

# Minutes for ACCU Committee meeting

## 13 January, via Hangouts

Meeting started at 2:30 PM UK Time

### 1. Attending

Bob Schmidt, Nigel Lester, Jim Hague, Ralph McArdell, Matt Jones, Roger Orr, Patrick Martin

### Apologies for absence

Rob Pauer, Emrys Williams

### 2. Minutes from last meetings

The committee approved the minutes of the previous meeting (2018-11-18).

### 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](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1RMTorasYR_A94VBjv-Dn6ghhTVWLbW0w1ekhN994qFI/edit?usp=sharing)

#### Actions from previous meetings:

Action item	Action
101	Rob will make enquiries to see whether we can have some sort officer/director insurance to protect against liabilities.* Pending.
117	Deal with at conference: Roger: to discuss rebranding with Russell
119	Nigel: GDPR to create steps to take on breach and similarly procedure to handle takedown notices
122	Seb? Bob?: update the very old advertising card
129	Deal with at conference: 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:

Action item	Action
133	Roger: to discuss with editors content of a putative beginners journal
134	Roger: to contact Emyr Williams, and Guy Davidson concerning the standards role

## 4. Reports

### 4.1 Advertising

*Nothing to report.*

### 4.2 Conference

*Nothing to report.*

### 4.3 Local Groups

*Our newest group ACCU York has now held its first 2 events and has 2 more planned, which is fantastic news. Their next speaker is no less than Phil Nash himself. Most other groups have events planned. Cambridge seems to be dormant though. For Oxford, I am now in talks planning phase, so, in the meantime, I am running a couple socials.*

*Meetup members count continues to increase. Since the last committee meeting, it has increased by nearly 3% to 7512 members. (In Nov 2015, it was 2231 - stats.)*

*Looking forward, I will encourage the local groups to support ACCU 2019. I will monitor the conference twitter for announcements that I can pass along to the groups to publicize.*

*Sadly, I don't plan to stand in the upcoming committee elections. My aim is to keep ACCU Oxford going and have it hit the 100 sessions mark, which should be later this year :-)*

*Yours Nigel*

*Additional:*

*\* Accu York group has been created*

*\* Speakers may want to have trial run sessions for conference - contact Roger, Nigel, Frances*

*\* Nigel confirmed he will not stand - hence proposals for the local groups position will be required*

*Nigel has reached out to a couple of people suggesting they might want to stand and also on his local groups channel*

*Nigel will make a note of status of current initiatives ready for handover*

#### **4.4 Membership**

*Nothing exceptional to report.*

*Membership figures, as always, are here:*

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1\\_DBWE4ya54atjshmEMzA4qdWEa-bagJVc4A36u\\_YOpQ/edit](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1_DBWE4ya54atjshmEMzA4qdWEa-bagJVc4A36u_YOpQ/edit)

*Our last new member in 2018 was the 122nd for that year, but this hasn't quite offset the leavers so our numbers are still very gradually declining. So far this year we have 8 new members, and their locations are typical of our US/Europe/GB split (FI, BE, DE, DE, US, GB, SE, GB). We can expect the usual burst of new members in the next quarter, due to the 2019 conference.*

*I have started pruning our list of complementary members, removing those who we've lost contact with. They mostly seem to be publishing companies who would have been getting the magazines to see our reviews of their books. The typical sequence for these members would have started with returned mail, so we switch them to "no hardcopy" (i.e. they just get an email when the new magazine comes out), then the emails would have started bouncing. In many cases this happened several years ago.*

#### **4.5 Treasurer**

*This email thread summarises my initial correspondence with a local insurance broker about insurance cover for the committee and the organisation as a whole. It would be helpful if I could have some initial thoughts on the points raised in order to pursue this. So please discuss at committee meeting this weekend - even though I cannot participate. Also please review my email giving a description of what we do and let me know if I have misrepresented or missed anything.*

*... rest of email sent to ACCU committee*

*Proposal for a second savings account for a substantial spare cash reserve was raised by Rob and approved.*

#### **4.6 Publicity**

*No reporter.*

#### **4.7 Standards**

*Emyr has queried whether he can stand down as of April.*

*Roger to contact Emyr , and Guy- Guy Davidson's role is down for another year, having expressed interest in the past hence he may be ineligible, but it may be easier to get auditors than standards of icers.*

#### **4.8 Website**

*Nothing to report. New website is still WIP. Only regular action is some automated signups related to advertising. Suggestion is that a members' section in any new website should note support for web links.*

*Bob posted the last Overload, CVu to be done shortly. Daniel James is creating the ePub versions.*

*Also the older issue pages are being updated to match the new format.*

#### **4.9 Social Media**

*We will be advertising these positions as the announce goes out today.*

#### **4.10 Publications**

*Publications are going OK.*

### **5. Any other business**

#### **5.1 AGM Nomination / Proposal announcement**

*Run through of AGM process:*

- \* Send out first of many emails to members tonight:
- \*\* Highlight the deadlines
- \*\* Point out the positions available
- \* Point out that one can propose themselves if they have interest.

*Committee will address any need to invoke the clause to allow nominations for Executive roles at AGM at the point of creating the draft Agenda, following the nomination/proposal deadline of Feb 12 - see <https://accu.org/index.php/members/agm> for the timeline.*

### **6. Date of next meeting**

The date of the next committee meeting will (provisionally) be March 17 @ 2:30PM, via Hangouts.