

Minutes of the BCS Fortran Specialist Group AGM
Held at BCS London Office, First Floor, The Davidson Building,
5 Southampton Street, London.

The 2012 Annual General Meeting of the British Computer Society Fortran Specialist Group was held at 11.00 am on Thursday, 27th September 2012.

Present

Clifford Cheeseman	AWE
Peter Crouch	Nickel Institute
Sam Ellis	Ministry of Defence
Ian Hounam	NAG Ltd
Nick Maclaren	University of Cambridge
David Muxworthy	BSI Fortran Convenor
Clive Page	University of Leicester
John Pelan	University College London (UCL)
John Reid	JKR Associates
Jane Sleightholme	FortranPlus
John Young	International Seismological Centre (ISC)

Afternoon only attendees

Robert Handicott	Courtenay Systems Ltd
Arthur Turrington	International Seismological Centre (ISC)

The Chairman opened the meeting.

(i) Apologies for absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Ian Chivers (Rhymney Consulting) and Ariadne Tampion.

(ii) Minutes of previous AGM:

Corrections were made to the affiliation of Ian Chivers (Rhymney Consulting) and Jane Sleightholme (FortranPlus). Otherwise the minutes were accepted as a correct record and were approved unanimously (Proposed by Ian Hounam, Seconded by John Reid).

(iii) Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

(iv) Chairman's Report:

The chairman opened his report with thanks to John Pelan for his sterling work, which allowed the group to organise the "Fortran Expo" joint meeting with the Institute of Physics Computational Physics Group.

He reported that BCS had provided sufficient funds to ensure that the UK was well presented at the WG5 meeting in June 2012. The standardization achievements would be covered by David Muxworthy later.

He commented that he had been Chairman for 10 years and felt that the group should consider whether there was a need for fresh blood on the Committee and at the head of the Group.

He thanked the committee members for their assistance and the staff at BCS HQ for their willing support.

The report was approved unanimously (Proposed by Jane Sleightholme, Seconded by John Pelan).

(v) Treasurer's Report and SG Development Fund Report:

The Treasurer gave a verbal report and presented the accounts for the year.

The SG had a small overspend due to a claim from the previous year being in the accounts. The budget presented for 2012/13 was based on a BCS HQ agreed allocation of £1190 for regular meetings and events, with the amount for special events and projects at the level that the Group would bid for.

This report was approved unanimously (Proposed by Clifford Cheeseman, Seconded Ian Hounam).

David Muxworthy (in his role as BSI Fortran Convenor) presented a report on the use of the SG support of Fortran Standards. This report would be submitted to BCS together with the Chairman's report.

This report was approved unanimously (Proposed by Clifford Cheeseman, Seconded Ian Hounam).

(vi) Membership Secretary's Report:

The Chairman presented the membership report on behalf of the membership secretary, Ian Chivers, who was absent. As in the previous year there had been more members leaving than joining but it had not been possible to determine whether people were just leaving the Group or BCS.

John Pelan wondered whether it would be worth analysing the other Groups members belonged to in order to target them in looking for new members.

The report was approved unanimously (Proposed by John Young, Seconded by Jane Sleightholme).

(vii) Web Editor's Report:

The Web Editor, Peter Crouch, gave a verbal report but would produce a written report to be included at a later date. He had been updating the Group's web pages to cover events including the Fortran Expo and the previous AGM and a Google search box had been added.

Jane Sleightholme enquired about the BCS content management system (following the report in 2011 on the unsuccessful attempts at using this). The Web Editor said that he still had not got any further with this.

John Young, Jane Sleightholme and Clive Page all expressed their thanks to Peter for his efforts.

The report was accepted unanimously (Proposed by John Pelan, Seconded by Clive Page).

(viii) Election of Officers

The nominations for the SG officers had been received by the Secretary according to the Constitution.

John Pelan took over as Chairman for election of the Chairman.

A discussion on the possibility of the Peter Crouch stepping down followed. He had informed the Committee members of a wish to stand down in the preparations for the AGM and the members were unanimous in that he had done a very good job and it would be a loss to the Group if he could not be persuaded to continue as Chairman. Subsequently John Young and Clive Page had nominated Peter Crouch.

Nominations for the other Officers and Members were:

David Muxworthy and Ian Hounam had nominated John Pelan as Vice-Chairman.

Peter Crouch and John Reid had nominated Sam Ellis as Secretary

Jane Sleightholme and Nick Maclaren had nominated John Reid as Treasurer

John Young and John Pelan had nominated Ian Chivers as Membership Secretary.

Clive Page and John Reid had nominated Peter Crouch as Web Editor.

Peter Crouch and Jane Sleightholme had nominated David Muxworthy as Archivist.

David Muxworthy and John Young had nominated John Reid as Standards Officer.

John Pelan and Sam Ellis had Jane Sleightholme, Clive Page and Cliff Cheeseman as Committee Members.

As each of these Officer positions had only received single nominees all were deemed duly elected. The committee for the year 2012/2013 is therefore:

Chairman	Peter Crouch
Vice-Chairman	John Pelan
Secretary	Sam Ellis
Treasurer	John Reid
Web Editor	Peter Crouch
Archivist	David Muxworthy
Standards Officer	John Reid

Membership	Ian Chivers
Committee Members	Cliff Cheeseman Clive Page Jane Sleightholme

(ix) Future activities of the Group

John Pelan opened the discussion on future activities with a proposal to expand the scope of the Group to include Scientific Computing.

A long discussion followed, which covered the potential to link to other Specialist Groups, professions other than physics, and links to other programming languages.

The possibility of automatically offering membership of the Group to members of the Institute of Physics Computational Physics Group was raised, as membership of Specialist Groups for non-BCS members was now allowed in Specialist Group rules.

Most thought that expansion would be a good idea but there were some potential drawbacks, such as losing focus. It was felt that some firm proposals should be developed in order to manage any transition carefully.

John Pelan undertook to work on this proposal in the coming year and everyone else would provide comments.

(x) Any Other Business

It was decided that John Reid and Sam Ellis would represent the Group at the Specialist Groups meeting on Tuesday 16th October.

(xi) Date of next Annual General Meeting

The AGM has to sit between issue of accounts and submission of signatures back to BCS HQ so the date of the next AGM was chosen as Thursday 26th September 2013.

The Chairman formally declare the AGM closed. After a break for lunch, a number of presentations were made. The chairman closed the meeting. He thanked everyone for coming, in particular the speakers. He hoped that the meeting had been useful and the reports would be posted to the website with the minutes.