

UKCRC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the UK Computing Research Committee held on **Friday 6 December 2024** between 12:00 – 13:00 as an online meeting.

Attendees:

Kevin Jones	UKCRC Chair
Michael Fisher	Executive Committee member
Alex Frangi	Executive Committee member
Amir Hussain	Executive Committee member
Jie Xu	Executive Committee member
Russell Beale	Member
Steve Furber	Member
Anthony G Cohn	Member
Nicky Danino	CPHC Chair
Daniela Tresoldi	EPSRC/UKRI
Maxine Leslie	UKCRC Secretariat

Apologies:

Simon Dobson	Executive Committee member
David Hutchison	Executive Committee member
Julie McCann	Executive Committee member
Chris Hankin	Member
Jane Hillston	Member

1. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed UKCRC members to the AGM and the apologies for absence were received as above. Members queried whether the first week in December was the best time of year to hold the AGM, given the low turnout and the Chair undertook to raise this with the Executive Committee at the next meeting.

ACTION: Chair

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM [UKCRC/AGM2023/03]

The minutes of the AGM held on Friday 1 December 2023 were recorded as a true record and uploaded to the UKCRC website.

2.1 Matters arising from minutes

The Chair provided updates on the following actions:

2023.1 Chair's report – for the action to liaise with Exec Committee on possible connections with NEPC and ARIA, the Chair reported that this has been delegated to a Task and Finish Group which has been formed with a small number of UKCRC and BCS members. It has been difficult to co-ordinate diaries, but the meeting is now scheduled to be held on 20 Jan 2025.

2022.1 Chair's report – for the action for members to let the Committee know what communications would be of interest in relation to UKCRC activities by emailing ukcrc@bcs.uk, there had been no response to this,

so the question will be asked again in a separate email. The aim is to ensure that the membership is kept informed while not being flooded with too many 'spam' emails. To get the balance right, it would be really helpful to hear from members what they would like to hear about.

2022.2.AOB – for the action to arrange a date/venue for the UKCRC Strategy day, this action has been incorporated into the work of the Task & Finish Group (see 2023.1 update above)

3. CHAIR'S REPORT – K Jones

There have been discussions on the relationship with sponsors of UKCRC. It has subsequently been agreed that BCS will take role of primary sponsor and work on how the relationship works. As part of that work, the UKCRC website will be moving to BCS with the potential for a refresh in the new year, factoring in the outcomes from the Task & Finish group.

In April 2024 for the first time UKCRC, the BCS Academy and CPHC held a joint event (the [Computing Summit](#)). The general feeling within UKCRC was that this was not a significant research event, and despite attempts to engage more UKCRC members, very few attended. It would be helpful if members could feed back on what would make the annual event sufficiently significant to encourage their attendance. **ACTION: Members**

R Beale indicated that staff are very hard pressed with publishing papers and presenting at academic conferences; however, the opportunity to have an impact on government policy would be of interest, such as a policy influencing forum with invited members of the government. A chance to push the agenda with a clear purpose, bringing together decision makers and civil servants would make it more worthwhile to attend, perhaps at a roundtable or a less pressurised forum to look at important issues. If the purpose is less clear then there will be other priorities.

N Danino explained that this was why it was being promoted as a Summit rather than a conference, bringing different organisations together to work at having more influence. MPs are being invited to attend/present to help with creating open channels of communication. It will be important to get the wording on communications right and target the right people. The Chair noted that there is not much overlap between the UKCRC and CPHC membership, which was surprising. N Danino outlined some reasons for attending such as the opportunity to network and affordability.

