

Minutes of the BCS Fortran Specialist Group 2016 AGM
Held at BCS London Office, First Floor, The Davidson Building,
5 Southampton Street, London.

The 2016 Annual General Meeting of the British Computer Society Fortran Specialist Group was held at 11.00 am on Thursday 29th September 2016.

Present:

Cliff Cheesman	AWE
Ian Chivers	Rhymney Consulting
Peter Crouch	Fortran Specialist Group
Sam Ellis	Defence Equipment & Support
David Muxworthy	
Clive Page	University of Leicester
John Reid	JKR Associates
Harvey Richardson	Cray UK Ltd
Jane Sleightholme	Fortranplus

Afternoon additional attendees:

John Collins	SimCon
Kevin Duff	University of Cambridge
Mats Hamral	ECMWF
Wadud Miah	NAG
Cathal Ó Broin	ICHEC
Deborah Salmond	ECMWF
Anton Shterenlikht	University of Bristol
Mike Sleigh	ECMWF
Matthew Smith	University of Cambridge
Arthur Turrington	
Tomas Wilhelmsson	ECMWF
Paul Williams	University of Reading
Nick Woods	

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the meeting.

(i) Apologies for absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Nick Maclaren (University of Cambridge), John Pelan (Gatsby Computational Neuroscience Unit, University College London), Ariadne Tampion, Arthur Turrington and John Young (International Seismological Centre).

(ii) Minutes of previous AGM:

Corrections were made to the spelling of Cliff Cheesman's name, otherwise the minutes were accepted as a correct record and were approved unanimously (Proposed by Clive Page, Seconded by Cliff Cheesman).

(iii) Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

(iv) Chairman's Report:

The Chairman, Peter Crouch, reported that he had attended the BCS Member Group Conventions in January and March 2015, as well as the Treasurer's Day on behalf of the Group. As in previous years BCS had continued to provide funding for the Group to enable UK representation at the annual ISO WG5 meeting.

This year he had taken the opportunity to give talks on Fortran to two BCS Branches in Coventry and Bedford, and was in discussion about a future talk to the Henley on Thames branch of Café Scientifique. John Reid offered to present as he lived nearby.

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

The Chairman reported that he had been Chairman of the Group since 2002. Whilst willing to stand for re-election as Chairman he suggested that the Group required fresh blood on the Committee and at the head of the Group. This and the future direction of the Group were to be discussed under item (ix).

The report was approved unanimously (Proposed by David Muxworthy, Seconded by Clive Page).

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

The Treasurer, John Reid, presented his report. At the start of the year the Group had been allocated £550 for running costs. Two applications for supplementary funding to cover attendance at the SC22 and WG5 meetings were submitted and granted.

The total budget for the year and the provisional spending were presented, with the final statements from BCS not yet seen.

The Group's bid for 2016/17 to cover running costs and attendance at IST/5, SC22 and WG5 had been prepared, and submitted.

Harvey Richardson asked whether the budget differed from other BCS groups. No-one had detailed information but it was thought that there were no other Specialist Groups that dealt with specific programming languages.

This report was approved unanimously (Proposed by Harvey Richardson, Seconded by Jane Sleightholme).

David Muxworthy, in his role as BSI Fortran Convenor, presented a report on the use of the SG support of Fortran Standards.

Additions to the content of the new standard had finished in 2015. In the past year the principal work had been to ensure that these changes had been incorporated into the standard correctly and had not lead to inconsistencies or incompatibilities. The document

would go forward for balloting by national bodies in 2017 and was due for publication in July 2018.

He reported that planning for a future revision would start in 2017 with a view to making a final choice of the technical content in 2020.

He concluded that the UK continues to play a major role in the development of the Fortran language. At the most recent WG5 meeting 5 of the 18 participants were from the UK with one of these wholly supported and two partly supported by BCS. The Group was extremely grateful for this continuing BCS contribution.

