

Minutes of the UK Computing Research Committee's Annual General Meeting held at the Marriott Hotel, Glasgow on Friday 24 March 2006 at 8.30am.

Present: Steve Furber **Chairman**
Samson Ambramsky
Muffy Calder
Wendy Hall
Tony Cohn
Morris Sloman
Tom Addis
David Arnold
David Duce
Jane Hillston
Mark B Josephs
Marta Kwiatkowska
John McDermid
Robin Milner
Fionn Murtagh
Johanne D Moore
Vladimiro Sassone
Nigel Shadbolt
Ian Sommerville
Ian Watson
Yorick Willis
Graham Paterson IEE
Mike Rodd BCS
Anne De Roeck CPHC
Ben Brierley IEE (joint secretary)
Silvia Martins Dias BCS (joint secretary)

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the 2006 Annual General Meeting, and a brief round table introduction was made.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last GM, held on 15 July 2005 were approved.

3. Matters Arising

All the actions from the previous GM were recorded as completed.

4. Convenor's Report

The Chair first thanked the sponsors and supporters of the UKCRC over the past year, the BCS, The IEE and CPHC. The Chair also highlighted that the work of UKCRC was almost entirely carried out by volunteers, many of whom were in attendance at the meeting, and thanked all who had contributed.

Activities since the last General Meeting

Grand Challenges

Grand Challenges has moved forward led by the GC committee (Wendy Hall, Robin Milner and Karen Sparck-Jones). Strong leadership has ensured success, and this work was probably the most valuable activity the UKCRC has done to date.

Responding to consultations

Martyn Thomas sent his apologies to the meeting, but had submitted a written report on consultation activities (see Appendix I). The Chair reported there had been a great deal of activity, including response on:

- Intelligent and Cognitive Systems
- Ubiquitous Computing
- Systems Biology
- Scientific advice, risk and evidence
- Government IT Strategy
- International Review of ICT
- Treasury Review of Intellectual Property

Institute of Computing

Work had also been progressing on the “Institute of Computing”, discussion of which would form the next session of the conference.

International Review of ICT

The UKCRC input into the 2006 International Review of ICT was being led by Muffy Calder and Ian Somerville. Report will be brief but factual, and will be produced soon.

In a separate but connected exercise, Karen Sparck-Jones, Tony Hoare and Cliff Jones are producing a review of progress since the last international review.

Cliff Jones is acting as a bridge between the two groups.

The International Review itself, under EPSRC, has both Graham Paterson and Mike Rodd on the steering group. They reported that the chair had been selected, and the panel was in the process of being picked.

It was asked how much access the 2006 review panel would have to the previous report, and it was noted that they would have complete access, and it was likely there would also be some cross over of panel members.

Copies of the last review were available at the conference stands.

5. Membership Panel

Ian Watson, the new chair of the membership panel, reported back. The next membership panel meeting was scheduled for later the same day.

The panel now consists of:

Ian Watson (Chair)
Andy Hopper
David Hutchison
Robin Milner
Ron Perrott
Joe Sventek

The panel has decided to do meetings by conference call to supplement face-to-face meetings, in the interests of efficiency.

Over the past six months the panel have approved 28 new members, and rejected 2 applications. This completely clears the backlog. Applications have now slowed down, possibly in response to uncertainty over the future of UKCRC. Silvia Dias reported that two applications had been received in recent weeks, and would be processed at the next meeting.

Ian Watson and Steve Furber both thanked Silvia for her work on the panel, and role in clearing the backlog of applications.

6. Learned Society Proposal

Wendy Hall took the opportunity to thank Steve and Anne who took over work on the proposal following the fire at Southampton. With the debate following in the next session, it was suggested the comments and discussion be held over.

Steve Furber's 'Straw Poll' data had been presented at an earlier session at GCC'06. It was asked whether there was a significant difference in responses from different areas of the constituency, i.e. UKCRC members vs CPHC members. SF explained that whilst the data had been captured, he had not run analysis at this level.

It was also asked what would become of the UKCRC if the proposal went ahead. WH explained that whilst this was part of the detail that would need to be worked out, she believed that the "learned society activities" would always need to continue, and the UKCRC, and the UKCRC Executive, was a ready-made group for this.

7. Any Other Business

Graham Paterson reiterated the Chair's comments on the UKCRC's policy engagement activities, and added that the level of awareness amongst MPs is clearly growing and activities are going from strength to strength.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next AGM / General Assembly would be set in due course and circulated to the full UKCRC.

Appendix I

**Report on Consultations
for the EXEC meeting, March 2006**

This report covers consultation responses and similar activities.

1. Security

Brian Collins has promised to submit a response to the European Future and Emerging Technologies programme in March.

2. Reducing Public Sector IT Failures

I have been pursuing a response to the paper that Sir David King asked me to write for him on this subject. An email to his private secretary inviting SDK to an anniversary party to mark the date last year when he asked for the paper provoked this email from SDK to Ian Watmore:

Dear Ian,

The attached letter was sent to me last May and it was subsequently agreed that the Office of the E-Envoy were best placed to deal with it and would take this case on and respond to Martyn Thomas directly. Martyn has come back today saying that he has yet to receive a response, some nine months after writing. Would your office be able to follow up on this.

Best wishes,

Dave

There has been no response.

3. Intelligent and Cognitive Systems

Yorick Wilks led a response to the European Future and Emerging Technologies programme, submitted in February.

4. Ubiquitous Computing

Morris Sloman led a response to the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology in December.

Erol Gelenbe led a response to the European Future and Emerging Technologies programme in March.

5. Systems Biology

Erol Gelenbe led a response to a request for evidence from the Royal Academy of Engineering and the Academy of Medical Science, in December.

6. Scientific advice, risk and evidence

I led a response to the House of Commons Science and Technology Select Committee, submitted in January. We have not yet been invited to give oral evidence, but oral evidence sessions are continuing.

7. Government IT Strategy

Brian Collins led a response to the Government IT Strategy in March.

8. International Review of ICT

Muffy Calder and Ian Sommerville are leading UKCRC's preparations for the International Review.

9. Treasury Review of Intellectual Property

There has been no interest in responding to the Gowers review.

Martyn Thomas
March 20th 2006