

Minutes for ACCU Committee meeting

23rd July 2016, London

Meeting started at 14:30.

1. Attending

Matthew Jones (remotely), Nigel Lester (remotely), Ralph McArdeell (joined at 14:45), Malcolm Noyes (remotely), Robert Pauer (remotely), Seb Rose (remotely), Bob Schmidt (remotely), Roger Orr

Apologies for absence

Jonathan Wakely, Russel Winder

2. Minutes from last meetings

The minutes of the meeting on 22nd May were approved.

3. Actions in progress from previous meeting

Actions from previous meetings:

- 42. Bob needs to consider potential wording for statement on diversity (including disabilities). See 5.1 below.
- 46. Bob to consider incentives for writing Overload/CVu articles for the next meeting. See notes on Publications report.
- 47. Matt to contact Julie and ask her what is the best way of doing member checks for conference. Matt to ask for breakdown of members/non-members. Perhaps we can send a valid membership numbers (just the numbers) to Julie before the conference bookings open to avoid data protection issues?
- 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. Site is now migrated and https; Done.~~
- 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. Done.~~
- 59. ~~Malcolm to send note to accu members anticipating a Committee meeting at the conference. Done.~~
- 60. ~~Matt will liaise with Jim on website progress (and Martin & Tim) and report back in 1 week. Done.~~
- 61. Matt to ask Archer Yates whether their proposals would allow direct debit.
- 62. ~~Nigel to ask local group leaders if they want magazines. Done.~~
- 63. Nigel will followup whether we can help with equipment for Silicon Valley group and whether they have archives that we could put on our YouTube channel.
- 64. Roger will continue to investigate having adverts in pdf versions of magazines.
- 64. Roger to ask for feedback on which talks were most popular.

Actions added by this meeting:

- 65. Bob will publish the diversity statement for all members to review in a future CVu.
- 66. Malcolm to ask Martin to update list of committee members.
- 67. Nigel to add new column to 'local groups' page with 'primary contact'.
- 68. Malcolm to ask Asti to elaborate on how we may be able help with book reviews.

4. Reports

4.1 Advertising

Report from Seb Rose:

We have picked up a 12 month contract from JetBrains in addition to renewing the QBS contract.

There have been a few shorter campaigns as well. Also, lots of enquiries that don't turn into ads and the usual dodgy link resellers.

4.2 Conference

Report by Roger Orr:

Feedback is positive for speed of posting videos of talks from last conference. Given the issues with the Android App last year, perhaps we can find someone to write one this year?

2017: Looking for keynote speakers; next meeting early December. Russel is working on how the programme is organised. Looking for a couple of new committee members.

4.3 Local Groups

Report from Nigel Lester:

The ACCU Silicon Valley has renamed itself to ACCU Bay Area, and other bay area groups (San Francisco & Berkeley) have merged into it to form a super group of 2k members. I will update ACCU website to reflect these changes. Our point of contact has not changed as Jon Kalb is still the Meetup's Organizer. As ever the Leaders are doing amazing job building and running this community.

Following the offer to send copies of the latest version of the ACCU magazines, Jon Kalb of ACCU Bay Area asked for 12 copies which is fantastic and has been arranged. I didn't see any other responses and personally I am well stocked with magazines for Oxford.

ACCU Oxford is set to hold the SGM on Wed 28th Sept. Dominic Robinson will be giving his conference talk on "A Gentle Introduction to TLA+ (finding concurrency bugs before you write code)". This session was not videoed at conference and is on ACCU Oxford's list of great conference talks. Currently investigating if a sponsor might be interested in sponsoring the drinks for this prestigious session. Just need to work out how the remote attendees will join.

Following feedback for Oxford I have changed the way I introduce sessions to just the safety moment and Thanking sponsors. I now approach new folks directly.

The meetup groups have 3.1k members which is a 13% growth since the middle of March 2016 - The Stats.

No news on new group startups.

All the established groups are running meetings which is fantastic. Expecting reduced activity over the summer vacation period.

