

UK AVS+UNIRAS User Group

AGM Minutes

5th November 2001

1. Minutes of the last AGM (Minutes of 20th November 2000)

It was minuted that the 1999 Conference made a loss of £918.242. It should have stated £918.24.

These were moved for approval by Paul Hatton and seconded by Mary McDerby.

2. Matters arising from the previous minutes

None.

3. Chairman's Report

John Blair-Fish presented his report, reproduced below.

The committee has met three times since the AGM. We have organised this Annual Conference, a Technical Briefing Day and planned another which was subsequently cancelled, and updated and enhanced the web site. Following discussions at last year's AGM we also commissioned a student project at Manchester Visualization Centre to provide a visualization cookbook using AVS/Express.

We consider that the term "Technical Briefing Day" for a day with talks followed by hands-on sessions should probably be renamed a "workshop". The day in February consisted of two half day sessions on "Importing arbitrary data into the AVS/Express 'FLD' format" given by Manchester Visualization Centre (MVC) and "Using Gsharp to add high quality plots to Microsoft Office products" by John Stringer of AVS/UK. There were 28 delegates and both sessions were well received, especially the first as it enabled a better understanding of AVS field files. It appeared that there was also a need for some more general training on Gsharp.

We thought there was a need for training on how to use IAC projects in user applications and planned a day accordingly for July. We also invited Terry Hewitt to speak on artefacts of visualization at this day but since it was cancelled we have done the next best thing and invited him here. While there was not enough interest to hold the workshop three members of UAUUG have visited MVC for a hands-on session on using IAC projects. The possibility of resurrecting this workshop remains.

We have tried to update and add more examples and training material to the UAUUG web site. The Gsharp tutorials on the Toolmaster release CD will be added to the web

site. Links to the IAC training materials and North Carolina Supercomputer Centre (NSCS) online workbook have already been added. While we are all busy people, especially Malcolm who is the web master, we will try to prevent the site appearing static and keep it topical. Many thanks to Malcolm. Peter Kelly is also providing company news to put on the web site.

The "Visualization cookbook using AVS/Express" produced by Priya Dey and Tobias Schiebeck at MVC and which Matt Cooper has been speaking about is now available. It will also be put on the web site. Matt Cooper will be speaking about this work.

Numbers at the Annual Conference are falling year by year. This year of the 21 delegates, only six are none committee, company or IAC and four of these are speakers. There have been some suggestions we could hold our meeting as part of a larger conference.

Ralph Raby, Rob Fletcher, and Matt Cooper are stepping down from the committee at this AGM. Many thanks for Ralph, Rob, and Matt; to Rob as secretary, and to Matt for being a key link at Manchester Visualization Centre and Ralph at Imperial College. We wish Matt well in his new job at University of Linkoping, Sweden.

Thanks also to the rest of the committee for all their efforts.

Finally, I wish to thank Paul Hatton for hosting and organising the conference again and I am pleased that we have Krzysztof Nowinski, a representative of the Polish User Group, here.

4. Treasurer's Report

This report was prepared and presented by Arline Wilson.

User group funds remain approximately stable. Capital on deposit at the bank at 31/3/01 was £16,307.28 compared with £16,666.22 at 31/3/00.

Income of £533.32 was received from interest on bank deposits.

There was expenditure of £92.70 for committee expenses.

The 2000 conference made a loss of £599.56.

The existing accumulated capital remains sufficient to fund current activities, there will therefore continue to be no charge for membership of the user group. However the committee continues to reserve the right to resume charging a subscription fee at some time in the future, should this become necessary.

5. Elections to the UAUUG Executive Committee for 2001-2002

All those committee members who had not resigned reaffirmed their willingness to stand for election.

Mary McDerby agreed to take the position as secretary. Paul Lever was elected onto the committee and Tobias Schiebeck was co-opted to the committee as he is the IAC representative now. Maeveen Carville and Margaret Oliver were also elected onto the committee.

Paul Hatton moved the elections and Malcolm Austen seconded them.

John Blair-Fish reported that we are still short of people to do jobs. Mary McDerby agreed to carry on the good work that Matt Cooper did.

6. AOB

The numbers at the Annual Conference are dropping. A number of suggestions were made on how to improve the conference, but it was thought that it is better the conference continues as is. Peter Kelly suggested a few ideas:

- Approach University end-users through CHEST contacts
- We should be faster at advertising the conference and put more information on the leaflet about the planned talks.
- AVS and UAUUG to work harder to get people to attend.

Malcolm Austen asked that we put the 2001 talks up on the website so that we can use them when we advertise the next conference.

Peter Kelly asked does the UAUUG have a database of users. John Blair-Fish replied that we have the following:

- Peter Kelly's CHEST list.
- Gina Woodward's list off people who were signed up for the CHEST deal way back.
- Conference attendees.

Paul Hatton also mentioned that there is a form on the website for people to join the group. However, not many have registered.

It was stated that once we plan to run a TBD it must go ahead. It reflects badly on the User Group when these days are cancelled.

After the TBD in February it was found that a number of people need general training in Gsharp. It was agreed that surgery days would be useful. A day for Gsharp and a separate day for AVS/Express.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The meeting agreed to coming back to Birmingham again. Paul Hatton will be the local organiser, and the dates will be 4th and 5th November 2002. The next AGM will be held at the User Group Annual Meeting, Birmingham, 2002.

Mary McDerby
UAUUG Secretary
11th December 2001