.