

Minutes for ACCU Committee meeting 19th March 2023, via Jitsi

Meeting started at 14.31.

1. Attending

Robin Williams, Bob Schmidt, Roger Orr, Ralph McArdell, Guy Davidson, Felix Petriconi, Geoff Daniels, Matt Jones

Apologies for absence

Adeel Nadeem, Patrick Martin, Jim Hague

2. Minutes from last meetings

The minutes of the previous committee meetings on 22nd January and 5th March 2023 have already been approved to allow progress to be made on updating banking mandates and providing additional financial support for the 2023 ACCU conference.

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:

195	Phil: Document role of Local Groups Officer, share by e-mail to accu-committee
196	Guy: Document role of Standards Officer, share by e-mail to accu-committee
206	Patrick: Contact HMRC about tax status
207	All: think of other processes (beyond those included in minutes of 18/9/2022) which might be useful to document.
209	Adeel: consider targeting advertising contacts, pending agreed media pack (#208).
211	Matt: coordinate memorial notice for Robert Pauer for CVu, contact Francis Glassborow.
212	Matt: document membership processes
213	Bob: document publication web processes
215	Roger: liaise with Felix about conference processes and interaction with committee.
216	Jim: Write up plan for hosting for next committee meeting, w.r.t. options for upgrading hosting; looking at breaking apart infrastructure to enable future moves between hosts.
217	Patrick: Investigate setting up membership Discord channel. Contact Jim & Felix about extending conference Discord channel.
218	Bob: add affiliated groups and advertising rates text to the website.

196 Guy: Summary provided and discussed. Closed.

206 Patrick: *silence from HMRC - I've sent a query via yet another route.*

207 Patrick: *I have Lightning Talks for all the processes that matter.*

209 Adeel: *Keep this open. Still reaching out proactively to companies to see interest in advertising. Nothing so far but will keep going.*

210 Patrick: *Signatories mandate changes are in place at Nat West. Has now submitted request to remove Mick Brooks.*

211 Matt: *Done.*

212 Matt: *Done, in a Google Doc.*

213 Bob: *I'm still working on this. I'm surprised at just how complex the process is when fully documented. (The git flow when updating Overload is more than 30 steps. For CVu it's even more than that.) I'm slowly working my way through. Ongoing.*

215 Roger: *Felix & I will reflect on process after conference.*

216 Jim: *has written up & distributed a wiki page documenting procedure. Done.*

217 Patrick: *This is deferred until after the Conference - the server is staying up, but nothing much is going on there. Had a chat with Jim - confirmed that the server is still up indefinitely, and for speakers and volunteers is usable - and in use. We'll follow up once the heat is off. Also asked about hosting, mastodon etc. and SEO optimisation options. Ongoing.*

For clarification: there are two ACCU associated Discord Servers. The conference has traffic, and has paid-for moderation; the ACCU server was set up as an exploration, and has essentially no traffic (or resource for moderation).

Felix: There are also three ACCU channels on the #include server, discussing specific topics: would it make sense to move the rest of the conference content to this channel in the medium term, rather than run a specific ACCU conference channel.

Ongoing.

218 Bob: *Done. Also added Phil's writeup, and updated lists of local and affiliated groups.*

Actions added by this meeting:

219: *Robin: Document process for preparing AGM.*

220: *All: Review proposals for move of hosting.*

4. Reports

4.1 Advertising

Geoff: no substantive interest, continuing to investigate opportunities.

4.2 Conference

Felix: on track, haven't lost any additional speakers. Number of Saturday slots has been reduced to keep down costs and to reflect reduced number of talks overall; attendance on Saturday has historically been low in any case. Good t-shirt design has been accepted. Programme online, good variety of content.

Sarah seems to be happy that the number of registrations means that the meeting will be viable.

Patrick: I'd like to propose for consideration one more item of Conference support on the part of ACCU.

Jim is short handed for camera operators / gofers and this can be got for a round sum of £100 a day. So this addresses the quality of the SSGB videos.

Could the committee decide if they want to support this for Digital Medium in addition?

It was mentioned briefly previously as a possibility in the last meeting, but we didn't vote on it at the time as I didn't have a number.

Proposed: Roger; Seconded: Guy. Approved unanimously.

Bob: suggest: Approve contingency amount of £2000 to cover additional costs at the conference chair's discretion.

Proposed: Guy; Seconded: Matt. Approved unanimously.

4.3 Local Groups

No updates. Bristol & Bath local group and Bay Area affiliated group are holding meetings.

4.4 Membership

Matt: Nothing particular to report. Updated statistics at

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

Good stream of new joiners, including corporate members, as a result of conference registrations.

4.5 Treasurer

Patrick: Account went already - super easy this year as nothing had been lost / delayed.

I made notes in a Lightning Talk, but it can be turned into something more prosaic as needs be.

4.6 Publicity & Social Media

No report.

4.7 Standards

C++23 has been finalized. Next meeting in Varna in June 2023. Proceeding smoothly on future work.

ISO are streamlining their formatting requirements across topics, which may cause disruption as a result of differing technical requirements in different contexts, to be discussed at JCC1 next week.

4.8 Website

Jim: I've managed a little writeup of the direction I'm thinking for changing our hosting arrangements.

Bytemark have, this week, announced a stay of execution on the platform we currently use, but a hosting move will be necessary in the foreseeable future.

<https://wiki.accu.org/doku.php?id=hosting:hostingchangeplan>

In any event, absolutely no change will be made until after the conference.

Bob: Extra disk space has been a big help, with no recent issues with compiling website.

Overload 173, CVu 35.1 and November committee minutes have been uploaded. Work continues on upgrading the membership system: hoping to learn about additional helpful tools while attending forthcoming PyCon conference. Daniel James continues excellent work on ePub versions.

4.9 Publications

Roger: Steve, Fran & Alison continuing excellent work, still managing to achieve sufficient technical content. Reviews section particularly vibrant.

5. Any other business

None

6. Date of next meeting

The date of the next committee meeting, as voted by Doodle Poll, will be 25/6/2023 @ 14.30 (UK), via Jitsi.