This report was approved unanimously (Proposed by Jane Sleightholme, Seconded Clive Page).

(vi) Membership Secretary's Report:

The Membership Secretary, Ian Chivers, presented a detailed membership report, which provided breakdowns of the membership by gender, town, county, country and membership grade. This year had been unusual as there had been no change in the membership numbers for the Group.

He had also produced some diagrams showing the locations of the members of the Group in Britain. These showed that the largest concentration of members was around London, with other concentrations around cities across England, and a few members in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dundee in Scotland.

The report was approved unanimously (Proposed by Cliff Cheesman, Seconded by David Muxworthy).

(vii) Web Editor's Report:

The Web Editor, Peter Crouch, presented a "very short report". There had been comparatively little activity in the year, with the main activity being the upload of digitized versions of agendas and minutes of the Group's meetings between 1970 and 1993.

The report was approved unanimously (Proposed by Ian Chivers, Seconded by John Reid).

(viii) Election of Officers

The nominations for the SG officers had been received by the Secretary according to the Constitution and all were willing to stand for election.

David Muxworthy took over as Chairman for re-election of the Chairman.

Ian Chivers and John Reid had nominated Peter Crouch and he was unanimously elected.

Nominations for the other Officers and Members were:

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

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

Cliff Cheesman and David Muxworthy had nominated John Reid as Treasurer.

Sam Ellis and Harvey Richardson had nominated David Muxworthy as Archivist.

Ian Chivers and Jane Sleightholme had nominated John Reid as Standards Officer.

Jane Sleightholme and Clive Page had nominated Ian Chivers as Membership Secretary.

Everyone else present not currently elected to a specific role had been nominated as Committee Members and were willing to stand.

The nominees were unanimously elected. The committee for the year 2016/2017 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 Cheesman Clive Page Harvey Richardson Jane Sleightholme

(ix) Future activities of the Group

A potential joint meeting with the Institute of Physics Computational Physics Group in 2017 was discussed. Because John Pelan was not present it was not known whether this had been agreed but Peter Crouch suggested that we ought to continue with this liaison and it was agreed that this should be pursued. The format was discussed and John Reid suggested that a half day meeting after the Group's AGM was still the preferable format.

A long discussion took place about trying to get new blood onto the Committee and finding someone to take over as Chairman.

John Pelan had taken the role of Deputy Chairman with the intention of becoming Chairman afterwards but was currently very busy and still felt unable to take this on.

The possibility of involving someone from NAG was discussed. John Reid thought it was difficult to see how NAG would be able to provide the resources.

Another option would be to try to persuade some of the afternoon speakers to become involved. It was thought that the best way to make some progress with this would be to get the speakers on the Committee first.

Ian Chivers thought that many people were interested in Fortran but were not keen to be members of BCS. David Muxworthy said that there used to be about six meetings a year and people had to attend to get information, but with the internet this was no longer the case.

Cliff Cheesman thought there may be people at AWE who might be interested and agreed to survey staff members. Sam Ellis also thought there may be others in

DE&S/MoD and would see if anyone within these organizations have a list of Fortran users.

(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 28th September 2017.

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:

“Tales from the trenches: preparing scientific computing software for emerging compute and data intensive challenges”, Cathal Ó Broin, Computational Scientist, Irish Centre for High-End Computing.

“Current Practices of Fortran in Computational Science”, Wadud Miah, Computational Scientist, Numerical Algorithms Group.

“The use of Fortran in calculating the effects of climate change on aviation”, Paul Williams, Royal Society University Research Fellow, Department of Meteorology, University of Reading.

“Fortran 2015”, John Reid, Convenor ISO WG5.

"Removing simple deficiencies in Fortran 2015", David Muxworthy, BSI Fortran Convenor.

“A comparison of generic programming support in Fortran using currently available methods and using templates in C++, C# and Java”, Ian Chivers, Rhymney Consulting.

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.

Peter C. Crouch
28th September 2017