Chairman's AGM Report - Fortran Specialist Group.

As the last AGM was on 18th October this amounts to only seven months between AGMs and five months as of today. At the AGM the honorary officers of the group are required to report on any interesting things which they did last year.

As it was the wish of the 1994 AGM, the BCS Fortran Specialist Group has moved away from quarterly meetings and into activity based meetings. This year our activity revolved around Fortran Futures'96, which is to be held at RAMADA hotel, Heathrow, 25 &26 April. This is a major event underwritten by Visual Numerics Ltd & NAG UK Ltd. Exhibitors and presenters of Fortran include many vendors: IBM, Cray Research, SGI, NEC, NA Software, EPC UK Ltd, Salford Software, Microsoft and possibly Fujitsu.

Information on current Fortran 90 compilers and those supporting HPF are on the agenda. The plan is to have Fortran Forums for informing users of the status of the Fortran 95 standard and Fortran 2000, get their views so they can be incorporated in the BSI position which is transmitted to the ISO WG5 meetings.

This year we have set up a World Wide Web home page under the BCS Fortran Specialist Group. This links to information maintained by Miles Ellis on WG5 and other Fortran standards activities. You can navigate and obtain the latest on Fortran on-line. This is replacing the written material which used to be circulated to our members in the past. Many thanks to Miles for maintaining the files and also does the tracking.

An advert was sponsored by the Group in Computing and I have written several articles, historical sketches, on Fortran. One of them is for the BCS Review & Directory publication, another for the Scientific Computing, Institute of Physics magazine and a third one for PREMEUR the new on-line Magazine on High Performance Computing. PREMEUR is supported by ESPRIT funds and hopes to go live in Mid-April at the HPCN conference in Brussels. A link will be placed in the BCS Fortran pages so watch for it.

The AGM meeting is to be used as a brainstorming exercise where ideas are discussed and agreed so that a programme for future activities is developed. I hope that you will come to this important meeting and put forward your ideas. If you can not attend the AGM please communicate your ideas, (suggestions) to the Chairman or any committee officer. This would ensure the relevance and usefulness of the Fortran group.

Thank you all for your support during my tenure in the last four years. Your support and loyalty to the Fortran Group in the forthcoming year is crucial if the group is to survive and continue its good work.

Christopher Lazou
17th March 1996.