

Minutes for ACCU Committee meeting

20th March 2016, London

Meeting started at 14:35.

1. Attending

Matthew Jones (remotely), Nigel Lester, Ralph McArdeell, Malcolm Noyes (remotely), Roger Orr, Seb Rose (remotely), Jonathan Wakely (remotely)

Apologies for absence

Robert Pauer.

2. Minutes from last meetings

The minutes of the meeting on 24th January 2016 were approved.

3. Actions in progress from previous meeting

42. Alan needs to consider potential wording for statement on diversity (including disabilities). Awaiting new Chair.
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 Done.
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. Best Overload/CVu article was thought to be a success - winner was very pleased! Done.
46. Alan to consider incentives for writing Overload/CVu articles for the next meeting. Awaiting new Chair.
47. Matt to contact Julie and ask her what is the best way of doing member checks for conference. Waiting for a response. Ongoing.
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. Done.
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. Plans for something on Publications and Local Groups. Also planning Lightning talks - perhaps value of being a member and standing for committee.
52. ACCU London logo needs to be updated to the same style as the others; Nigel will do this. Done.

4. Reports (not discussed at meeting)

4.1 Advertising

Seb reports that we may have another potential advertiser.

4.2 Conference

Report from Roger Orr:

Local groups have had 'dry runs' of conference talks. Feedback so far is that this is useful for speakers but there is a danger that talks may not be polished versions so some audience members may not be satisfied.

All but one of the pre-conference tutorials have sufficient numbers to be viable.

Videos - hoping to have these available much sooner after the conference this year. Three tracks will be filmed.

4.3 Local Groups

Report from Nigel Lester:

Summary

- Potentially 4 new Local Groups;
- Meetup Membership up 8% to 2737 in the last 2 months;
- All existing groups running sessions;
- Conference dry-run sessions a success;
- Conference preparation under way; and
- Funding model for Meetup needs to be agreed upon.

New Groups - Toronto/Canada

We have been approached by Reg Charney to create a local group in Toronto/Canada.

New Groups - California

It seems that the Silicon Valley group has spawned 3 new groups which are:

East Bay, San Francisco, and Bay area.

They have requested logos for all the Bay area groups including a new one for Silicon Valley.

Action is to create a connection with each of the new local groups.

Meetup

A meetup group has not yet been created for Greece. The blocker is which MeetUp payment model to use. This is to be discussed at Committee session. We need to make this easy for ourselves.

Conference

I plan to give a lightning talk at conference promoting Local Groups and asking for help in various areas. I will circulate this past the local group coordinators for their input.

Create Local Group give away packs from anything left over from conference. We did this last year (left over schedules, USB sticks etc.), and would like to do the same this year. This is great for anyone running a Conference Retrospective session.

Will invite Group Leaders to the ACCU session.

Conference Dry Run Sessions

I (ACCU Oxford) had more requests than I could accommodate, and it is very reassuring to see Speakers with a strong focus on quality. Other local groups have also held Conference dry run sessions.

It is clear from my experience that it is helping to improve the quality of talks being delivered at conference. There are risks with the strategy but overall I believe it has been a great success.

Other Initiatives:

Create a poster in CVu for local groups that can be pinned up in offices etc. This was a result of talking to Oxford University Computer Science PR Rep who is happy to put them up in the University.

A new logo created for London.

Meetup Membership Stats

The membership of the local groups Meetup groups grew by 8% to 2737 since the last committee meeting - plot of Local Group Meetup Stats.

Sessions

All existing groups are running sessions. Oxford has been having some very good attendances and London, Bristol and Silicon Valley look to have had some good attendances in March. It is noted that the odd session has struggled.

Requests

To make the Local groups more prominent on the accu.org site, with perhaps some form of promotion for new groups.

There was a discussion about Meetup and which membership category we should fit into. The 'Pro' version is much more expensive (\$15 per month per group) but the 'Basic' version is limited to only 50 members, which is not enough. The membership we have at the moment (approx £90 every 6 months for 3 groups) does not seem to be available? Nigel will contact Meetup and see whether the existing deal is still available - we can make this work with 3 groups per meetup account. If Meetup are moving all new accounts >50 members to Pro membership then we would have to take this level (Pro would also give us some tools to query Meetup).

Nigel will speak to Martin to see if Local groups can easily be move to a more prominent position on website (may defer until website is moved from current hosting).

