Minutes for ACCU Committee meeting 2023-11-19, via Jitsi

Meeting started at 14:42 UTC (14:42 BT) and ended at 16:30 UTC (16:30 BT).

1. Attending

Adeel Nadeem, Felix Petriconi, Geoff Daniels, Guy Davidson, Jim Hague. Matthew Jones, Patrick Martin, Ralph McArdell, Roger Orr, and Stefan Hagen (invited).

Apologies for absence

Bob Schmidt.

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:

195   *Stale - Seeking another owner to take over from Phil*
206   *Ongoing*
209   *Ongoing*
213   *Ongoing*
217   *Ongoing*
219   *Ongoing*
221   *Ongoing - Frances will contact less active reviewers and look for replacements if needed*
224   *Ongoing - Patrick will follow up on Bob's suggestion to set up a proper ledger*
225   *Ongoing - Came up with some ideas for membership tiers (cf. below) now costs need setting*
226   *Completed - Parchment feedback is that changes in sending are not expected to change the cost*

Actions added by this meeting:

227   *Felix: To send an email on the conference condition google doc(s)*
228   *Decision to find a taker to move to another payment provider*
229   *Adeel, Guy, and Jim: Assess best way forward moving off of X and towards Bluesky / Mastodon*

4. Reports

4.1 Advertising

No news.

4.2 Conference

Felix: Reports the received proposals seem to be enough with high quality, so the only problem is to choose. Review is in progress.
Reports on communication with Phil on organization of conference is to stick with four days but to remove one track to cut down the cost.
Current plan is to not pay travel accommodation for speakers but instead up to 3 nights of hotel costs for the speakers.
Asks if he can continue with the Google docs on the terms if there are no objections? There are already 4 keynote speakers published. Some speakers have proposed 5 sessions.
Prefers not to choose based on statistics, but instead mostly based on the quality of the proposal content.

All: Agree on setting a deadline for review one week from now (Felix to send an email per #227).
Discussion on metrics like per YouTube view counts might help deciding for the selection process.

4.3 Local Groups

Ralph: No news really, but ACCU C++ London is trying to reboot. Ralph tries to see what he can do for Christmas or next year.

All: Collect their observations on other local groups' status. E.g. Bristol met last in August per meetup. Discuss strategies like rehearsal talks for conferences and procedures to foster events. Target date for rehearsal talks could be February 2024.

4.4 Membership

Matt (per email): Business as usual. Numbers are here:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1_DBWE4ya54atjshmEMzA4qdWEa-bagJVc4A36u_YOpQ
Matt (per email): After formally complaining to Worldpay and waiting for their glacial mechanisms to work, they finally unblocked our account and paid the suspended payments. They also gave us compensation of £150 and lost interest of £63.97.

*Matt (per email): Then, two weeks ago Matt noticed **another** unannounced block on our account. He complained again and quite quickly got a, hopefully final, response (for details please cf. email from November 19 with **Message-ID:** <CAJB13ROQtmWY_A5V2Viot+bqtKyFjQxtuX7RqOuFhpdf6=DBCw@mail.gmail.com>)*

Bob (per email): The other item on which He's worked is a membership API for Phil, so his conference registration software can validate a request for a member's discount. Currently he has test code running on the server that returns specific values for hard-coded membership data. [...] CVu 35.5 interrupted this work; He'll get back to it when Bob returns from holiday on the 20th.

*Bob (per email): The committee needs to determine which membership account types will get the member's discount. Assumes trial memberships granted as a result of attending ACCU 2023 will NOT qualify, since they were not paid for. **The main question is do Gratis, Complementary, and/or Honorary qualify for the discount?** What about the concessionary memberships for students, unemployed, and retirees? Phil's notes show he has plans for a student rate. We can't distinguish students from retirees and the unemployed based on the info in our database. It would be nice to have these decisions in hand when he returns and gets back to work on the API.*

All: Discuss if concessions are a valid route to follow and how to handle the physical deliveries choices.

4.5 Treasurer

Patrick*: Link to the balance sheet (ACCU Transactions 2023):*
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1DPuUbSPE00wSx2Ks0T4dcsVhICL20mgxe6eS0PlHmSQ/edit#gid=1611162502

Matthew: *There should be a way using publicly available test APIs to try the switch to another payment provider. We send automated alert emails but they are easily missed / diverted to spam. Because of this we must be losing some members every year. Consider encouraging members to set "auto renew", if a new payment platform allows it.*

All*: Discuss the problem of losing members due to lapsed memberships and currently having no alert emails being set. Some platforms like stripe can send out such alerts.*

4.6 Publicity & Social Media

Adeel*: Intents to increase the frequency of postings while trying to ensure the expected quality of the postings. He considers using overload journal content as a content base for such postings. He thinks agreement on membership tiers should happen before sending out for optimal targeting.*

All*: Maybe use results for best article votes to select some.*

Felix*: Concerns about using twitter/X to avoid issues encountered last year over the conference.*

Adeel*: It has around 1500 followers so is a good distribution list for social content.*

All*: Maybe register an ACCU account on bluesky.*

Jim*: Plans to set up an ACCU mastodon server (Mastodon account names are local to specific servers).*

All*: Find the best way to park the ACCU account on X without risking a random person taking that name.*

Patrick*: Drive people to a platform on which we pay for moderation aka youtube. And potentially mark the channels as unmonitored?*

Action for Jim/Guy/Adeel to investigate moving our social presence from X/Twitter to Bluesky/Mastodon.

4.7 Standards

Guy*: Work is on track. There's been a proposal accepted to add a BLAS interface to c++.*

Guy: *Will be writing up standards reports over the next couple of months.*

4.8 Website

Bob*(per email): He'd like to express his thanks to Jim for configuring our Python environment so his API code can execute. A part of the site was down for a short while after his attempt to install a Python package failed miserably. Jim got the site back up, and then installed a Python virtual environment for his code to run in.*
Jim: *Site can now run the python code in a virtual environment.*

Jim: *Plan to move the website and email hosting soon to a new server, this will include an update from mailman 2 to mailman 3.*

4.9 Publications

Bob *(per email): Since the last meeting he edited and uploaded the files for Overload 177 and CVu 35.5. Daniel James continues to do a great job producing the ePub version of the magazine. CVu 35.5 was a bit rushed this week because of Alison's production schedule. When he gets back, Daniel and Bob need to revisit one of the articles (Francis's GPT and APL) because the APL symbols may not be using the correct character codes. Visually they are correct, when they render at all. E-reader font's don't support a lot of the special characters that are used. Daniel may convert the text to graphics so they are visible.*

Roger: *Will post the polls for the best article soon. As always, happy to accept article proposals.*

5. Any other business

None.

6. Date of next meeting

The date of the next committee meeting will (provisionally) be 2024-01-14 @ 14:30 UTC (14:30 BT), via Jitsi.