

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

The 2013 Annual General Meeting of the British Computer Society Fortran Specialist Group
was held at 11.00 am on Thursday, 26th September 2013.

Present:

Ian Chivers	Rhymney Consulting
Peter Crouch	Nickel Institute
Ian Hounam	
David Muxworthy	BSI Fortran Convenor
John Pelan	University College London
John Reid	JKR Associates
Jane Sleightholme	FortranPlus
John Young	
Afternoon only:	
Fabrice Fleurot	Sellafield Ltd
Clive Page	University of Leicester
Arthur Turrington	Contractor

The Chairman opened the meeting. David Muxworthy agreed to take the minutes in the absence of the Secretary.

(i) Apologies for absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Clifford Cheeseman, Sam Ellis, Clive Page (for the morning session) and Ariadne Tampion.

(ii) Minutes of previous AGM:

Corrections were made to the affiliation of Ian Hounam and John Young (both retired) and Arthur Turrington (IBM Global Services). Otherwise the minutes were accepted as a correct record and were approved unanimously (Proposed by Ian Hounam, seconded by John Pelan).

(iii) Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising not otherwise on the agenda.

(iv) Chairman's Report:

The chairman reported on his attendances at the Member Groups Convention and at the Treasurers' Day in March. An offer to work on joint events with other groups had so far not generated a response. He was grateful that BCS had again provided funds to support Fortran standardization.

He had successfully negotiated the use of meeting rooms at Southampton Street for the WG5 meeting in August 2015.

He thanked John Pelan for liaising with the Institute of Physics to facilitate joint meetings and for his work on proposals for broadening the remit and appeal of the Group. He thanked too members of the committee and BCS London staff for their help during the past year.

Once again he said he would willingly stand aside as Chair of the Group. This suggestion was strongly opposed by those present. He concluded by making a general appeal for comments and suggestions relating to the Group.

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

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

The Treasurer gave a verbal report and presented the accounts for the year. The requests for budgets had been approved apart for one item, possibly because it was seen to be a retrospective request. A similar situation could arise this year. Although budget requests had been submitted in March, and it was now the 2013-2014 financial year, there was as yet no information on the Group's allocation.

There had been some minor difficulty over payments for attendance at the WG5 meeting in June but this had been resolved satisfactorily.

This year's financial report was in summary form. It was agreed that this was preferable but that it should also include budget proposals in addition to the previous year's details.

This report was approved unanimously (Proposed by Ian Chivers, seconded by Ian Hounam).

David Muxworthy gave a report on the use of the Group's support of Fortran standards. This described Fortran standards development during the year, emphasizing UK members' participation, and was intended more for the Membership Board and BCS HQ staff than for Group members, who would typically be familiar with the content. He thanked Peter Crouch for arranging for the 2015 WG5 meeting to be held in Southampton Street.

John Reid said that SC22 (the ISO committee with responsibility for all standardized programming languages) had, at its recent meeting, expressed interest in holding its next UK meeting at BCS rather than at BSI in Chiswick. This would be in September 2016 or 2017. It was agreed that the Group could pursue this in due course.

David Muxworthy reported that he had been contacted by BCS HQ staff in May and asked to write a report on current activity in BSI IST/5, the UK counterpart of SC22. It appeared that HQ were attempting to contact all BCS members on BSI committees and it may be that a more formal standards structure within BCS was being revived; a previous group had lapsed some ten years ago,

This report was approved unanimously (Proposed by Ian Chivers, seconded by Jane Sleightholme).

(vi) Membership Secretary's Report:

Ian Chivers presented a detailed report which analysed membership by location, membership status and age. There were 179 members. There was a high turnover - 34 had left and 27 had joined in the past two years. The age profile gave cause for concern, with a median in the 50-59 range and only four members under 30. This provoked a discussion on whether the age profile of the group was a true reflection of the profile of actual Fortran users; no conclusion was reached.

The report was approved unanimously (Proposed by John Young, seconded by David Muxworthy).

