

UKUUG AGM 2006, Council Report

Officers of the Group

The present Council of Management are:

Ray Miller - Director, Chairman
Sam Smith - Director, Treasurer
Roger Whittaker
Alain Williams
Mike Banahan
John Collins

Dean Wilson was elected to Council at the 2005 AGM, but unfortunately had to stand down in June this year for personal reasons.

Roger Whittaker, having served two terms of three years, is standing down from Council. We are grateful to Roger for his contribution over the past six years, particularly the work he has done on the newsletter. Roger plans to remain involved with UKUUG, and has kindly agreed to continue as newsletter editor until another volunteer steps forward.

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

Leslie Fletcher has continued in his role 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. Leslie will present a short report on his activities after the AGM.

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 Spring Conference held in Durham in March, and the Linux Technical Conference held late June in Brighton.

The Spring Conference was preceded by a tutorial on Samba, which proved very popular thanks to the excellent delivery by Jerry Carter of the Samba Development Team. We also ran two workshops, and Introduction to LDAP from Andrew Findlay, and a tutorial on OpenBSD's pf Packet Filter from Peter Hansteen. We also ran a BSD MiniCon alongside the main LISA stream.

The Linux Technical Conference had a strong programme with a number of well-known speakers from the Linux community. We are grateful to Alasdair Kergon, who has also continued his involvement with UKUUG since stepping down from Council, for bringing together another successful event.

In conjunction with Apple, we organised another Apple Technology briefing on OS X for Intel. We also held a free evening event in Manchester, where Georg Greve, founder of FSFE (the Free Software Foundation Europe), gave a talk on the new revision of the GNU General Public License, GPLv3.

We already have several events planned for the future, having circulated a call for participation in UKUUG's next LISA conference, to be held in Manchester from March 19th to 21st. A number of groups are discussing possible Linux events for 2007, so it is not yet clear whether or not we will run a Linux Technical Conference in 2007 as a stand-alone event, or contribute instead to one of these other events.

UKUUG will be represented at the forthcoming LinuxWorld Expo in Olympia.

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 carryout 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 460 names; of these, 27 have resigned this year and 63 have let their membership lapse.

Paid members

	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
corporate	91	88	95	93	93	94	107
individual	250	264	258	250	278	247	221
concessionary	21	29	30	30	30	24	16
honorary	8	7	6	6	6	6	6
total	370	388	389	379	407	371	350

Although membership numbers appear stable, approximately 25% of members choose not to renew each year, with about the same number of new members joining. Initial analysis of the membership data indicates that lapsed and resigned members do not renew in future years. More work needs to be done to build and retain membership.

Sponsorship

This year, we have attracted two Gold Sponsoring Members, with IBM renewing their sponsoring membership and Novell joining as Gold Sponsoring Members in 2006. We also attracted generous sponsorship from Google for the Spring Conference, and from the Positive Internet Company for the Linux Technical Conference. We are grateful to all of our sponsors for their support of UKUUG.

Ray Miller, <ray.miller@ukuug.org>
UKUUG Council Chairman, 2006-09-27