

Minutes for ACCU Committee meeting

21st March 2021, via Google Meet

Meeting started at 14:35.

1. Attending

Robin Williams, Guy Davidson, Ralph McArdell, Roger Orr, Bob Schmidt, Adeel Nadeem, Geoff Daniels, Felix Petriconi, Patrick Martin

Apologies for absence

Matthew Jones, Jim Hague

2. Minutes from last meetings

The committee approved the minutes of the previous meeting

3. Actions in progress

Note: the Google Sheet for actions is here:

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

Actions from previous meetings:

122	Patrick: update the very old advertising card - get ad server stats and web visits from Bob and Jim
140	Phil: write up and pass round his suggestions for local group affiliations
143	Patrick: suggestions to define some central storage solution for ACCU documents. etc. consider GDPR - talk to Rob Pauer
146	Phil: Local groups: propose to add "affiliated groups" section underneath - Phil to send details to Bob
153	Patrick: to investigate setting up the safety account for the Paypal payments
156	Matt: Ask corporate members for email list updates in March/April, in time for the next committee election. Up to 5 addresses to be added to mailing list for each corporate member.
163	Adeel: find speakers for online "local" talks, contact Ralph/Phil about arrangements
168	Bob/Jim: Look into website stats to confirm current visitor numbers and update advertising material
169	Jim: Draft response to Sencha re compliance request and send reply
170	Jim: Investigate use of analytics on the web site, add Chair to existing Google Analytics account
171	Adeel/Bob: Update details on benefits of corporate membership on website, based on Google document.
172	Robin: Add agenda item for meeting after conference to clarify benefits of corporate memberships.

122: Ongoing: Patrick has provided a draft advertising card, which was reviewed by the committee with regard to content and comparative costs. Will revise numbers based on discussion.

140: No report.

143: Ongoing: Patrick has provided a draft policy document. Will further investigate appropriate locations for enduring storage of information, including possible own-hosted Git solution.

146: No report.

153: Patrick: Simple solution is to set up NatWest sweep account, will need to chase next week. Will investigate on-line banking, particularly access frequency and co-signatory arrangements.

156: Matt has emailed all the corporate members, and hasn't had a single reply. He sent reminders again on Saturday 20/3. Do the messages even get through? If Guy is at the meeting can he check whether his arrived?

New action: Robin will contact Guy & Matt after the meeting to investigate

163: Ongoing: Adeel contacting people who join Accu LinkedIn group about possible talks. Will liaise with Ralph about possible future meetings.

168: Closed. Bob/Jim: Look into website stats to confirm current visitor numbers and update advertising material.

Jim: I think Bob has done this. I've not got any alternate web numbers to offer at this point. Script means numbers are available at will.

169 Jim: Draft response to Sencha re compliance request and send reply

Jim: Done, and silence has reigned. I have also noted that a website offering security probes that I tried against our main site complained about jQuery being out of date. We obviously have something that triggers the belief that jQuery is lurking in the undergrowth.

170 Jim: Investigate use of analytics on the web site, add Chair to existing Google Analytics account.

Jim: Done. Currently we are collecting Google Analytics on the old members site, but not on new site.

Bob: Discussed cookie protocol, and difficulty of organization with static Hugo content, could allow Javascript configuration and feedthrough to numbers on advertising card. Will consider updating to more recent, GDPR-aware, ad server.

New action: Jim & Bob: AdSense should be disabled on old members website.

171: Done. Adeel: website has been updated with benefits for individual & corporate members.

172: Held over.

173: Done

Actions added by this meeting:

174: Robin: contact Guy & Matt after the meeting to investigate corporate voting procedure.

175: Jim & Bob: AdSense should be disabled on old members website.

176: Jim & Bob: Investigate possibility of integrating a private Discord server on ACCU website hardware vs. use of standard Discord.com system.

4. Reports

4.1 Advertising

Bob: Patrick finalized contract with QBS, updated content being provided regularly. At present ensuring QBS as major payee get ~ 50% hits, with turnover of other content (e.g. conference ads). QBS contract guarantees minimum of 20% exposure rate.

