Minutes for ACCU Committee meeting

18 Nov, via Hangouts

Meeting started at 2:30 PM UK time

1. Attending

Bob Schmidt, Rob Pauer, Nigel Lester, Emyr Williams, Roger Orr, Jim Hague, Patrick Martin

Apologies for absence

Matt Jones, Russel Winder

2. Minutes from last meetings

The committee approved the minutes of the previous meeting (2018-09-16).

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.* Pending.
	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 Russell
	119	Nigel: GDPR to create steps to take on breach
	120	Nigel: Remove copyright on GDPR statement
	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.

Actions added by this meeting:

130	Roger to determine if Francis's proposal to add Saturday beginner sessions is still actively being pursued
131	Jim to create a mailing list to aid with moderation issues and report back next meeting
132	Patrick to locate (with help) the schedule of important dates leading up and including the AGM (agenda etc.)

4. Reports

4.1 Advertising

Per Rob - nothing to report

4.2 Conference

From Russel Winder:

ACCU 2019

Call for proposals closed with a goodly number of good quality proposals so
we should have no problem putting on a conference of as good a quality as
usual. Programme committee members are currently reviewing the proposals
prior to the scheduling meeting 2018-12-01.

We have had a couple of complaints about the call activity, but nothing that will reflect badly on ACCU or the conference.

ACCU Conference Chair

When I took over the chair of ACCU conference, it was simply by volunteering at the last minute when Jon stepped down. I would like to avoid that sort of handover happening again. As agreed with Julie back then I said I'd do a five year stint, which makes 2020 the last year I shall chair. The correct hand- over procedure is, in my view, to have a deputy chair for the last year, 2020 in this case, and for the immediate past chair to be on the committee for the following year 2021 in this case. To set this up we really need to have the incoming deputy chair in place before the 2019 conference so that the person can be involved in the "wash up and planning meeting" that is held at the conference to kick off the following year planning.

Currently we have two volunteers for the role that have made themselves known to me. So we need some sort of decision making process to decide which of the two to invite first. I have no idea what the appropriate process for this should be, but in my view it does need to be confidential, headhunting process, rather than a public political process - as had been mooted by various people at an ACCU AGM some time ago.

I feel the ACCU committee is the place to air this,and in some sense make the decision on behalf of the members.

140 proposals received - there is a meeting on 1st Dec., at which the content should be picked
Concerns of the effect of Brexit on European attendees.
Bloomberg not sponsoring an evening
Sticking with existing videographer, and one session not videoed
Concerns with the audio setup and audio quality - this was mentioned and we hope should be addressed

Concerns about speakers coming from overseas who are compensated - might well be OK to state purposes is "Conference"

As per Russel's email: there are two volunteers coming forward right now - it is proposed that the ACCU committee would get a proposal from the Conference committee for Chair and would approve and announce

4.3 Local Groups

Email from Nigel

The key news is we had a new group start which is [ACCU York](#) under the leadership of Gareth Lloyd. They have held their first session and it sounds like it went really well :-)

Meetup membership grew by nearly 5% since the last committee meeting to just over 7300. C++ London and ACCU Oxford had the largest percentage increases ([the stats](#)).

For ACCU Oxford, I now need to do a round of talks planning for 2019. We sold out every session in 2018 which is the first year we have done this. To ensure that ACCU and sponsors get first call on places I am letting them know first, and then a few days later I push the announce button in meetup to let the entire group know. Sadly we are getting a noticeable number of no-shows. Got an email from JetBrains saying that no one has "cashed in" their JetBrains voucher in the last 3 months for ACCU Oxford. I am in a strange position where I have folks who would really like the voucher but they don't win the raffle. Maybe better just to give them away by picking someone from a show of hands.

I signed up ACCU Oxford as a community sponsor of C++ on Sea - https://cpponsea.uk/sponsors/ - I note some other local groups have signed up too.

Time to start thinking about conference dry run talks. We actually have 2 sources of these, which are ACCU 2019 and C++ on Sea. I intend to check out C++ on Sea opportunities with Phil as this might help to fill January slots. Then ACCU 2019 might be able to help fill Feb and March slots.

York local ACCU group first meeting - report from Rob

Query - whether it would make sense to have some kind of attendance fee

Conclusion is we're OK with free meetups - use as opportunity to suggest they may be interested in Conference

4.4 Membership

As per Matt's email

Membership has been business as usual. Nothing exceptional to report.

Numbers do seem to be very slowly declining again, although if you squint at the last 3 years it still approximates a flat line! Time will tell.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1_DBWE4ya54atjshmEMzA4qdWEa-bagJVc4A36u_YOpQ/edit#gid=11

It has been interesting to see the effects of Cambridge local group re-starting, and the new group in York: lots of people joining the Meetup groups, and hopefully some new members as a result.

In support of the York group, I'll be sending a bundle of back issues to Rob, to take along, and will send an extra 5 magazines a month to Gareth, as we do for the other local group organisers.

I am expecting Rob to ask me for expenses by the end of year, and I've been a bit lax so there will be several Meetup membership fees and lots of postage.

4.5 Treasurer

Finances are still healthy.
Forms adding Patrick as signatory are in with Natwest.
Reminder to all to get 2018 expenses in to Rob to be paid

4.6 Publicity

Nothing to report

4.7 Standards

Nothing to report.

4.8 Website

Not much progress to report on the website prototype.
Jim is working on a tool to extract and generate the existing content as ASCIIDoc.
If Russel moves out the historical conference content to the conference website, this would make the job much simpler.
The backlog of Overload release have been converted to ePub format.
Bob is in the process of moving all the "by cover" to standard format.

4.9 Mentored developers

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

Revisit this issue in next meeting as this has been mentioned in the recent Cvu, no action this meeting

4.10 Social Media

Bob has been tweeting as per usual.

4.11 Publications

*Publication process still running smoothly
We continue to be a little short on material.
Suggestion to contact people whose conference proposals were rejected to see if they are interested in writing it up for a publication.*

Bob discussed with Alison whether the current workload for her current fee were still in alignment - still happy, so no change needed at this point.

*Book reviews
* question - seems we not getting reviews of the marquee book releases any more?
* need to update the boilerplate for book reviews to reflect reality better*

Jim pointed out there was an incentive in that the reviewer got the copy cheap

Suggestion to ask in accu-general and local groups

5. Any other business

5.1. Recent accu-general discussion requiring moderation response

There was a period recently where a discussion got out of hand; after repeated suggestions and warnings and a request to close down the topic, this led to moderation being applied when 3 did not follow the rules.

The net outcome so far has been to lead to a user pulling their article and unsubscribing.

*Committee discussions on best course of action - consensus conclusion is that action was appropriate, consistent with the points made earlier while the issue was heating up.
The possible benefits of acting earlier were discussed, but could be moot for well-established ACCU members.
Jim pointed out that we cannot stop threads, we can only put users into moderation.
Jim suggested a sharing of viewpoints for the existing accu-general moderators.
Roger Orr raised the point of when reject moderation requests and whether other moderators should be consulted.
Suggestion to create a mailing list for discussion of ongoing issues like in previous items.*

6. Date of next meeting

The date of the next committee meeting will (provisionally) be Jan 13 @ 2:30PM, via Hangouts.