

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

The 2014 Annual General Meeting of the British Computer Society Fortran Specialist Group was held at 11.00 am on Thursday 2nd October 2014.

Present:

Ian Chivers	Rhymney Consulting
Peter Crouch	
Sam Ellis	Defence Equipment & Support
Ian Hounam	
David Muxworthy	
Clive Page	University of Leicester
John Pelan	University College London
John Reid	JKR Associates
Harvey Richardson	Cray UK Ltd
Jane Sleightholme	Fortranplus

Afternoon attendees:

David Barrett	
Peter Davies	University Of Surrey
Fabrice Fleurot	Sellafield Ltd
Wayne Gaudin *	AWE
Helen Gibson	
Chris Greenough *	Rutherford Appleton Laboratory
James Hetherington *	University College London (UCL)
Paul Hollister	
Zdenek Masin	The Open University
Michael Rezny	
Charles Roberts	University of Reading
Anton Shterenlikht *	The University of Bristol
Nathan Sircombe	
Michael Sleigh	AWE
Arthur Turrington	
Stephen Webb	CMG
Philip Whittlesea	University of Kent

* Afternoon speaker

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the meeting especially the new attendee Harvey Richardson.

(i) Apologies for absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Clifford Chessman (AWE), Arthur Turrington and John Young.

(ii) Minutes of previous AGM:

The minutes were accepted as a correct record and were approved unanimously (Proposed by Jane Sleightholme, Seconded by Clive Page).

(iii) Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

(iv) Chairman's Report:

The Chairman reported that he had attended the BCS Treasurer's day on behalf of the Treasurer. Guidance was provided on submitting the budget bid and supplementary funding request. He confirmed that once again BCS had provided funds for representation at the WG5 meeting in June 2014. He added that BCS had also agreed to provide meeting rooms for the WG5 meeting in London in August 2015 and that these were already booked.

He had been unable to be at the Spring Member Groups Convention later that month but intended to be at the Convention in November.

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

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 John Pelan, Seconded by Clive Page).

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

The Treasurer, John Reid, presented his report and presented the accounts for the year in a simpler tabular format than the formal reports received from BCS.

The SG had applied for supplementary funding for standardization activities and the Treasurer thanked the Chairman for helping with submission of the proposal. He reported that funding on top of that from BCS and BSI was provided by Cambridge University to allow Nick Maclaren to attend the WG5 meeting.

The funding bid for 2014/15 for running costs was allocated as requested. A bid for special funding would have to be submitted in 2015.

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

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 for the Membership Board and BCS HQ staff.

A long discussion covering a few key points followed. The main discussion being around the standard on vulnerabilities in programming languages where the Annex on the Fortran language was not in the latest version.

It was also reported that no progress had been made in BCS on coordinating reports from BCS members on external committees, including standards committees.

This report was approved unanimously (Proposed by Harvey Richardson, Seconded Ian Hounam).

(vi) Membership Secretary's Report:

The Membership Secretary, Ian Chivers, presented a detailed report which analysed membership by age, membership status, country, and county and town within the UK. There were 180 members; In the past year 13 had left and 14 had joined. It had not been possible to determine whether people were just leaving the Group or BCS. The age profile continued to give cause for concern, with a median in the 50-59 range and only four members under 30. It was intended to make use of postcodes for future reports.

Access to additional information from the BCS membership profiles had been requested with a view to comparing the information against the ageing Fortran membership. Harvey Richardson suggested that it might also be useful to know what industries the members had connections to. The Chairman, Peter Crouch, agreed to follow up on both of these suggestions with the BCS.

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

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

(vii) Web Editor's Report:

The Web Editor, Peter Crouch, presented his report. The main effort during the year had been on routine maintenance of the Group's website. The website currently contained over 1000 files but was suffering from a dearth of new photos as the home page still had a photo from 2012.

David Muxworthy as archivist had digitized a few Group documents from the 1970s and proposed to do more. They would eventually be added to the Group website.

Jane Sleightholme expressed thanks to Peter for his efforts.

The report was accepted unanimously (Proposed by David Muxworthy, 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 re-election of the Chairman.

John Reid and Clive Page had nominated Peter Crouch.

Nominations for the other Officers and Members were:

Peter Crouch and Clive Page had nominated John Pelan as Vice-Chairman.

Peter Crouch and John Pelan had nominated Sam Ellis as Secretary.

Ian Hounam and David Muxworthy had nominated John Reid as Treasurer.

Clive Page and John Pelan had nominated David Muxworthy as Archivist.

Harvey Richardson and Ian Hounam had nominated John Reid as Standards Officer.

Jane Sleightholme and David Muxworthy had nominated Ian Chivers as Membership Secretary.

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

John Pelan and Peter Crouch had nominated Harvey Richardson as a new Committee Member.

The nominees for each position were unanimously elected. The committee for the year 2014/2015 was 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 Chessman Clive Page Harvey Richardson Jane Sleightholme

(ix) Future activities of the Group

Group representation at the Member Groups Convention in November 2014 was discussed. Peter Crouch would attend but neither Sam Ellis nor any other member of the committee would be able to attend.

It was agreed that a potential joint meeting with the Institute of Physics Computational Physics Group should be pursued. The IoP Computational Physics Group did not have ordinary meetings. It was suggested that there be a joint half-day meeting with the

Group following the AGM in 2015. The IoP would set aside funding for speaker's traveling expenses.

The 2015 WG5 meeting in London was discussed. The discussion focused on logistics and timings. In addition the Group was aiming to see if the delegates could visit the Houses of Parliament and would investigate whether they could leverage BCS links to Ministers to obtain special treatment. There would be a dinner at a local restaurant on the Tuesday evening. This would be booked early in 2015. Peter Crouch said he would like to attend the dinner to meet the delegates as Chairman of the BCS Fortran Specialist Group.

John Pelan presented a proposal for broadening the remit and appeal of the Group. There was some concern that the Group would appear to be treading on the toes of other Specialist Groups but Clive Page said that this would not be a problem because BCS members could join up to five specialist groups. There was also some discussion about non-BCS members being members of Specialist Groups and Peter Crouch suggested that this was covered in the minutes of a previous AGM. Those present were generally in favour of the proposal though the choice of a new name for the Group was not immediately apparent. John Pelan would pursue a questionnaire on this proposal.

(x) Any Other Business

There was no other business.

(xi) Date of next Annual General Meeting

The date of the next AGM was chosen as Thursday 1st October 2015.

The chairman closed the meeting. He thanked everyone for coming. All present thanked Peter Crouch for his continued efforts in chairing and representing the group.

After a buffet lunch there was a joint meeting with Computational Physics Group of Institute of Physics with the following topics and speakers:

"How Software Engineering can help you" by Prof Chris Greenough, Software Engineering Group, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory,

"The Craftsperson and the Scholar" by James Hetherington, Research Software Development Team Leader, University College London,

"Fortran 2008 coarrays" by Anton Shterenlikht, Mechanical Engineering Department, The University of Bristol,

"Fortran and Massive Concurrency" by Wayne Gaudin, AWE.

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.