Minutes for ACCU Committee meeting

17th March, via Hangouts

Meeting started at 2:30 PM UK time

1. Attending

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

Apologies for absence

Emyr Williams

2. Minutes from last meetings

The committee approved the minutes of the previous meeting (2019-01-13)

3. Actions in progress from previous meeting

Note: the Google Sheet for actions is here:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1RMTorasYR_A94VBjv-Dn6ghhTVWLbW0w1ekhN994qFI

Actions carried over 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
135	Rob: to draft a note on the several insurance options and circulate to the committee for comments
136	Patrick: find out about the electronic voting

	137	Roger: Contact Bryce re insurance / public liability for US meetings

4. Reports

4.1 Advertising

No reporter

4.2 Conference

Nothing much to report: no real discernible impact from Brexit. Planning beginning on Nov. mini conference.

Roger: ask about a table for ACCU with publications

4.3 Local Groups

From Nigel:

Most groups running sessions, but Cambridge has not run a session since Oct 2018.

Not received any requests for conference dry run slots, but Bristol does look to be running one, which is Teach Your Computer to Code FizzBuzz by Chris Simons.

The local group meetup membership has grown by another 3% (227) to just over 7.7k. When I first recorded this in Nov 2015 the meetup membership was 2.2k.

Phil Nash has volunteered to stand in the ACCU Committee elections for local groups which is great news.

4.4 Membership

From Matt:

Business as usual. Membership figures:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1_DBWE4ya54atjshmEMzA4qdWEa-bagJVc4A36u_YOpQ/edit

We have seen the usual flurry of new members due to the conference. Overall numbers remain roughly flat.

AYA are giving away a membership as a prize in their twitter promo.

4.5 Treasurer

Funds are fine: Rob has received the draft accounts from the accountants. The surplus is down from last year but the cash reserves are still healthy.

Discussion on public liability for ACCU organised events:

Rob has been in conversation with a broker for covering Employee issues and Public liability

Jim pointed out that for pubs the licensee is responsible

It was pointed out that some of the public liability deals represent very good value for the point of being covered.

Action Rob: Rob has suggested that he draft a note on the several insurance options and circulate to the committee for comments

4.6 Publicity

No reporter

4.7 Standards

No reporter

4.8 Website

Jim raised issues with hosting:

[i]: Bytemark were sold on, and have recently laid off their entire software development platform. This could be an indication of a change in emphasis, and might result in the need to switch platform to another. Also the policy to support free software and organisations might well be in question. Currently everything is fine - Jim for one, is looking at alternatives.
[ii]: signups with a personal web page are being used to promote links of questionable appropriateness: proposal to simply disable.

Bob: web editing is up to date: one truncated article needs to be sorted out.

ACCU will need to continue to look for people to cover the web editing role.

4.9 Social Media

No reporter

4.10 Publications

Recent publications are good; editors are doing well. Encourage people at conference to write articles.

5. Any other business

5.1 AGM

Nominations are in and closed.

A draft of the current proposals is at:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1vSj0PmH-8WR6dfCJe59My--rDDjduXS_lON8eHd72AI/edit?usp=sharing

Action Patrick: find out about electronic voting - see Malcolm Noyes

5.2 Web sites concerns

see §4.8 for discussion

6. Date of next meeting

The date of the next committee meeting will (provisionally) be May 12 @ Time TBD via Hangouts.