

# Minutes for ACCU Committee meeting

22nd January 2017, London

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Meeting started at 14:35.

## 1. Attending

Matthew Jones (remotely), Nigel Lester (remotely), Ralph McArdell, Malcolm Noyes (remotely), Bob Schmidt (remotely), Roger Orr

## Apologies for absence

Robert Pauer

## 2. Minutes from last meetings

The minutes of the meeting on 19th November were approved (minor amendments as discussed).

## 3. Actions in progress from previous meeting

### Actions from previous meetings:

46. *Bob to consider incentives for editing/writing Overload/CVu articles for the next meeting. The committee discussed some further options; Bob has written to potential beneficiaries and received comments.* Martin continues to offer his time for nothing (Martin does a great job and the committee are very grateful!). Fran would like to donate her 'free' membership; the committee are happy to accept this; details should be passed to Matt for sign up (there isn't any procedure for something like this yet). Bob will write to Fran and Steve advising them that the committee have approved donating their 'free' membership.

66. *Malcolm to ask Martin to update list of committee members:* Done.

67. *Nigel to add new column to 'local groups' page with 'primary contact':* Done.

68. *Malcolm to ask Asti to elaborate on how we may be able help with book reviews.* Asti has asked to pass on book reviews to someone else. Malcolm has some potential volunteers and is waiting for more information from Asti. Ongoing.

69. *Matt - Send letter to members who are not paying the correct amount asking them to change.*

70. *Rob to remind Jim Hague to reclaim web site costs* Done.

71. *Roger - Note link between isocpp.org and accu.org.* The isocpp archive has been downloaded; Roger has worked out how this could be used and will email details. Hopefully we can get this moved permanently after that.

72. *Nigel to create "Join ACCU" image so that we can add it to the website as a clickable link:* Done.

73. *Malcolm to look into whether we can have more than 1 person access Election Buddy.*

74. *Bob - Draft procedure for violations of Code of Conduct/Diversity Statement created. Has been reviewed and perhaps should emphasise contacting police and should have a 'checklist' that committee members can carry to refer to. Needs to be aligned with Code of Conduct for conference so that we have consistent policy for conference and local groups.* No further comments; Bob will produce a draft and move/copy to main ACCU site.

75. *Roger - suggest to Russel that the Code of Conduct should be more prominent - perhaps moved to the main site?* Done.

76. *All - review conference Code of Conduct:* Done.

77. *Roger - raise with conference committee the concept of different lanyards for different roles (e.g. people who have contributed; 'people to go to if they have a problem'):* Done.

78. *Nigel - request slot for ACCU session (separate to AGM) at conference:* Done.

79. *Roger/Nigel - follow up Roger's contact for Bay Area group:* Done.

80. *Bob - write description of role of auditor and pass to Rob:* Done.

### Actions added by this meeting:

81. The 'sign up for conference' on the main site could be more prominent. Roger to talk to Russel.

82. Roger will ask Russel if we can email conference speakers to offer 'dry run' sessions at local group meetings.

83. Bob will add a section in the 'View from the chair' section of CVu referencing ACCU support for Code Club and other computing in schools.

84. Bob will discuss with Martin possible website changes too clarify membership categories.

85. Matt to contact Honorary Members to see if we can list them on the website.

86. Matt will create a document that we can use to start to fill in what we know of ACCU committee history.

87. Matt to ask for extra magazines (200?) for 'give away' at ACCU 2017 (and ensure that issue selected should have a 'Join ACCU advert').

88. Matt to provide committee with update on status of membership system. Schedule meeting with Archer Yates at conference (Bob, Matt & Malcolm).

## 4. Reports

### 4.1 Advertising

Report from Seb Rose:

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We still have QBS and JetBrains with full page ads. Getting fresh copy out of them is a challenge, but they pay their bills.

Recently we've taken on an internal B&W ad from a C++ trainer, so that's another £1200 due.

Enquiries are slow and we are vulnerable if either of our major advertisers decides not to renew.

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### 4.2 Conference

Report by Roger Orr:

Technology used for conference site is now working better. Codeclub will be supported as charity for this year's conference.

### 4.3 Local Groups

Report from Nigel Lester:

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No feedback from the CoC received from local groups. I am happy with the principles in CoC plus it comes with a lot of guidance on what to do. Happy for this to be generalised to ACCU events as a whole. The CoC is now part of the onboarding guidance.

Local group contacts have been added to the local groups page. Plus for those that wanted them, dedicated local group email redirectors using the format poc.NAME@accu.org where NAME is the group name, have been setup. (poc = point of contact).

Local group meetup membership grew slightly slower at just under 4% in the period since the last committee meeting in Nov 2016. The local groups have added just over 1000 Meetup members in the last year. ACCU Oxford had a record attendance in 2016, and women made up 6% of the group's attendees which whilst this is low is an improvement over 2015.

Not yet seeing any requests for dry run talks coming from Conference speakers. I was hoping to fill pre-April talk slots with these.

Ewan Milne has now stepped down from running Bristol. I sent out a formal thanks for his amazing efforts in getting a new group up and running. Emyr has taken over which is fantastic, and I ask that we do what we can to help Emyr get established in the role. Emyr regularly comes over to Oxford, which allows myself, Emyr and Malcolm to sync up on issues which is great. Emyr suggested giving Ewan a bottle of something as a token of our deep thanks and gratitude for his efforts which Malcolm and I fully supported.

London and Oxford have been successfully raffling away JetBrains licences, and I found the support from JetBrains excellent.

I attended Oxford's "Meetup Coordinators" Meetup session which was very positive. I have circulated the minutes from this session.

