

**Minutes of the Seventeenth Annual General Meeting of UKUUG Ltd.
held on Thursday 25th September 2008 at 6:15 p.m.
Lecture Theatre 2, Cruciform Building, UCL, Gower Street, London WC1E 6AE**

Present: Alain Williams - Individual member - Council Chairman
Howard Thomson - Individual member - Council
John Collins - Corporate member - Council
Paul Waring - Individual member - Council
Phil Hands - Individual member - Council
Alasdair Kergon - Honorary member
Holger Kraus - Individual member
Derek Bush - Individual member
Richard Westlake - Individual member
Richard Melville - Individual member
Werner Wiethage - Individual member
Frank Scott - Individual member
David Proffitt - Individual member
Jane Curry - Individual member
Dr. Andrew Findlay- Individual member
Duane Griffin - Individual member

John Scholes - lapsed member

Secretary: Jane Morrison

Apologies: Sam Smith, John Pinner, Roger Whittaker, Gordon Hill, Khusro
Jaleel, Charles Curran, Niall Mansfield

One form of proxy received: Sam Smith - vote to Alasdair Kergon

Alain Williams opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending and welcomed them to the meeting.

He advised those present that he was actually retiring at the end of this AGM after six years of service and introduced Howard Thomson who is now the new Treasurer. He added that earlier that day Council had agreed a new Chairman and introduced Paul Waring. Sam Smith is also retiring after six years of service.

1. To approve the minutes of the sixteenth Annual General Meeting held on 26th September 2007

Mr. Williams explained that the minutes from the previous Annual General meeting were put up on the UKUUG web site on 10th October 2007 and members provided with the url. This was the second year that the minutes and attachments had not been sent out in hard copy via post.

It was proposed by Mr. Hands, seconded by Mr. Bush and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 26th September 2007, be approved.

2. To receive the Council's Report, Treasurer's Report and the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31st December 2007, 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 31st December 2007 had previously been put up on the web site for members to view. Hard copies were also available at the meeting.

Mr. Williams advised that the year-end accounts had been approved by Council at their phone-conference on 24th July.

Mr. Thomson advised that financially it had been a fairly successful year for UKUUG. Council have an ongoing action to look at ways of widening the appeal of UKUUG. Consideration of how to widen and expand activities to attract more members.

Mr. Scholes asked if membership numbers were falling and Mr. Thomson replied that they were more 'trailing away' and we were not seeing the size of membership grow appropriately for the interests of which the organisation stands for. A wider knowledge needs to be achieved.

Mr. Scholes asked if the events were purely technical and Mr. Thomson replied that they do tend to be technically orientated, mainly with high technical content aimed at system administrators and users.

Mr. Scholes suggested the group should be more political. Mr. Williams said that UKUUG did try to get into this area a few years ago and attempted to do some lobbying but unfortunately didn't manage to achieve anything. A lot of time and interest was required and someone with these capabilities was hard to find although several members had indicated initial interest. He added that if Mr. Scholes or any member was interested in pursuing these activities they could talk or send some proposals to Council (council@ukuug.org).

Mr. Scholes said he felt that UKUUG should try to get technical people to provide talks in the political arena. Mr. Thomson agreed and reiterated that Council was open to any proposals from members. He added that Council are often limited to pursuing matters in topics that interest them personally. UKUUG hopes in coming months to talk to more organisations and local groups.

Ms. Curry asked of the 351 members how many actually attended events. The Secretary said that the Linux event usually attracts some 100 - 120 attendees, although the large event held in Cambridge last year (preceding the Linux Kernel Summit) achieved approximately 250 attendees. The Spring 2007 event in Manchester achieved some 120 delegates although Spring 2008 in Birmingham attracted lower numbers. Many people join just to attend an event, then see where and when it will be held the next year before deciding whether or not to renew their membership.

Mr. Thomson said it would be useful to know what motivates people to join. Dr. Findlay said there was a feel good participation rate at events with many staying as members out of habit or for the Newsletter and perhaps Council should look at improving the Newsletter in an attempt to retain more members.

Mr. Williams reported that Council last did a membership survey in 2005 and were actually planning on

doing another one by the end of the year.

Mr. Williams reminded those present that Council and the Newsletter Editor, Roger Whittaker, were all unpaid roles and although throughout the year several initiatives were discussed these often fell flat because of lack of time. He added that the one-day events have been successful and Council are often looking for specialist knowledge in a narrow field. UKUUG has an excellent infrastructure for organising venues, catering etc. and in future hopes to produce more events on topics our members want, but only if you tell us what you want.

Mr. Williams announced that the details for the annual Linux event, being held this year in Manchester, on 7th - 9th November, will be sent to members in the next few days.

For those not up-to-date with the UKUUG vs BSI matter Mr. Williams briefly explained the history (fully detailed on the UKUUG web site at: <http://www.ukuug.org/ooxml/>). UKUUG felt that the manner in which BSI and the internal voting procedures had been carried out broke the rules. Because of this UKUUG took BSI to judicial review. This was rejected by the court and now an oral hearing is scheduled for 21st October 2008. Members will be kept up-to-date on this activity in coming weeks.

It was noted that UKUUG has three Gold Sponsor members, IBM, SUN Microsystems and Novell.

There were no further questions appertaining to the reports or the accounts and it was therefore proposed by Dr. Findlay, seconded by Mr. Collins that the Council's report, Treasurer's report and the accounts of the Company for the year-end 31st December 2007, 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 OX1 1BE until the conclusion of the next general meeting of the Company at which the accounts are laid before the members, and to authorise the Council to determine their remuneration.

UKUUG Council is happy to continue with Critchleys who have been the auditors since 2004.

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

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

Two nominations have been received for the vacant places (Messrs Williams and Smith retiring having served two terms of three years) and one nomination to re-elect John Collins (served one term of three years, standing down but is eligible and willing to be re-elected).

Niall Mansfield nominated by Sam Smith
Holger Kraus nominated by John Pinner
John Collins nominated by Phil Hands

There were no objections to the above nominations and it was proposed by Mr. Waring, seconded by Mr. Griffin and unanimously agreed to accept all three.

To confirm the new Council is as follows: Paul Waring, Howard Thomson, Phil Hands, John Pinner, John Collins, Niall Mansfield and Holger Kraus. + One vacant place.

5. To transact any other business

There was no other business to transact and Mr. Williams closed the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

The AGM was followed by a presentation 'Pro Bono IT for the voluntary sector - All about the iT4Communities service by: John Davies, Programme Director of iT4Communities

The slides for this may be seen at: <http://ukuug.org/events/agm2008/>

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29th September 2008

emailed to ADDW/HT: 29/09/08

checked ADDW: 29/09/08

checked HT: 01/10/08

emailed to UKUUG Council: 03/10/08

pdf/web site: 08/10/08