

UKUUG AGM 2005, Council Report Ray Miller - Chairman

Officers of the Group

The present Council of Management are:

Ray Miller	Director, Chairman
James Youngman	Director, Treasurer
Alasdair Kergon	
Roger Whittaker	
Sam Smith	
Alain Williams	
Mike Banahan	

James Youngman and Alasdair Kergon, having served two terms of three years, are standing down from Council.

Sam Smith and Alain Williams, having served one term of three years, are eligible and willing to continue.

Secretariat

We continue to run the UKUUG Office from the Manor House in Buntingford, Hertfordshire using the services of Jane Morrison's company, JMAS.

UKnet Ltd

The situation with UKnet Ltd, a dormant company owned by UKUUG, remains unchanged. The UKnet shares continue to be held by the UKUUG Company Secretary.

Advocacy

It is now a year since we engaged the services of Leslie Fletcher as UKUUG Open Source Advocate and Campaigns Manager. Leslie has attended a number of conferences and meetings on our behalf, many of which he has reported in the UKUUG Newsletter. He also set up and manages the UKUUG Media Watch blog <<http://www.ukuug.org/mediawatch/>> and is helping to raise UKUUG's profile in the media, with one of his articles appearing on the BBC News web site earlier this year.

More recently, Leslie has been discussing with Richard Allan (previously the Liberal Democrat MP for Sheffield Hallam) the possibility of setting up an All-Party Parliamentary Open Source Group.

Council is keeping advocacy and campaigns activities under review to ensure that we make efficient and effective use of the resources available to us.

Events

UKUUG's main events this year were the Winter Conference held in Birmingham in February, and the Linux Technical Conference held last month in Swansea.

The Winter Conference was preceded by an extended talk on Perl 6 by Allison Randal, President of the Perl Foundation and project manager for Perl 6. We also supported UIT Cambridge in organising the first International Exim Conference, which shared a venue and ran immediately before the Winter Conference.

The Linux Technical Conference had a strong programme with a number of well-known speakers from the Linux community, but unfortunately did not attract as large an audience as we had hoped.

Tina Bird's tutorial "Building an Enterprise Logging Infrastructure" did not attract enough delegates to break even, and Jim Reid's usually popular advanced DNS tutorial made only a small profit.

In conjunction with NTK, UKUUG organised "Open Tech 2005", a one-day conference about technologies that anyone can have a go at, from "Open Source"-style ways of working to repurposing everyday electronics hardware. This was a very well-attended event, and we are grateful to Sam Smith for coordinating UKUUG's activities on this front.

We already have several events planned for the future. With support from Apple, we will be organising another technology briefing to take place in central London next year. We have also circulated a call for participation in UKUUG's next LISA conference, to be held in Durham on March 22nd and 23rd, and are considering venues near London for next year's summer Linux Technical Conference.

UKUUG will be represented at the forthcoming LinuxWorld Expo in Olympia, and we are pursuing the possibilities for increased cooperation with the recently-formed BCS Open Source Specialist Group.

Open Source Award

We made our 2005 Open Source Award to Christopher Gutteridge of the University of Southampton for his work on the Open Archive Software, GNU EPrints. Christopher won an expenses-paid trip to the Open Source Convention in Portland, OR, USA, thanks to support from O'Reilly, organisers of the convention and Gold Sponsors of the Open Source Award.

Newsletter

We continue to distribute a printed newsletter to members once a quarter. As always, we are seeking contributions from members for publication in the newsletter.

Working Groups

UKUUG depends almost entirely on the efforts of volunteers to carry out its activities. Council would like to increase the involvement of members by devolving some activities to Working Groups. We are looking for volunteers to work in the following areas: website and documentation; newsletter; membership; LISA conference; Linux conference; schools; commercial liaison; academic liaison; regional groups; press and publicity. Please contact <office@ukuug.org> if you would like to get involved with any of the above.

Membership

The register currently shows 477 names; of these, 26 have resigned this year and 63 have let their membership lapse.

Paid members

	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
corporate	88	95	93	93	94	107
individual	264	258	250	278	247	221
student	29	30	30	30	24	16
honorary	7	6	6	6	6	6
total	388	389	379	407	371	350

The Membership Working Group set itself the target of doubling membership numbers, a task in which it has patently failed. Clearly, more radical thinking is required to build and sustain membership numbers.

Ray Miller, <ray.miller@ukuug.org>

UKUUG Council Chairman, 2005-09-19