- 3.1 RS0 Sectional Committee nominations Working Group [UKCRC/AGM/2024/02]** – the Chair introduced the paper, explaining that the previous UKCRC Chair, Jane Hillston is now the Chair of the [RS0 Sectional Committee](#). Each year the Executive Committee initiates formation of a subgroup to make suggestions to the RS0 Sectional Committee to contribute to their process of selection of a shortlist of candidates for consideration by the RS Council for election to the Fellowship. This does not guarantee that suggestions will be put forward as nominations to the Royal Society, but may help to broaden the scope. The Chair outlined the timeline, with the deadline for submission of names to the RS0 Chair being 1 July each year, so that there are three months to find nominators and seconders for those candidates selected to be nominated (by the end of September). The time commitment for this work is minimal: a few email exchanges and a one-hour online meeting. Members were invited to volunteer or suggest others to participate in the subgroup. **ACTION: Members**

4. CONSULTATIONS & RESPONSES REPORT

The Chair indicated that A Hussain had kindly volunteered to co-ordinate UKCRC consultations and responses and was due to meet the previous co-ordinator, Chris Johnson next week.

A Hussain flagged the recently circulated message from REF 2029 regarding the Main and Sub-Panel Recruitment and Collaboration proposal/plan to engage with REF2029 for their panel recruitment process. The Chair noted that historically UKCRC did send suggestions for panel members, although now it is possible for individuals to apply directly. Members were asked for suggestions for good nominees to be sent to ukcrc@bcs.uk so that they can be considered by the Executive Committee for nudging to make a direct application.

ACTION: Members

Members are welcome to send any suggestions/opportunities for UKCRC consultations and submissions as they arise.

ACTION: Members

R Beale asked whether UKCRC had been invited to the AI Safety Summit organised by the government in 2023. It was noted that the [invitation list](#) was quite limited and also had not included BCS. The question was posed that, as an expert panel, how do we ensure that we are invited to this type of event? The Chair indicated that there are now two CSAs that know UKCRC very well and there are efforts to solicit from them how UKCRC's visibility can be improved with policy decision-makers, particularly as a community of experts that should be the obvious choice for consultations and making connections. Many now have their own scientific advisory panels which don't always have a background in computer science. So this is an on-going campaign in awareness raising that will be facilitated by the revised mission statement. There is also the classic networking to remind all contacts that UKCRC is a large body which is a useful resource as a single point of contact. The Computing Summit is a good venue to point this out and it is therefore a work in progress.

5. MEMBERSHIP PANEL REPORT

N Berthouze had sent apologies for the meeting and the Chair reported that it had been a light year with only a couple of applications. It was hoped that the new website, along with the launch of a new mission/vision statement would encourage more applications.

Members were urged to encourage appropriate contacts in their networks to apply for membership.

ACTION: Members

6. OTHER ACTIVITIES

There were no reports on other activities.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair reminded members of the three vacancies on the Executive Committee, the elections for which had recently been announced by email. It would be good to welcome some new faces to the group, which only functions because of volunteers. N Danino offered to promote the elections on the news page of the CPHC website. R Beale asked about the Mission Task & Finish group and offered to join. M Leslie undertook to send a meeting invitation *[action complete]*

The Chair thanked all participants and closed the meeting.

Date of next AGM – to be confirmed

ACTIONS

2024.1	Welcome – ask Exec to consider change of AGM date in future to maximise attendance	Chair
2024.3	Chair's report – members to suggest topics for the 2025 Computing Summit, making the event more significant to assist with UKCRC engagement	Members
2024.4	RS0 Sectional Committee nominations Working Group – volunteer or suggest others to participate in the WG	Members
2024.5	Consults & responses – forward any suggestions for good REF 2029 Main/Sub-panel members to ukcrc@bcs.uk	Members
2024.6	Consults & responses – send any suggestions/ opportunities for UKCRC consultations and submissions to ukcrc@bcs.uk FAO Amir Hussain	Members
2024.7	Membership Panel report – encourage network contacts to apply for membership	Members
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2023.1	Chair's report – liaise with Exec Committee on possible connections with NEPC and ARIA	Chair/Exec
2023.2	Membership Panel report – liaise on planning a push for new members in order to link membership to UKCRC activities following the launch of the new mission/vision statement	MP Chair/ UKCRC Chair
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2022.1	Chair's report – let Committee know what communications would be of interest in relation to UKCRC activities by emailing ukcrc@bcs.uk	All members