Minutes for ACCU Committee meeting

16 Sep, via Hangouts

Meeting started at 2:30 PM UK time

1. Attending

Bob Schmidt, Patrick Martin, Nigel Lester, Jim Hague, M, Ralph McArdle, Rob Pauer

Apologies for absence

Roger Orr, Russel Winder, Emyr Williams

2. Minutes from last meetings

The committee approved the minutes of the previous meeting (2018-07-22) (subject to some typos being addressed) and in addition the carried forward minutes of the preceding meeting (2018-05-20).

3. Actions in progress from previous meeting

Note: The Google sheet for the actions is here:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1RMTorasYR_A94VBjv-Dn6ghhTVWLbW0w1ekhN994qFI/edit?usp=sharing

Actions from previous meetings:

	101	Rob will make enquiries to see whether we can have some sort officer/director insurance to protect against liabilities.
	107	Patrick and Rob to work on getting cheque authorisation sorted out for secretary
	110	Roger to connect Nigel and Jamie re: Belfast local group.
	112	Rob: to look at AYA figures and how they break down.
	115	Roger: to ask Phil Nash if his group may have any content.
	116	Roger: to talk to Fran and Steve about beginners' journal.
	117	Roger: to discuss rebranding with Russel
	119	Nigel: GDPR to create steps to take on breach
	120	Nigel: Remove copyright on GDPR statement

Actions added by this meeting:

122	Seb? Bob?: update the very old advertising card
123	Bob: mention Mentored developers position in CVu with reference to dropping it as such
124	All: revisit Mentored developers issue in next meeting, no action for now
125	Jim: to look at renewed subscript workflow in xaraya
126	Matt: to check if there is a stored date for membership expiry, and confirm that no remaining records are older than a certain date.
127	Bob: to contact Russell and Aya concerning the possibility of conflicts of interest between ACCU conference and C++ on sea.
128	Jim: talk to Hubert about the business relationship between ACCU and AYA. Does ACCU own the conference and contract with AYA to run it, or does AYA own the conference and pay ACCU a licensing fee?
129	Bob: ask Russel his opinion on turning off YouTube comments; asking authors if they are willing to provide a link that can be embedded with videos so that viewers can contact them. This might involve changing the speaker's form to include that information.

4. Reports

4.1 Advertising

QBS have renewed.
Action Seb?: update the very old advertising card

4.2 Conference

Per Russel's email:

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As far as ACCU 2019 is concerned, organisation continues at the
appropriate and correct rate for the timetable. We are really in the
calm before the storm of the Call for Proposals in October.
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4.3 Local Groups

Per Nigel's email:

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Since the last committee meeting, the Meetup membership of the local groups has grown
by 3% to nearly 7k. This is in spite of the holiday season.  ACCU Bay Area and C++
London saw the highest increases in absolute numbers with 111 and 60 respectively.
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All groups are running sessions except ACCU Cambridge which has not held a meeting since May. I will check in with Andy Saul.

Emyr reports that Chris Harpum has stood down from running ACCU Bristol. Leon Clark has volunteered to run Bristol, but this was in the context of Chris assisting in the new year. Emyr will check in with Leon to inquire if he is ok with flying solo for now.

Phil Nash asked about ACCU Local groups being community supporters of C++ on Sea https://cpponsea.uk - This would involve the local group's logo being displayed at random intervals (I believe) on the front page, the logo added to the community sponsors page https://cpponsea.uk/sponsors/ - In return they would want a mention in the local group meetings and the " C++ on sea" logo added to the meetup's sponsor page.

I note that Meetup has dropped the logos from the Meetup main page even though they are displayed on other pages. Not sure when this happened.

Following my France based manager attending ACCU Oxford's June talk (given by Roger Orr), she was impressed and asked what more help was needed. She agreed to an increase in the budget of 125% to additionally cover tokens of thanks for speakers and some long distance speaker travel costs.

Ralph as created a Github account for hosting slides that can be linked to.

4.4 Membership

per Matt's email:

Nothing to report this month.

Once I've processed the August standing order blip, the September/October membership numbers will show whether numbers are falling again (they seem to be, slightly).

Numbers as ever here: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1_DBWE4ya54atjshmEMzA4qdWEa-bagJVc4A36u_YOpQ/edit

4.5 Treasurer

It was discussed that it is needed to identify a worthy successor to Rob so he can retire

4.6 Publicity

No officer

4.7 Standards

No Emyr

4.8 Website

Bob has made numerous updates to the web site to support ePub and HTML

As per Jim's email:

== Hosting

We had an incident in August where an Overload article briefly hit the high rankings on HackerNews and the server collapsed under the load. Bytemark added resources to the server, and suggested we try a proxy cache (e.g. Varnish).