And finally a Big Thank You to all who run, present, promote, sponsor and attend sessions :-)

4.4 Membership

Report from Matt Jones:

Membership figures are up to date here:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1_DBWE4ya54atjshMEmzA4qdWEa-bagJVc4A36u_YOpQ/edit

The trend continues to be flat.

We have started to send magazines directly to the local groups, starting with 12 copies a month to the Bay Area group. The printers said any quantity is OK (i.e. not just 1 or 5 copies) so its just a matter of tweaking the numbers in the files I send them every month.

Jim (Hague) is working on transferring the website has had no impact at all on the membership side of things, which means everything went very smoothly. So a big thumbs up and thanks to him and everyone who supported the move.

4.5 Treasurer

Report from Rob Pauer:

No unexpected expenditure so far this year, although move to a new website will need some funding.

Conference income increased.

4.6 Publicity

No report (no publicity officer)

4.7 Standards

Report from Jonathan Wakely:

Nothing much to report for the Standards Reports. I continue to get nice feedback, people do seem to be reading and enjoying them! We've discussed making them freely available online, unlike the rest of CVu. I don't think any final decision has been made about that, but I'm still in favour of doing it. It might need some website work from Martin to make the articles accessible from the non-members pages.

4.8 Website

Website migration:

Migration to new hosting has gone remarkably well (and the site is now https). Jim Hague requested extra disk space for new website hosting (not enough space for backups); expected cost an additional £2 per month. Approved by all (Nigel will confirm with Jim).

The committee would like to thank Jim Hague for taking on this task and making the transition as smooth as possible.

4.9 Mentored developers

No report.

4.10 Social Media

No report.

4.11 Publications

Report from Roger Orr:

The main recent change has been the addition of advertising copy to the online PDFs of both Overload and CVu.

The intent is to obtain online adverts from advertisers at the same time as the print-ready copy.

Thanks to Alison and Seb for enabling this to work.

Otherwise Fran and Steve continue to do their usual good job of editing the magazines.

It might perhaps be time to look for some additional reviewers to join the review teams.

There was a discussion about whether contributors to the magazines (and to ACCU in general) should be rewarded for their work. Whilst this can encourage some people to contribute, others find the competitive nature to be negative. Perhaps a book prize for the top 1 or 2 articles (using a survey to establish 'best' as we have done before)? And/or thank contributors at the conference (perhaps by drawing attention to their contribution before a keynote talk, or by publishing a list of articles and authors in the last year on the notice board)?

Should we keep sending out printed publications? This question has previously been asked at the AGM and the answer always seems to be 'yes'. It costs us about £10,000 per year on postage; if we only sent a mailing every 2 months we wouldn't quite save half of this cost - perhaps £4,000. Is there a need/demand for two separate journals? About 100 members have elected not to receive paper copies of the journals (quite a high percentage). As always, we note that the cost of preparing the articles for publication would still exist for electronic only versions.

5. Any other business

5.1 Diversity Statement/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?.

Bob Schmidt has prepared a draft statement that has been circulated to the committee and other members who can help us understand the issues. The response has been generally positive (with a couple of queries for us to think about). Bob will publish the statement for all members to review in a future CVu.

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.

5.3 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>.

5.4 Membership costs on website

Bob Schmidt noted that the membership costs on the website were confusing; Bob will pull together proposed changes and email committee list.

5.5 Book reviews

Asti has asked for the committee to assist with book reviews. It isn't yet clear exactly how we can help; Malcolm to follow up.

6. Schedule for Special General Meeting (provisional)

Announce date (90 days before): 30th June 2016

Proposal date (60 days before): 30th July 2016

Draft Agenda deadline (42 days before): 17th Aug 2016

Agenda freeze (28 days before): 31st Aug 2016

Voting opens (21 days before): 7th Sept 2016

SGM: 28th Sept 2016

7. Date of next meeting

The date of the next committee meeting will (provisionally) be Saturday 17th September 2016 @ 2:30 UK local time, physically at Roger's house (35 Kitto Road, SE14 5TW).