

Minutes of the Thirteenth Annual General Meeting of UKUUG Ltd.

held on Thursday, 23rd September 2004 at 6.15 p.m.

Lecture Theatre 2, Cruciform Building, UCL, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT

Present: Ray Miller - University of Oxford - Council Chairman
James Youngman – Individual member - Council Treasurer
Charles Curran – Individual member - Council
Alasdair Kergon – Individual member - Council
Alain Williams – Individual member - Council
Andrew Findlay – Individual member
Jane Curry – Individual member
Thomas Sippel-Dau – Individual member
David Fowler - Individual member
David Hallowell - Individual member
Mike Banahan - Honorary member
Richard Westlake - Individual member
Juan Ho – Individual member
Gareth Johnson - Individual member
Gerald News - Individual member

Observer: Leslie Fletcher

Secretary: Jane Morrison

Apologies: Sam Smith – Individual member - Council
Roger Whittaker – Individual member - Council

2 Forms of proxy received: Ralph Corderoy - vote to Ray Miller
Michael Cuthbertson - vote to Charles Curran

Ray Miller opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and welcomed them to the meeting.

1. **To Approve the Minutes of the twelfth Annual General Meeting held on 25th September 2003.**

It was proposed by Mr Curran, seconded by Mr Williams, and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 25th September 2003, which had previously been circulated to all members, be approved.

EGM - 25th February 2004: The company had held an EGM on 25th February 2004 for the purpose of increasing Council number of places from six to eight. It was proposed by Mr Sippel-Dau, seconded by Mr Williams, and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the EGM held on 25th February 2004, which had previously been circulated to all members, be approved.

2. **To receive the Council's Report, Treasurer's Report and the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31st December 2003, together with the reports thereon of the Auditors.**

Copies of the Council's report were circulated to those present (see attached). Copies of the Treasurer's report were circulated to those present (see attached). Copies of the year-end accounts (to 31/12/2003) had previously been circulated with the Agenda. Mr Miller highlighted the fact that Mr. Curran was retiring from Council after serving two terms of three years. He thanked Mr. Curran for all the work he had done over these

six years and asked those present join him in a round of applause to show the groups appreciation.

Mr Miller explained that Leslie Fletcher has now been enlisted by UKUUG to help with free and open source software issues, particularly at the advocacy level, and to help raise the UKUUG profile in the media. There will be two very interesting articles from Mr Fletcher on these issues appearing in the next Newsletter (end of September).

Some good events have been organised this year, two conferences, Winter and Linux 2004, both of which were very well attended. A successful DNS tutorial was held in April. A tutorial on Logging Infrastructures by Tina Bird is scheduled for 14th October in London but unfortunately the current numbers booked are very low and the event will probably make a loss. Council is actively pursuing other areas for promotion of this tutorial and if any members present have any ideas on other promotional ideas they were asked to contact Mr Miller.

The Winter event (Birmingham, February 2005) will also include the first International Exim conference.

Mr. Miller appealed to members to join the UKUUG Working Groups. He added that all Council members are volunteers and the work-load could be spread considerably if the Working Groups were more pro-active. Anyone wishing to find out more about the Working Groups can email the Secretariat.

Mr. Youngman read his report.

Those present were asked if there were any questions appertaining to the Council's report Treasurer's report or the year-end accounts.

Mr. Sippel-Dau asked if Sponsoring members were allowed to have the UKUUG logo on their stationery. Mr. Williams said this was a possibility and Mr. Curran replied that both silver and gold sponsors were detailed on the UKUUG web-site. Sponsors logos were included with links to the web sites.

There were no other questions.

It was therefore proposed by Mr Hallowell, seconded by Mr Curran that the Council's Report, Treasurer's Report and the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31st December 2003, together with the reports thereon of the Auditors be approved. This was carried unanimously.