4.4 Membership

Report from Matt Jones:

Statistics			
Full Membership	537	Full Membership, Student/Retired/Similar	19
Basic Membership	37	Basic Membership, Student/Retired/Similar	4
Gratis	16	Honorary	23
Complimentary	31	Corporate	23
Link to Joint	1		

Total paying members 620 (614 last report, 619 before that). Pretty steady. We have experience the usual flurry of joiners relating to the conference, but it hasn't been that large. Maybe most attendees are already members? I will ask AYA if they can tell us which membership numbers have been used for bookings, so we can get a feel for the proportion of members attending.

Up to date numbers are in the spreadsheet (https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1_DBWE4ya54atjshMEmZA4qdWEa-bagJvc4A36u_YOpQ/edit#gid=11). It can be seen that (ignoring the Aug/Sep/Oct wobble) the last year does seem to be flat, rather than downward as per the preceeding 3 - 4 years. It is too early to say whether this is real, significant, and anything other than optimistic interpretation of a wiggly line.

I recently sent two parcels of back issues to Oxford and London. I contacted Meetup re Meetup Pro but this seems expensive for the benefit, although it will give us a unified global presence (in addition to the website). With the committee for a decision.

Nothing else to report - all systems nominal.

The committee think having an ACCU 'stand' at the conference is useful although it is hard to find people to look after it. We will try this again this year - Nigel will organise a google Doc so that people can sign up.

4.5 Treasurer

Report from Rob Pauer

There are two financial matters to bring to the attention of the committee.

1. The draft accounts have been prepared and have been sent to our Honorary Auditors; no major queries so far and the draft is attached for you all to look at.
2. Matt has requested a payment to Jon Kalb relating to Meetup expenses (\$90) for the local group in Silicon Valley. This is the first time that we have reimbursed any expenses to an overseas group so I would appreciate confirmation from the committee that this is in order. On practical grounds I think that the best way to remit funds is if I do so directly with Jon and then pay myself from ACCU funds - please let me know if there are any objections to this.

With regard to payment for Jon Kalb, the committee thought that we should do the right thing and Matt will re-imburse him and claim the expense.

4.6 Publicity

No report (no publicity officer)

4.7 Standards

Report from Jonathan Wakely

Jon will attend the WG14 (C standard) meeting.

4.8 Website

Report from Jonathan Wakely on migration:

Gavin Heavyside has volunteered to provide some assistance if we wanted to transfer the site to Amazon Web Services. The list of items we have to transfer (provided via Tim) is not too scary. C++ reflectors have all been moved; BSI reflectors have not (and BSI panel would like to keep these if possible) but these are regular mailing lists along with accu-general etc. so transferring these should be no worse than the ones we already need to transfer. We should try to transfer the C++ archives to isocpp or some other server if possible (with re-directs from ACCU).

Jon will talk to Gavin, Martin and Tim to see if we can begin planning migration.

4.9 Mentored developers

No report.

4.10 Social Media

No report.

4.11 Publications

Report from Roger Orr:

Going as expected; ePub has been well received. Roger will ask Martin if we have stats for how many times the ePub version is downloaded.

Roger will ask Steve/Fran to consider whether older articles might be considered for republication (perhaps with updates) if there are not enough articles for current magazines.

5. Items deferred due to resignation of Chair

5.1 Officer for Disabilities

At the AGM Francis Glassborow raised the issue of an ACCU officer for disabilities. ACCU previously had 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.

5.2 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.

5.4 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>.

6. 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

No nominations for Chair/Secretary have been received. Draft agenda is published. Final agenda will be published next week and emails to Corporate members inviting them to nominate voting rights will be sent at the same time. Voting list is in progress.

It is intended that the Conference Pack will be published on 14th April in time for members to download it for review before they travel Conference. Officers should plan to submit reports by then.

7. Date of next meeting

We anticipate that we may require a short 'get together' meeting at the Conference (or perhaps a longer meeting if no nominations for Chair/Secretary are forthcoming at the AGM). Malcolm to send note to accu-members.

Date of next formal meeting will be decided at Conference meetup.

The meeting ended at 16:50

Outstanding Actions following this meeting...

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

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

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55. Nigel will organise a google Doc so that people can sign up for looking after conference stand.

56. Jon will talk to Gavin, Martin and Tim to see if we can begin planning website migration.

57. Roger will ask Martin if we have stats for how many time the ePub version is downloaded.

58. Roger will ask Steve/Fran to consider whether older articles might be considered for republication (perhaps with updates) if there are not enough articles for current magazines.

59. Malcolm to send note to accu-members anticipating a Committee meeting at the conference.