4.2 Conference

Felix: 250 attendees -- 150 fewer than for physical event, numbers initially lower but picked up close to the conference date. Several large groups from specific companies. Jim Roper & Digital Medium group technical support very smooth. Videos available to attendees immediately, Jim editing & publishing final content in order. Remo used for lobby, Zoom for sessions. Interaction went well, but for a limited number of people. Looking at hybrid conference next year, as on-line attendance is beneficial for some even if physical meeting is possible.

4.3 Local Groups

Ralph: not a lot happening, finding speakers is a work in progress. Guy has two potential talks available.

4.4 Membership

Membership numbers continue to drift downward. There wasn't such a spike as usual for the conference. Maybe it didn't cost enough to be worth joining.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1_DBWE4ya54atjshMEmzA4qdWEa-bagJvc4A36u_YOpO/edit#gid=8

4.5 Treasurer

Patrick: accounts now gone to accountants. Some still need to cash expenses cheques. Will have draft accounts available for AGM. Confirmed with auditor they will be checked in time. Spreadsheet confirms amounts balance. Access to bank accounts working well now.

4.6 Publicity & Social Media

Adeel: Nothing significant. Social media in lead up to conference geared to that, will revert to general business from now on. Continuing to liaise with contacts. Look at how to target individual universities. How do young people communicate these days? Slack/Discord? How do we control & maintain this? Fragmentation of channels is an issue. Zoom code reviews? Can conference Discord be revived and converted to provide a more modern communication channel than mailing lists?

4.7 Standards

Weekly meetings continuing, C++23 will be limited addition. Next meeting tentatively planned for Portland, Oregon in February.

4.8 Website

Jim: Finally, we have recently had a couple of incidents of updates to the main site, specifically the conference part of the site, failing due to a lack of disc space. Bob and Felix have both removed some unused items, and we now have a small amount of headroom available. I think, though, that I should be taking this as an impetus to get on with setting up a new host at Mythic Beasts, as discussed at a past committee meeting, and in the first instance looking to move our mailing list traffic over.

Bob: ACCU papers on website are up to date. ACCU 2021 Spring conference going into archives. Git submodule for slides, space for videos. Could have SIGs as well as Local Groups as a sub-heading.

Action: Investigate possibility of integrating a private Discord server.

4.9 Publications

Roger: Bjarne Stroustrup's article has been published, he was pleased with the rapid turnaround. Still looking for material, Fran & Steve continue to do a good job generating high quality journals.

5. Other items

5.1 Clarify benefits of corporate membership

As the numbers present at the meeting had begun to tail off, it was agreed to hold this discussion over.

5.2 Review GDPR compliance of analytics

Jim:

I have attempted to investigate the GDPR compliance or otherwise of the main site should we enable GA without a cookies warning. The current situation seems to be that there is no clear consensus.

I think I would suggest we come at the problem from the other angle - what stats do we need to keep advertisers happy? Can we collect these purely from web server logs?

5.3 Diversity

We have had a query from a member about diversity in the committee. We noted that the composition of the committee largely reflects those that have volunteered to take part. We are glad that the committee membership does represent some level of diversity in a number of ways, but would welcome participation in committee business from any member who would widen the demographics further.

Our diversity policy and code of conduct on our website.

5.4 Special interest groups

A query about special interest groups was raised at ACCU Conference.

Possible topics which have been suggested include medical applications, and audio programming.

Generally it was thought this was a good idea, to complement the Local Groups.

There was some discussion of the best format to organize this. It was suggested that it would be worth investigating using Discord (as above), as that would provide a low barrier to creation of groups on-the-fly, and to participation. It would be useful to limit participation in such groups to ACCU

members, to provide an additional benefit for joining the organization.

6. Any other business

1. ACCU should make a donation to the charity nominated in memory of Russell Winder. Proposed: Matthew Jones, Seconded: Ian Bruntlett. Agreed unanimously.
2. No changes to the agenda for the AGM have been requested. Preparation to release the voting details are in hand.

7. Date of next meeting

The date of the next committee meeting will (provisionally) be 16th May 2021 @ 14.30, via Google Meet (TBC, as the zero-fee option will have become time-limited by this date).