

Minutes for ACCU Committee meeting

May 10, via Hangouts

Meeting started at 2:45 on Zoom.

1. Attending

Frances Buontempo, Bob Schmidt, Jim Hague, Guy Davidson, Roger Orr, Phil Nash, Matthew Jones, Ralph McArdell, Adeel Nadeem, Felix Petriconi, Rob Pauer, Robin Williams, Patrick Martin

Apologies for absence

>>TODO<<

2. Minutes from last meetings

The committee approved the minutes of the previous meeting

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 from previous meetings:

Action item	Action
122	Bob: update the very old advertising card
140	Phil to write up and pass round his suggestions for local group affiliations
143	All: suggestions to define some central storage solution for ACCU documents. etc. consider GDPR
144	Roger: to investigate the implications on web based publications of receiving a takedown notice and ACCU's liability
146	Phil: Local groups: propose to add "affiliated groups" section underneath - Phil to send details to Bob
147	Felix: to forward on this years' paper author details where granted to Jim Roper
153	Rob: to investigate setting up the safety account for the Paypal payments
154	Bob: proposal to merge "Social media" with "Publicity" role - discuss with Adeel

Actions added by this meeting:

Action item	Action
155	Roger: suggestion inquire with Parchments to use non-plastic packaging for the ACCU magazines
156	Matt: Question: can corporate accounts get a list of emails?
157	Matt: to start a Google Doc for ACCU publicity purposes
158	Adeel: to propose something related to social media usage / accounts
159	Matt: to make Adeel an admin of the ACCU LinkedIn account
160	Roger: to make Adeel an admin of the ACCU Facebook group

4. Reports

4.1 Advertising

No report

Roger: issuing issue not being able to contact QBS for recent advert.

Roger: will talk to Alison

4.2 Conference

Felix: Belfast conference is also cancelled: all 4 keynotes are committed to next Years' in March

Roger: discussions are ongoing with "extra ACCU tracks" in other conferences, but unlikely to come to fruition

4.3 Local Groups

Phil: Some are all moving online, some are planning to. We would like to remind groups to coordinate, and post across all ACCU social media. CPP London has had some online meet-ups.

4.4 Membership

Matt: Trial memberships turned off today.

Numbers are here:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1_DBWE4ya54atjshMEmzA4qdWEa-bagJVc4A36u_YOpQ/edit#gid=8

Slightly downhill as usual. Surprisingly there have been a few new members since the

conference. Maybe people are looking for inspiration during lockdown?

There has been zero takeup of the trial membership but I imagine people have a lot of other things on their minds at the moment. We should probably turn off the option on the website for now, and keep the feature for the next conference.

Question: can corporate accounts get a list of emails? - action 156

4.5 Treasurer

Handover from Rob is going well.

4.6 Publicity

Adeel inquired about a prospectus style document for presenting the benefits of ACCU.

Action: Matt to start a Google Doc for publicity purposes. - action 157

4.7 Standards

Guy: all the meetings are off at this time, being reviewed on a monthly basis. There are now weekly online meetings of 90 minutes or so, which seem to be working well. Previous concerns about this arrangement have been allayed.

4.8 Website

Jim:

Nothing very out of the ordinary to report with regards to hosting.

We had an incident on 28/4 around 22:00 where Bytemark support rebooted the server due to unresponsiveness. It was, basically, thrashing due to low memory. I have reduced the number of Apache workers running at once to try to prevent running out of memory when under load, but fundamentally the server is a bit under-specced for the current loading.

I have recently switched my personal server from using SpamAssassin to rspamd. The latter offers more function at a reduced CPU/memory footprint. I am considering the same move for the ACCU server.

4.9 Social Media

No reporter.

Adeel: mentioned he was happy to take on some of that role, as it's natural.

Bob: suggested that Publicity encompassed Social Media and we should merge the two roles in due course. We can do this in due course once the committee is out of maintenance mode, and due this de

facto as we go.

Actions:

Adeel: to propose something related to social media usage / accounts

Matt: to make Adeel an admin of the ACCU LinkedIn account

Roger: to make Adeel an admin of the ACCU Facebook group

Bob: to give access to the ACCU Twitter handle

From Phil: we have also Slack and other channels, which are not owned by ACCU

4.10 Publications

From Roger:

The publications are continuing, both in electronic and printed form, as our printers have been running a (slightly reduced) service throughout and we thought it best to try and support them.

We are low in contributions; my guess is that members of ACCU are still working, rather than being furloughed, and haven't in general got the spare capacity to produce articles too. So we may look to recycle one or two articles from previous issues that haven't aged appreciably

Roger.

5. Any other business

5.1 (Patrick) Welcomes

5.1.1 Welcome Robin

Robin Willams will be taking over secretarial duties.

5.1.2 Welcome Ricardo

Ricardo Rodriguez will be taking on Study Groups duties.

5.1.3 Welcome Adeel

Adeel Nadeem will be taking on Publicity duties.

5.2 (Guy) Imperial College modelling code

Guy sent around a link to the Imperial College pandemic modelling code and asked whether ACCU should be making a statement on the quality of modelling under its mandate.

Some debate on the merits of getting involved...

5.3 Non plastic packaging for the ACCU magazines

Added action 155 for Roger

5.3 Arrangement of SGM

Added action 161 for Patrick to arrange the SGM agenda for the election of the secretary and to ensure the agenda has an item to allow the chair to be nominated during the meeting.

6. Date of next meeting

The date of the next committee meeting will (provisionally) be July 12th @ 2:30 BST, via Zoom.