

Minutes of APSG AGM, 7:30pm 10th October 2013

Present: Geoff Sharman (Chairman)
Algirdas Packstas (Membership Secretary)
Bob Beatson (Committee Member)
Tim Corringham (Committee member – recording)
Rob Packwood (Committee member)
Joseph Woodward (Committee member – events organisation)
+ 20 other members

1. Apologies, minutes and matters arising

Apologies were received from Roger Johnson (Treasurer) and David Cairns. Minutes of the meeting held on 15th October 2012 were approved and there were no matters arising.

2. Chairman's report

Geoff Sharman summarised the past season which had included eight talks. These had been well attended with an average of over thirty at each meeting. Seven meetings had been broadcast via Google+ Hangouts with the resulting recordings posted on YouTube. Despite some defects in the audio quality, these recordings had received an average number of views which was very similar to the live attendance at meetings, demonstrating the value of this technology. The annual survey of members interests had been repeated using SurveyMonkey and had received over 100 responses. Chris Bailey's talk on "Java past, present and future" had been rated as the most enjoyed, closely followed by Prof Steve Furber's talk on "Programming a Million Core Machine". Members expressed a preference for talks on "Programming for new technologies" as their top requirement for the future, and "Personal interest" as their prime reason for attending. 72% expressed their desire to "attend a meeting in person", followed by 64% who would prefer to watch a video recording – confirming the strategy adopted.

Registered APSG membership stood at 1715 and 108 members were participants in the APSG LinkedIn group. This, together with data from attendance at meetings, suggested an active membership of perhaps 200. Nevertheless, there was a very low level of activity on LinkedIn and it wasn't clear whether members really wanted to participate in discussion. The programme for the forthcoming year would include 9 talks, one of which would be held in Manchester as an experiment to test the strength of support outside the London area. This would be a repeat of Prof Steve Furber's talk. Details of three of these had been published on the web, with the remainder to follow.

GS and Roger Johnson had attended the Spring and Autumn Member Groups conventions. GS had submitted the report of the Recording & Broadcasting Working Group which had now completed its task.

3. Treasurer's report

In absentia, Roger Johnson reported expenditure of £716 against a budget of £1156. The surplus of £440 was mainly due to the fact that no overseas speaker was invited during the year. However, this might be desirable in the forthcoming year and provision for it would continue to be included in the budget requested. The committee had decided to continue with two receptions as in the previous year, since this had proved popular.

4. Election of Officers

Geoff Sharman, Roger Johnson, Algirdas Pakstas, Bob Beatson, Tim Corringham, Rob Packwood and Joe Woodward all indicated their willingness to stand for re-election and were elected with no votes against. Francesco Perrone, a student member, had been co-opted during the past year and had assisted with recording, but had now taken up a new course of study and indicated he would no longer be available. Geoff Sharman announced that he would serve this year of office as his last and would not stand for re-election in 2014. He thanked all committee members for their service during the past year and expressed the hope that others would come forward to serve on the committee in future.

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 17:45pm.