- 3. To consider a change of Auditors, from WKH of Kneesworth Street, Royston, Herts to Critchleys, Greyfriars Court, Paradise Square, Oxford OX11 until the conclusion of the next general meeting of the Company at which accounts are laid before the members, and to authorise the Council to determine their remuneration.**

Mr. Miller explained that at the previous AGM Council had stated that they were considering a change, purely as WKH had been employed for some 5 years and the time for a change had come.

It was proposed by Mr Curran, seconded by Mr Williams and unanimously agreed to appoint Critchleys.

- 4. To consider elections to Council from the Nominations received.**

Two nominations have been received:

Mr. Ray Miller (nominated by Mr Curran) - seconded by Mr. Findlay & Mr. Mike Banahan (nominated by Mr Williams) - seconded by Jane Curry. Both nominations were unanimously agreed.

To confirm the new Council is as follows: James Youngman, Alasdair Kergon, Sam Smith, Alain Williams, Roger Whittaker, Ray Miller and Mike Banahan.

5. To Transact any other business

Mr Sippel-Dau asked for confirmation regarding the appointment of Messrs. Miller and Banahan as full Council members (both were previously co-opted members). It was confirmed that both will start their term of office from this AGM.

Mr Ho asked why UKUUG membership numbers have remained static despite the growing Open Source movement and what steps are being taken by Council to promote the group to this sector.

Mr Miller replied that the numbers are fairly static and that Council is looking at how to increase membership. A membership working group is being set up with the aim to attract more members and work with other organisations to provide more benefits.

Advocacy and press awareness is also being addressed now.

Mr Ho asked what sort of members are UKUUG trying to attract, Open Source, Linux, Unix?

Mr Miller stated that UKUUG, as described on the web site is the UK's Unix and Open Systems User Group. He added the group was about Unix as this is part of the groups' heritage but the aim was to be quite broad and cover other things.

Mr Curran concurred that to date UKUUG has not attracted more members from the Open Source movement but steps are being taken to address this.

Mr. Ho said that at the previous AGM there had been talk of UKUUG engaging someone on a part-time basis to lobby government.

Mr Youngman replied that this has been addressed and at the Council meeting earlier that day Council had agreed to produce documents and white papers, i.e. vehicles to put across the OS point of view.

Mr Sippel-Dau felt that UKUUG should be more involved in the open interchange of open-defined data formats. He cited the NHS exercise on data processing.

Mr Miller said all these points were very interesting and asked that matters such as this were emailed to Council for comment.

He added there was one new benefit for members that was about to be announced in the September Newsletter regarding GNU Press publications. UKUUG now has a stock of books that will be sold to members at a discount of 10% off list price.

Mr Ho asked where UKUUG was heading from here? He felt that the group has a very good track record and experience and should focus on lobbying for Open Source as an alternative.

Mr Miller agreed and again stated that members should get involved with working groups to try to change government policy.

Jane Curry commented that she knew of a contact that was actively collecting feedback on Government Gateway issues and she suggested that this might be a first line of approach to raise awareness of Open Source in government. This information will be forward to the Secretariat.

Details will appear on the UKUUG web site in due course and a mailing list set up.

Mr Banahan said that any lobbying needs to be very carefully planned. A coherent plausible comment from the UKUUG membership could get listened to but the first step is to produce a document / working paper that is seen as a stable voice.

Mr Williams added that Council is trying to raise the profile of UKUUG via the press and this will also attract more members.

Mr Ho asked about the part-time person UKUUG was thinking about and Mr Miller replied that Mr Fletcher has been enlisted for this purpose and had actually been in discussion with Council earlier that day.

Finally, Mr Miller appealed to all UKUUG members to get involved if they wanted their voices heard.

Discussion ensued regarding the format of future AGMs to provide time for open discussion and it was agreed that although this may be an idea the discussions this evening should be continued sooner. It was therefore agreed to set up a mailing list (details to appear in the September Newsletter) and a BOF session will be scheduled for after the Winter 2005 conference in February.

Mr Miller thanked everyone for their input and closed the meeting at 7.00 p.m.

AGMMINS230904
24th September 2004
emailed to RM - 24/09/04
checked RM + Council 27/09/04
distributed: 29/10/04