This has lead to the offer of Blockchain talks for London and Oxford from the leader Laurence Kirk of the Oxford University BlockChain Society. I did offer that the ACCU would cover a train ticket to get Laurence to London. For the Oxford meetup I plan to run this as a joint event with the University of Oxford Blockchain/Ethereum-Oxford groups. Blockchain looks to be a trending topic for 2017.

Over the vacation period I had a campaign of finding speakers. Besides the Blockchain talks this resulted in a Golang talk from Eleanor McHugh (who published the Golang article in the last Overload) for Oxford & London, and Fran to potentially dry run her ACCU 2017 keynote in Oxford.

A key focus for the next few months will be supporting the conference by promoting this at the local groups.

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Addendum from Ralph McArdell for ACCU London:

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ACCU London looks to have quite a few up coming filled slots too - although we have borrowed several speakers from Oxford (yes that includes you Roger!) but looks like we will be slotting them in later in the year post-conference.

Following my request to accu-general for any interested try-out speakers for our March meeting we have a single taker (so far) in the form of repeat offender and all round nice guy Burkhard Kloss.

The January talk by Mathias Gaunard is either the talk he submitted for the conference or based on it (them - its part 1 of 2) and is very oversubscribed at the moment (50 slots for attendees, 14 on the wait list).

One of two winners of a JetBrains license had a problem with the code. I could find nothing obviously wrong with what they were doing and JetBrains support confirmed the code was correct and valid and suggested they get in touch directly. I have not heard back from them to date.

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## 4.4 Membership

Report from Matt Jones:

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Up to date membership numbers are here:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1\\_DBWE4ya54atjshMzA4qdWEa-bagJVc4A36u\\_YOpQ/edit](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1_DBWE4ya54atjshMzA4qdWEa-bagJVc4A36u_YOpQ/edit)

Total of 649 - a very gradual downwards trend: -25 over this time last year,

We have had a steady trickle of new members - and quite a few in the US. I have only had one reply when I enquired whether any of them had been to ConFoo, and he was a silicon valley member who had been going to the meetings for a while and decided to join.

For the minutes, here is the ConFoo report that I previously sent to the committee:

The dust has settled after ConFoo, so I can summarise our costs. It ended up being quite a bit more than we initially thought. I hope it isn't too much of a shock! It is also a lesson in hidden costs, and we will be better prepared next time. Something to go over at the next meeting, perhaps.

£674.20	200 copies of Overload 135
£180.00	Delivery (DHL)
£ 45.85	Import duty & tax (CA\$ 74.43)

Total: £900.05

Since ConFoo we have had 2 new signups from the US, both in NYC. I emailed both new members and asked whether they had been at ConFoo, but have had no reply.

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## 4.5 Treasurer

Nothing significant to report.

## 4.6 Publicity

No report (no publicity officer)

## 4.7 Standards

No report.

## 4.8 Website

No report.

## 4.9 Mentored developers

No report.

## 4.10 Social Media

No report.

## 4.11 Publications

Report from Roger Orr:

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Fran and Steve are running another 'best article' survey - as last year - results to be in the next Overload.

Overload has had a few unsolicited articles from non-members, which is great.

Otherwise everything seems to have been simply carrying on working smoothly.

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## 5. Any other business

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### 5.1 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 make a statement at the next AGM.

### 5.2 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](http://www.computingatschool.org.uk). Bob will write a follow up in CVu.

### 5.3 Membership categories

Raised by Bob. Should we make it explicit that the committee can offer sub-classes of membership as required? Yes we should clarify these options on the web site. Bob will discuss changes with Martin.

## 5.4 Linked-In groups

Raised by Roger. The ACCU Linked-In group is marked as 'unlisted'.

## 5.5 Ideas from Chair

Bob suggested a number of things that could be looked at:

- Create a new ceremonial role of Chair Emeritus. The committee had some concerns that this might be confused with the 'Honorary Members' that we already have and perhaps the Honorary Members should have more prominence. This would require their acceptance; Matt to contact Honorary Members to see if we can list them on the website.
- Prior members of the ACCU committee - are they listed anywhere. If there ever was a list, it has been lost; Matt will create a document that we can use to start to fill in what we know.
- Advertising and/or links to other technical organisations. The committee felt that possibly advertising the ACCU in the journals of other organisations might be useful but noted past discussions about closer ties being problematic (split opinions in both directions). Possible advertising in other areas (e.g. Podcasts) was also discussed.
- Recognition for people who donate their time to ACCU. Bob suggested a waiver of the membership fee for the year following a valuable contribution from a Member. The committee agreed that this might be useful (Chair would never get a waiver) but also want to give more prominence to those who have given their time (e.g in CVu or showing thanks at conference).
- CVu could have a section for 'Member News' to review/promote what other members are doing. The committee agreed that we should try this out.
- Committee members bio has been included in CVu - should this also go on the website? The committee agreed, but that it should also be members only section.

## 5.6 Follow up from ConFoo

Raised by Matt Jones. We have not had much response to our magazine 'give away' at ConFoo. Shipping was more expensive than expected but this was due to not synchronising with publication dates. The committee agreed that we should print extra copies for ACCU 2017 to give to those attendees who are not members (the issue selected should have a 'Join ACCU advert')

## 6. 2017 AGM Schedule

Announce date	29 Jan 2017	(AGM - 90)
Proposal deadline	28 Feb 2017	(AGM - 60)
Draft Agenda	8 Mar 2017	(AGM - 42)
Agenda Freeze	1 Apr 2017	(AGM - 28)
Voting Opens	8 Apr 2017	(AGM - 21)
AGM	29 Apr 2017	

## 7. Date of next meeting

The date of the next committee meeting will (provisionally) be Sunday 19th March 2016 @ 2:30 UK local time, physically at Roger's house (35 Kitto Road, SE14 5TW).