

**Minutes of the Fourteenth Annual General Meeting of UKUUG Ltd.
held on Thursday 22nd September 2005 at 6.15 p.m.
Lecture Theatre 2, Cruciform Building, UCL, Gower Street, London WC1E 6AE**

Present: Ray Miller - University of Oxford - Council Chairman
Alasdair Kergon - Individual member - Council
Alain Williams - Individual member - Council
Mike Banahan - Honorary member - Council
Sam Smith - Individual member - Council
Roger Whittaker - Individual member - Council
Leslie Fletcher - Individual member - UKUUG Spokesperson
John M. Collins - Individual member
Andrew Findlay - Individual member
Derek Bush - Individual member
John Hearn - Individual member
Robert Harris - Individual member
Werner Wiethage - Individual member
Michael Gray - University of Cambridge
David Sheryn - City University
Alex Owen - Individual member
Dean Wilson - Individual member
Niall Mansfield - Individual member
Stephen Coast - Student member
Richard Westlake - Individual member

Secretary: Jane Morrison

Apologies: James Youngman, Charles Curran, Jane Curry

One form of proxy received: Michael Cuthbertson - vote to Ray Miller

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

1. To approve the minutes of the thirteenth Annual General meeting held on 23rd September 2004.

It was proposed by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Smith, and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 23rd September 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 2004, 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 31/12/2004) had previously been circulated with the Agenda.

Dr. Miller highlighted a couple of points from his report. Thanks were due to Messrs. Youngman and Kergon who have both served two consecutive terms of three years on Council.

In light of the continued work Mr. Kergon has carried out on the annual Linux event, Dr. Miller proposed that Mr. Kergon be awarded an Honorary membership of UKUUG. This was seconded by Mr. Williams and a formal vote of thanks was given to Mr. Kergon.

Dr. Miller explained that the dormant company, UKnet Ltd., had been briefly discussed at the Council meeting earlier that day and that it was not immediately clear if there was any value in keeping the company. Each year audit costs were incurred and Dr. Miller could see little benefit in continuing to maintain this company. This matter will be considered at the first meeting of the new Council.

Leslie Fletcher has now been engaged for one year as the UKUUG Open Source Advocate and Campaign Manager. His work has started slowly and is now proceeding in a positive direction. The most interesting matter Mr. Fletcher has pursued in recent weeks is APOSG (All-Party Parliamentary Open Source Group). There is nothing concrete to report at this stage but Mr. Fletcher will be driving this forward on behalf of Council in the next couple of weeks. Council has agreed that this project could be a very good use of UKUUG resources.

Mr. Mansfield said that he was not convinced of the merits of the UKUUG Media Watch blog. Dr. Miller replied that Council still considered this to be a worthwhile activity and would continue to promote it to members. He pointed out that Mr. Fletcher has agreed to maintain the Media Watch site on a voluntary (unpaid) basis, so UKUUG will not incur further costs from this. Mr. Westlake asked if UKUUG would be working with other groups regarding APOSG; Mr. Banahan replied that formal contacts are going to be made with OpenForum Europe and the BCS Open Source Specialist Group.

Dr. Miller said that the Winter conference in Birmingham, preceded by the first International Exim conference, attracted a good number of delegates. Unfortunately the Linux 2005 event in Swansea had not achieved the numbers expected and was going to make a small loss this year.

The Linux 2006 event is being planned for the London area, or possibly Brighton. A Linux newbie stream is planned alongside the usual hard core technical talks.

Tina Bird's tutorial made a small loss and the DNS tutorial given by Jim Reid in Manchester only just broke even. Dr. Miller added that it was unusual for the DNS tutorials not to be well attended and he felt perhaps it was the different geographical location that resulted in this.

John Hearn asked if the low turnout might not be due to the cost of attending: although cheaper than commercial training, UKUUG's tutorial fees are not insubstantial. Dr. Miller explained that UKUUG tutorials are run on a not-for-profit basis. Apart from an allowance for administrative overheads, most of the fee was passed on directly to the tutor.

Dr. Miller expressed thanks to Sam Smith, who co-ordinated, in conjunction with NTK, the 'OpenTech 2005' one-day conference, which was a huge success and very well attended.

UKUUG will be represented at the .org village area at Linux World Expo in Olympia at the beginning of October and a proposal to organise an Open Source in Education event, together with the BCS is suggested for November.

The 2006 Winter conference will actually be held in the Spring – March 22nd and 23rd in Durham. The call for papers will be sent to all members with the September Newsletter next week. The LISA conference will also include a BSD stream.

As the Open Source Award in previous years has not attracted enough interest Council have decided not to proceed with an award for 2006, and to review the matter in a year's time.

Dr. Miller explained that from the UKUUG membership survey carried out at the beginning of the year it appeared that the majority of members wanted to continue with a printed version of the Newsletter rather than receive the issues online. Dr. Miller added that the group is always seeking contributions from members for the Newsletter and would like to see more members involved with the Newsletter working group.

Concerning membership, Dr. Miller said that on the face of it the numbers look quite healthy, but there are some worrying trends. In particular, there is a clear downward trend in the number of Corporate members. Although the number of Individual members remains static, we actually lose 25% of our members each year (but attracted the same number of new members).

The goal of the Membership working group to double membership numbers has not been achieved and the WG will be meeting next month to look at ways of promoting membership.

In the absence of the Treasurer, Dr. Miller asked if there were any questions regarding the Treasurer's report and the year-end accounts. Mr. Mansfield asked how UKUUG had so much money. Mr. Banahan explained that the reserves had built up some ten or more years ago when UKUUG organised large very well attended events in conjunction with other bodies. Dr. Miller pointed out that, although the 2004 accounts showed a small profit, in recent years we had depended on investment interest to meet operating costs. Council is very wary of spending any large amounts and did their best to try to achieve a break-even status on events.

There were no further questions and it was therefore proposed by Dr. Findlay, seconded by Mr. Williams and unanimously agreed that the Council's report, Treasurer's report and the accounts of the Company for the year end 31st December 2004, together with the reports thereon of the Auditors, be approved. This was carried unanimously.

3. To re-appoint the Auditors, 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.

It was proposed by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Mansfield and unanimously agreed to re-appoint Critchleys as auditors.

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

As detailed in the Council report Dr. Miller confirmed that Messrs. Youngman and Kergon are leaving Council. Both Messrs. Smith and Williams, having served one term of three years, are standing down but are eligible and willing to be re-elected. Council is allowed eight members in total. We therefore have three vacancies to fill.

Two new nominations have been received. John M. Collins has been nominated by Alain Williams and Dean Wilson has been nominated by Sam Smith.

There were no objections to the two new nominations and the re-appointment of Messrs. Smith and Williams and it was therefore unanimously agreed to accept them as Council members.

To confirm the new Council is as follows: **Ray Miller, Mike Banahan, Roger Whittaker, Alain Williams, Sam Smith, John Collins, Dean Wilson. There is one vacant place on Council.**

5. To transact any other business.

There was no other business to transact and Dr. Miller closed the meeting at 6.40 p.m.