

BRITISH COMPUTER SOCIETY FORTRAN SPECIALIST GROUP

MINUTES of a MEETING on Tuesday,
12th January, 1971 at B.C.S.
Headquarters, 29 Portland Place,
London, W.1. at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT:	Mr J.S. Gatehouse (Chairman)	GEC-EE Ltd.
	Mr K. E. Bicknell	Rothamsted Experimental Station
	Mr P. D. Bond	Philips Electrical
	Mr L. I. Brown	Kienzle Data Systems
	Mr B. Coopersmith	London University Computing Services
	Mr J. C. Cullen	B.P.
	Mr I. E. Davidson	N.C.R.
	Dr A. C. Day	University College, London
	Mr R. E. Day	Edinburgh Regional Computing Centre
	Mr M. J. Garside	University of Kent at Canterbury
	Mr S. G. Guest	I.T.T. Data Services
	Mr P. Hammond	B.P.
	Mr J. P. Holland	Tunnel Cement Ltd.
	Mr K. James	I.C.L., Bracknell
	Mr C. K. Mackinnon	U.K.A.E.A., Risley
	Mr D. T. O'Leary	C.S.P. Ltd.
	Dr C. B. A. Price	Hneywell Information Systems Ltd.
	Mr J. D. Roberts	EE/AEI Turbine Generators Ltd.
	Mr B. H. Shearing	Alcock, Shearing & Partners
	Mr I. A. G. Snowball	A.E.R.E., Harwell
	Miss E. Wilson	University of Kent at Canterbury
	Mr M. B. Wood	National Computing Centre Ltd.
	Mr D. T. Muxworthy (temporary Secretary)	Edinburgh Regional Computing Centre

APOLOGIES

FOR ABSENCE:	Mrs M. M. Barritt (Secretary)	Edinburgh Regional Computing Centre
	Mr H. W. Bradly (Assistant Secretary)	GEC Power Engineering Ltd.
	Mr J. R. Keane	I.C.L., Bracknell

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES The minutes of the meeting held on 8th September, 1970 were approved.

2. MATTERS ARISING The Chairman reported on the meeting of the Steering Committee held on the 16th December; this was concerned mainly with arrangements for the Workshop in Edinburgh and with the reports of the Working Parties. (see items 3 and 4 below).

The Chairman also reported on correspondence between the Secretary and the N.C.C.

There was some discussion on the "Standard Fortran Programming Manual" published by N.C.C. Mr Snowball will collate information on factual errors in the manual and it is intended that a list be available at the time of the Workshop in April. Mr Wood was not present at this time; later he said he would welcome comments on the manual. It was also suggested that members could write as individuals to the editor of the Computer Bulletin about Fortran topics, including the manual.

(Mr Snowball's address is: Building 8.9, A.E.R.E., Harwell, Didcot, Berkshire; Mr Wood's address is: National Computing Centre, Quay House, Quay Street, Manchester, M3 3HU).

3. REPORTS OF
WORKING
PARTIES

(a) Conversational Fortran

Mr Bradly's report was read to the meeting. (A copy is distributed with these minutes). As Mr Bradly has resigned the chairmanship of this Working Party, it was agreed that he should pass manuals and relevant documents to Mr O'Leary who would co-ordinate work until a new chairman was appointed. The Working Party is thus re-established in a holding capacity and anyone interested is invited to write to Mr O'Leary, particularly regarding these objectives:

- (i) to list facilities which should be modified from Standard Fortran.
- (ii) to list how existing systems implement these facilities.
- (iii) to recommend the best way of implementing these facilities.

(Mr O'Leary's address is: C.S.P. Ltd., 9 Margaret Street, London, W1N 7LF.)

(b) Small-machine Fortran

Mr Garside's report was distributed to those present at the meeting. It is to be further developed as a discussion document to be available in time for the Workshop in April. A notice inviting contributions to the Working Party is to appear in the February, 1971 Computer Bulletin; it was thought that those using mini-computers were not aware of the existence of the Working Party.

(Mr Garside's address is: Computing Laboratory, Cornwallis Building, The University, Canterbury, Kent).

(c) Fortran Extensions

Mr Shearing presented his Working Party's report, which had been distributed prior to the meeting and is also to be published in the February, 1971 Computer Bulletin. Mr Shearing said that the report was for discussion: some minor errors had already been noticed, and in particular, pages 5 and 8 may be amended slightly before publication. There were suggestions for further extensions but no objections to the report were raised at the meeting.

(Mr Shearing's address is: Alcock, Shearing & Partners, 8 Idlesleigh House, Caxton Street, London, S.W.1.)

4. EDINBURGH
WORKSHOP

Mr R. E. Day outlined arrangements for the Workshop which is to be held on April 6th and 7th, 1971 and circulated copies of a draft publicity leaflet. It was decided:

(a) to suggest to the B.C.S, Edinburgh Branch that Mrs Barritt be invited to be Chairman of the Conference.

- (b) that the discussion group topics on the publicity leaflet be:
- Conversational Fortran
 - Small-machine Fortran
 - Fortran's relationship with the operating system
 - Run-time diagnostics and error control
 - Program structure
 - Input-output (including FORMAT)
 - Executable statements
 - Additional types

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It was intended that the publicity leaflet be inserted in the February Computer Bulletin.

Mr Day is to arrange for copies of the Working Party reports to be available at the Workshop.

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING It was left to the Steering Committee to decide the date of the next meeting.

[The Fortran Workshop, referenced above, was held on 6 and 7 April, 1971. The next meeting of the Fortran Specialist Group was held on 21 October, 1971.]