(vii) Web Editor's Report:

Peter Crouch reported that he had updated the Group's web pages for 2006 and 2007 to the post-2009 BCS brand, logo and colour scheme and was working on earlier pages. He had been asked to add a link to an on-line course website with material from US and UK universities. The meeting decided that this was not appropriate as the content was not specifically Fortran-related.

There was a discussion on the difference between being a member of the Group and being a member of the Group's mailing lists, as there is a non-BCS members email list as well as the BCS members list.

The editor asked for volunteers "with more web expertise that I" to take over as web editor. Such expertise was not present at the meeting. The meeting thanked him for all his work.

The report was accepted unanimously (Proposed by Jane Sleightholme, seconded by John Young).

(viii) Election of Officers

John Pelan took over as chairman for election of the Chairman. Peter Crouch was nominated by Ian Chivers and John Young and was elected unanimously.

Peter Crouch then resumed the Chair.

For Vice-Chairman John Pelan was nominated by Ian Chivers and John Young and was elected unanimously.

For Secretary Sam Ellis was nominated by John Pelan and David Muxworthy and was elected unanimously.

For Treasurer John Reid was nominated by Ian Hounam and David Muxworthy and was elected unanimously.

The remaining offices and committee memberships, the holders of which having agreed to continue in office, were proposed in a block vote by John Young and seconded by Ian Hounam and were elected unanimously.

The committee for the year 2013-2014 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 Secretary	Ian Chivers
Committee Members	Cliff Cheeseman Clive Page Jane Sleightholme

(ix) Future activities of the Group

Group representation at SG Convention, 17th October 2013

No committee member present was able to attend. Peter Crouch was to take part in the Branch Convention on the previous day. He would check if he was able to be present at the SG convention. (He did attend the SG Convention on behalf of the Group.)

Joint meeting with IoP Computational Physics Group

There was a discussion about holding a joint meeting with the IoP on an evening in London. It was thought that software tools would be a possible topic and John Reid could propose a possible speaker. A meeting in Manchester on high performance computing was also discussed. John Pelan would investigate further.

2015 WG5 meeting in London

Although use of the BCS meeting rooms had been agreed in principle, they could not be booked until August 2014. (Since the meeting the BCS meeting rooms were successfully

booked at the end of October 2013.) For places to stay, Ian Chivers had investigated using student accommodation but typically these could not be booked until Easter 2015 and universities were increasingly using such accommodation for summer schools. It may be that delegates would be supplied with lists of relatively cheap hotels (Travelodge and Premier Inn) and asked to make their own arrangements. It was thought unnecessary to hold a reception. There would probably be a 'pay-it-yourself' group dinner. Ian Chivers would look into the possibility of organizing a visit to the Houses of Parliament on the Friday afternoon.

Proposals for broadening the remit and appeal of the Group

There had recently been an email discussion between committee members about broadening the remit of the Group. An Outline Proposal by John Pelan and excerpts from the email discussion were amongst papers available at the meeting.

It was agreed that there was a need to enlarge the scope of the group, with a particular requirement to attract users of science and engineering programming although it was noted that Fortran was also used in other areas such as financial modeling. There was a long discussion on a possible name for the group, with various combinations of some or all of 'science', 'engineering', 'computational', 'high performance' and 'Fortran' being suggested. John Pelan agreed to circulate possibilities for discussion amongst Group members. There was also a need for a new remit to be put on the website.

(x) Any other business:

None was raised.

(xi) Date of next AGM

The 2014 AGM would be held on Thursday 2 October 2014.

The Chairman formally declared the AGM closed. After a break for lunch, two presentations were made:

“Further coarray features” by John Reid

“Removing simple deficiencies in Fortran” by David Muxworthy

The chairman closed the meeting. He thanked everyone for coming, in particular the speakers. He hoped that the meeting had been useful and said that all the reports and slides from the presentations would be posted on the website, along with the minutes.