

Fortran Specialist Group Chairman's Report

2011 – 12

This year thanks to the sterling work of John Pelan we were able to organise “Fortran Expo” in June, another joint meeting with the Institute of Physics Computational Physics Group. An audience of 20 enjoyed a wide-ranging series of presentations, all of which are available from the Group's website at www.fortran.bcs.org/2012/fortranexpo.php. There was also an impromptu promotion by one of our members of a book aimed at interesting girls in science and engineering, see <http://tinyurl.com/can736s> for more information about the book and its author. My thanks go to John for arranging the speakers, to the IoP Computational Physics Group for their financial contribution and to the BCS staff in both London and Swindon for their work in making the day a success.

I am pleased to say that BCS provided sufficient funds that we could help to ensure that the UK was adequately represented at the WG5 meeting held in Markham, Toronto at the end of June. David Muxworthy will be describing under the next agenda item what has been achieved by the UK participants in Fortran standardisation in the last 12 months. There will be more presentations relating to the current position on Fortran standardisation this afternoon.

As part of my continuing efforts to make people aware of the relevance of Fortran to modern computing and modern life I gave a presentation to the BCS Leicester Branch on “Fortran's Relevance in the 21st Century” in November 2011. It is available as a PDF file for download from the Group's website at www.fortran.bcs.org/2011/FortransRelevance21stC.pdf.

As I have said each year for the last few years, I have been Chairman of the Group for n years, where $n=10$ on this occasion. I do not wish to become “Chairman for Life”, ten years is longer than you can hold office as President of the United States! While I am willing to stand for re-election under item (viii) of today's agenda I will continue to say that I think the Committee and the Group as a whole should consider if we need fresh blood on the Committee and at the head of the Group. We will be discussing the future direction for the Group under item (ix) of the agenda.

I want to take this annual opportunity to thank all the members of the Committee for their assistance in the smooth running of the Group during the past year. especially Sam Ellis, our Secretary and Treasurer, and John Pelan as Vice-Chairman, who through his contacts has enabled us to organise our joint activities with the Institute of Physics Computational Physics Group. I would also like to mention the willing support which I, wearing numerous hats, have received from the staff at BCS HQ, particularly from Judith Taylor and her Member Groups team, especially Mandy Bauer.

To finish on a traditional note, if anyone reading this report has any comments or suggestions relating to the Group, its activities or Fortran in general please contact myself or any other member of the Committee. Don't let the fact that we may invite you to help us put your suggestions into practice put you off!

Peter Crouch
25th September 2012