I have installed Varnish and judging by the volume of monitoring messages I get reporting the website briefly unavailable it has helped a little. However, it can only help with static content (which basically means images) at present; all website pages set 'no caching ever' flags, and if you dial them down a bit (I tried) the website login stops working properly.

Last week I found that we'd been billed for the extra resources (which is fair enough), so I've asked them to be removed.

== New website attempt _n_

(where _n_ is an unknown integer >= 2)

There's a static site generated with Hugo up at newsite.accu.org. Some links on the Local Groups section redirect to oldsite.accu.org, to give a feel for how the direction may turn out.

The wiki has some notes: https://wiki.accu.org/doku.php?
id=hosting:newwebsiteplan

Russel is starting a process of trying to move all the old conference material
from the website to the conference website. If successful this will greatly
reduce the volume of content on the main website, and so make transfer to a
new website easier. The problems to be faced are also very similar. We are
keeping in touch on this.

Bob mentioned that conference feedback was that it would be nice to the dynamic content visible high up on the page.

Suggestion noted as one to be parked and looked into later on.
It was also noted there was a lot of old content.

Bob went over the multi-stage process for CVu web site updates at Jim's question. It takes around 6 hours.

Jim mentioned that someone has offered to take up the editing of book reviews

4.9 Mentored developers

It was discussed whether there was any purpose having this line item in the committee minutes

Bob will mention this in a CVu item

Action Bob: mention this position in CVu with reference to dropping it as such

Action All: revisit this issue in next meeting, no action for now

4.10 Social Media

Bob has continued to tweet links to videos, etc.

4.11 Publications

Nothing to report

5. Any other business

5.1 *GDPR*
From Nigel

Privacy notice are done, except for the new subscription workflow - Nigel has taken a look but solution is not imminently forthcoming. Suggested that the new system would handle this?

Jim mentioned his plan is to keep membership management in the old system.

Action Jim: to look at renewed subscript workflow in xaraya

Nigel also proposed a small correction to the text:

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"Email correspondence will be kept for historical reference, unless you advise the
recipient not to. ------>>> Email correspondence with those running the association
will be kept for historical reference, unless you advise the recipient not to."
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Nigel points outs we need to ensure that a member's membership data is deleted after 6 months of the notification of the member leaving.

Action Matt: to check if there is a stored date for membership expiry, and confirm that no remaining records are older than a certain date.

Nigel points out that backups are retained for only a year.
Matt points out that it was nice to have old data for customer support

5.2 "C++ on Sea" local group sponsorship

From Nigel:
Phil Nash was asking about whether the local groups would be interested in promoting the "c++ on sea" event in Folkestone (from C++ London).
Approach the local groups, for logos and details so they can be published and support promoting the conference.

The issue of competition between conference and also how AYA would views this.

Action Bob: to contact Russel and Aya concerning the possibility of conflicts of interest between ACCU conference and C++ on sea. Bob mentioned that there seemed to some confusion on the ownership of the ACCU conference: does AYA own the conference, and ACCU owns it, or ACCU owns it and AYA contracts to ACCU

Action Jim: Talk to Hubert and find out what the exact status is for this

5.3 Recap of previous item: Successor for Russel

This is ongoing but becoming more pressing

5.4 ACCU branding

Bob mentioned there was a prospect for maintaining the YouTube channel - this is currently maintained by AYA.
Russel's view is that the status quo is fine and AYA do good work for ACCU

Bob's view is that we might well struggle to find volunteer resource.
Comments have been made on Youtube videos, which are questions but are these are being addressed by anyone?
Bob suggested would it be better to block comments and have a detail block to direct commenters to ACCU forums?

Patrick asked whether some more high profile speakers might want to handle their own questions

directed to their social media handles?

Nigel mentioned this could go into the video release form.
Action Bob: contact Russell to see what he thinks. Perhaps this can be put in place for next years' conf.?

5.5 Bytemark acquisition

Rob asked whether Jim thought was likely to be an issue for our hosting.

Jim said it was too early to say, but we were currently getting the same service

5.6 Parchment replacement

Rob asked whether the proposal to replace Parchment as the approach to get printed journals done is feasible.

Bob asked whether printers that print in the country of interest might save money.

Jim also asked whether batching the magazines might save us money.

5.7 ACCU General discussion

Bob raised a concern on whether a heated discussion on accu-general warranted anyone stepping in.

It was concluded that as it appears to have calmed down right now, committee will let sleeping dogs lie.

6. Date of next meeting

The date of the next committee meeting will (provisionally) be Nov 18 @ 2:30, via Hangouts.