

Minutes of the BCS Fortran Specialist Group (FSG) AGM
Held at Sainsbury Wellcome Centre, 25 Howard Street, WT1 4JG & online.

The 2022 Annual General Meeting of the British Computer Society Fortran Specialist Group was held at 10:40 am on Thursday 29th September 2022.

Present Sainsbury Wellcome Centre:

Nick Macey

John Pelan Sainsbury Wellcome Centre (UCL)

John Reid

Harvey Richardson Cray UK

Present online:

Ian Chivers Rhymney Consulting

Peter Crouch

Sam Ellis

Rod Grealish

David Muxworthy

Jane Sleightholme Fortranplus

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

(i) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Kiran Chandramohan, Clive Page, Nathan Sircombe & John Young.

(ii) Minutes of previous AGM:

The minutes were still in draft and were not voted on.

(iii) Matters Arising

The only matter arising was the election of a new Standards Officer, the post becoming vacant after the 2021 AGM, and this would be dealt with under the Election of Officers.

(iv) Chair's Report

The Chair, John Pelan, briefly went through his report.

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

(v) Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was presented by John Reid.

There had been no expenses in 2021/2022 and in 2022/2023 there would only be the AGM and IST/5 meetings. David Muxworthy mentioned the BSI AITS funding, which was being cut back and asked what expenses should be claimed for the AGM

and afternoon meetings. John Reid said that BCS and IOP would cover one speaker each.

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

(vi) Membership Secretary's Report

The Membership Secretary, Ian Chivers, presented his report.

The main discussion covered the age of the members, but there was now little information on age and the only conclusion that could be drawn was that there were few members under 40 years of age out of the total of 133 members.

John Pelan asked about non-BCS members and suggested that we should abandon the members mailing list.

John Reid suggested that it would be useful to communicate with the members and request comments on the new features of Fortran, as only one comment had been received and it would be good if a UK view was produced. Nick Macey commented that most people were not using the newer features – see discussions on Fortran Discourse. Ian Chivers said that Met Office Fortran users did not look at Fortran Discourse.

Nick Macey asked if it would be possible to get more from being a member of BCS, as working engineers etc. don't tend to join BCS, which tends to be more corporate membership.

Ian Chivers would try to compare the Fortran SG membership with other groups.

(vii) Web Editor's Report

The Web Editor, Harvey Richardson, presented his report.

The main concern was that BCS changed the mechanism for maintaining the website and that there was no direct access with the current system with everything going to the BCS Web Team. Ian Chivers asked if that meant there was a possibility of losing the website. John Pelan suggested that we should keep a separate copy just in case we needed to move it in future.

Harvey said that some effort should be made to provide information on meetings that the Fortran SG was involved in.

The report was approved unanimously (Proposed by Sam Ellis, seconded by Jane Sleightholme).

(viii) Election of Officers

The nominations for the SG officers had been received by the Secretary according to the Constitution and everyone was willing to continue apart from Cliff Cheesman. However, there were three brief discussions on the Chair, Secretary and Standards Officer posts.

John Pelan said that he was happy to continue as Chair unless anyone else wanted to take over. Everyone was content to continue with John as Chair. He was unanimously reelected as Chair (Proposed by Ian Chivers, seconded by Nick Macey).

Sam Ellis was no longer a member of BCS and asked whether he could still hold the post of Secretary. It was decided that only posts with financial authority. i.e., Chair and Treasurer, required BCS membership so Sam Ellis could remain as Secretary. Sam Ellis had been nominated as Secretary (Proposed by Jane Sleightholme, seconded by David Muxworthy) and was unanimously reelected.

A brief discussion about the Standards Officer post took place. Anton Shterenlikht had stood down after the 2021 AGM and the post was vacant. It was suggested that Nathan Sircombe, who was not present, would possibly take this. This was proposed by Harvey Richardson and seconded by Ian Chivers. Nathan was unanimously elected assuming that he would accept the post.

Nick Macey had been nominated as Vice Chair (Proposed by John Reid, seconded by John Pelan) and was unanimously reelected.

John Reid had been nominated as Treasurer (Proposed by Kiran Chandramohan, seconded by Nick Macey) and was unanimously reelected.

Ian Chivers had been nominated as Membership Secretary (Proposed by Nick Macey, seconded by Jane Sleightholme) and was unanimously reelected.

David Muxworthy had been nominated as Archivist (Proposed by Jane Sleightholme, seconded by Ian Chivers) and was unanimously reelected.

Harvey Richardson had been nominated as Web Editor (Proposed by John Pelan, seconded by John Reid) and was unanimously reelected.

Kiran Chandramohan, Peter Crouch, Clive Page, Nathan Sircombe and Jane Sleightholme had been nominated as committee members (Proposed by Sam Ellis, seconded by John Pelan) and were all unanimously reelected.

The committee for the year 2022/2023 was therefore:

Chairman	John Pelan
Vice-Chairman	Nick Macey
Secretary	Sam Ellis
Treasurer	John Reid
Standards Officer	Nathan Sircombe
Membership Secretary	Ian Chivers
Archivist	David Muxworthy
Web Editor	Harvey Richardson
Committee Members	Kiran Chandramohan Peter Crouch Clive Page Nathan Sircombe Jane Sleightholme

(ix) Future activities of the group

(a) Fortran Lang

John Pelan opened discussions about future activities starting with discussions that had been held with the Fortran Lang community. They wanted to be more visible with legal support on, e.g., IPR. He was not sure that BCS could offer anything but felt that we should ask as Fortran-land had the same aims as the SG.

Harvey Richardson was not convinced that BCS would welcome this as BCS would want to know how it would benefit from providing support.

(b) FortranCon 2023

Harvey Richardson asked about funding for this. FortranCon is run every 18 months. US involvement was wanted but holding in Europe complicated this. The aim was to hold it between April and June 2023. A website would be required and there would need to be an organization to get sponsorship.

A long discussion followed covering, e.g., should this be split 50/50 between US and Europe and should it be virtual only. Harvey Richardson suggested the FSG put feelers out within the UK to see if anyone would be interested in hosting a hybrid event. John Pelan was not convinced that UK would get enough attendees. Harvey suggested we should see what was possible initially and make a decision once information became available.

(x) Any Other Business

There was no other business.

(xi) Date of next Annual General Meeting

John Pelan suggested 28th September 2023 for the date of the next AGM. John Reid suggested that we should have the same format with the AGM followed by a half-day for presentations.

The Chair closed the meeting. He thanked everyone for coming.