

FORMAL METHODS EUROPE

Minutes of Meeting No 3
held at NPL Teddington on 5th October 1992

Present

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|----|
| Christoph Blaue | DZ-SH | D |
| Jen Cheng | Adelard | UK |
| Tim Denvir | Lloyds Register | UK |
| Eugene Durr | CGI | NL |
| John Fitzgerald | Newcastle University | UK |
| Chris George | CRI | DK |
| Bo Hansen | Tech University Denmark | DK |
| Cliff Jones | Manchester University | UK |
| Roger Jones | ICL | UK |
| Peter Gorm Larsen | IFAD | DK |
| Kees Middelburg | PTT Research | DK |
| Alejandro Moya | CEC | B |
| John Nicholls | Oxford University | UK |
| Nico Plat | Delft University | NL |
| Graeme Parkin | NPL | UK |
| Jim Woodcock | Oxford University | UK |

Apologies

Robin Bloomfield
Kees Pronk
Roger Stokes
Martyn Thomas

Nico Plat represented Kees Pronk and Jen Cheng represented Robin Bloomfield.

Tim Denvir chaired the meeting in place of Martyn Thomas. Roger Jones represented Roger Stokes.

1. MINUTES

The minutes of meeting No 2 were accepted subject to the deletion of the word "similarly" in line 1 of section 3.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Actions:

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|------|---|---|
| 1/5 | Draft difference between VDM and Z In progress Carried forward | Cliff Jones John Nicholls |
| 1/6 | Produce Newsletter In progress. A draft was produced by the end of the meeting. Content needs to be finalised, with details of FME '93 and updates to the item on tools from Peter Larsen Carried forward | Peter Larsen Martyn Thomas |
| 1/10 | Write to trade journals about FME Deferred until production of Newsletter. Carried forward | Martyn Thomas |
| 2/1 | Pay invoice from TUD The invoice was handed over to Nico Plat representing Kees Pronk. It is now possible to achieve the action. Carried forward | Kees Pronk |
| 2/2 | Second Call for Papers for FME Done | Cliff Jones Martyn Thomas Nico Plat |
| 2/3 | Report on industrial meeting Done | Martyn Thomas Tim Denvir Alejandro Moya |
| 2/4 | Write to people at industrial meeting asking them if they would like to take an active part in FME This was deferred pending a discussion on wider membership of FME (item 7 of agenda) