

Minutes of the BCS Fortran Specialist Group AGM
Held at BCS London Office, First Floor, The Davidson Building,
5 Southampton Street, London.

The 2015 Annual General Meeting of the British Computer Society Fortran Specialist Group was held at 11.00 am on Thursday 1st October 2015.

Present:

Ian Chivers	Rhymney Consulting
Peter Crouch	Fortran Specialist Group
Sam Ellis	Defence Equipment & Support
David Muxworthy	
Clive Page	University of Leicester
John Pelan	Sainsbury Wellcome Centre (University College London)
John Reid	JKR Associates
Harvey Richardson	Cray UK Ltd
Anton Shterenlikht	University of Bristol
Jane Sleightholme	Fortranplus
John Young	

Afternoon additional attendees:

David Barrett	
Joseph Dobson	ARM
Paul Hollister	Computational Physics Group
Stephen Hughes	AWE
Andrey Kaliazin	Excelian Ltd
Wadud Miah	
Charles Roberts	University of Reading
Arthur Turrington	
Mike Sleigh	AWE

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the meeting especially the new attendee Anton Shterenlikht.

(i) Apologies for absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Clifford Chessman (AWE), Phillip Kraven and Nick Maclaren (University of Cambridge).

(ii) Minutes of previous AGM:

As printed copies of the minutes were not available at the meeting approval was postponed until the next AGM.

(iii) Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

(iv) Chairman's Report:

The Chairman reported that the highlight of the year for him as Chairman of the Group was receiving a BCS Meritorious Service Award for his excellent voluntary service across several areas of BCS activities.

The Chairman reported that he had attended the BCS Treasurer's day on behalf of the Treasurer. Guidance was provided on submitting the budget bid and supplementary funding request.

In August he had attended the dinner for WG5 delegates. On behalf of the Group and the UK Fortran community he expressed his thanks to all those involved in making the WG5 meeting a great success, especially Jane Sleightholme and Ian Chivers.

He described the Group's contacts with Peter McManus, a BBC producer making programmes about programming languages including Fortran. The programmes were broadcast in early April 2015 and were available on BBC iPlayer Radio.

He thanked the committee members for their assistance and the staff at BCS HQ for their willing support.

The report was approved unanimously (Proposed by Jane Sleightholme, Seconded by Clive Page).

(v) Treasurer's Report and SG Development Fund Report:

The Treasurer, John Reid, presented his report. He reported the Group's initial funding bid to cover running costs and special projects. The bid for running costs but the special projects bid was deferred to later in the year.

The Group applied for supplementary funding for the WG5 meeting and this had been granted. The Institute of Physics (IoP) Computational Physics Group had paid half the cost of the AGM afternoon meeting and the treasurer thanked the IoP for their contribution.

The Group's bid for the following year was provided. In addition to the running costs and special projects for IST/5 and WG5 the group were granted supplementary funding to cover John Reid's SC22 expenses not covered by BSI.

This report was approved unanimously (Proposed by David Muxworthy, Seconded by John Pelan).

David Muxworthy, in his role as BSI Fortran Convenor, presented a report on the use of the SG support of Fortran Standards.

This described the background to the development of programming languages, including BCS support to the development of Fortran standards since 2003, as well as activities during the year.

Details were provided on the report to extend the parallel processing facilities in Fortran, the future development of the Fortran standard, and the Fortran annex to the ISO Technical Report on the programming language vulnerabilities.

He reported that the participants in the WG5 meeting in 2015 had appreciated the use of the BCS facilities in Southampton Street and the Group was extremely grateful for the continuing support of the BCS.

This report was approved unanimously (Proposed by John Reid, Seconded Clive Page).

(vi) Membership Secretary's Report:

The Membership Secretary, Ian Chivers, presented a detailed membership report, which provided breakdowns of the membership by gender, BCS Membership Grade, country and county.

In this year 20 people had left the Group, whilst 22 people had joined – a small reverse on trends over previous years.

BCS had provided additional data but this only gave details of the member's employer rather than industry. It was suggested that a survey of members might be useful – this was linked to the proposal on the later agenda item scope of the Group.

The report was approved unanimously (Proposed by David Muxworthy, Seconded by Jane Sleightholme).

(vii) Web Editor's Report:

The Web Editor, Peter Crouch, presented his report. The main effort during the year had the updating of photographs and the inclusion of agendas and minutes for Group meetings between 1970 and 1993.

The report was accepted unanimously (Proposed by Harvey Richardson, Seconded by Clive Page).

(viii) Election of Officers

The nominations for the SG officers had been received by the Secretary according to the Constitution.

John Pelan took over as Chairman for re-election of the Chairman.

David Muxworthy and Jane Sleightholme had nominated Peter Crouch.

Nominations for the other Officers and Members were:

Peter Crouch and Clive Page had nominated John Pelan as Vice-Chairman.

David Muxworthy and John Pelan had nominated Sam Ellis as Secretary.

Clive Page and John Pelan had nominated John Reid as Treasurer.

Clive Page and Ian Hounam had nominated David Muxworthy as Archivist.

Harvey Richardson and David Muxworthy had nominated John Reid as Standards Officer.

John Reid and Jane Sleightholme had nominated Ian Chivers as Membership Secretary.

John Pelan and Sam Ellis had nominated Cliff Chessman, Clive Page and Jane Sleightholme as Committee Members.

The nominees for each position were unanimously elected. The committee for the year 2015/2016 was therefore:

Chairman	Peter Crouch
Vice-Chairman	John Pelan
Secretary	Sam Ellis
Treasurer	John Reid
Web Editor	Peter Crouch
Archivist	David Muxworthy
Standards Officer	John Reid
Membership Secretary	Ian Chivers
Committee Members	Cliff Chessman Clive Page Harvey Richardson Jane Sleightholme

(ix) Future activities of the Group

It was agreed that a potential joint meeting with the Institute of Physics Computational Physics Group in 2016 should again be pursued. The format was discussed and John Reid suggested that a half day meeting after the Group's AGM was preferable.

John Pelan's proposal for broadening the remit and appeal of the Group was discussed again. This included questions regarding the cheapest way to join the Group, a summary of BCS membership requirements analysis of the membership of other Specialist Groups (e.g. the Advanced Programming Group, and the Distributed Scalable Computing Group). Peter Crouch suggested that this ought to be widened to all Specialist Groups. John Pelan said that he had started to prepare a survey but that this had been overtaken by work demands. Whilst all agreed that this would be useful there were no firm suggestions as to how it could be taken forward.

(x) Any Other Business

There was no other business.

(xi) Date of next Annual General Meeting

The date of the next AGM was chosen as Thursday 29th September 2016.

The chairman closed the meeting. He thanked everyone for coming. All present thanked Peter Crouch for his continued efforts in chairing and representing the group.

After a buffet lunch there was a joint meeting with Computational Physics Group of Institute of Physics with the following topics and speakers:

"Further coarray features in Fortran 2015" by John Reid, WG5 Convenor.

"Further interoperability features in Fortran 2015 " by John Reid, WG5 Convenor.

"Removing simple deficiencies in Fortran 2015" by David Muxworthy, BSI Fortran Convenor.

"Coarrays from laptops to supercomputers" by Harvey Richardson, Cray UK Ltd.

"Suggestion for improved string-handling in Fortran" by Clive Page, University of Leicester.

The chairman closed the meeting. He thanked everyone for coming, in particular the speakers. He hoped that the meeting had been useful and said that all the reports and slides from the presentations would be posted on the website, along with the minutes.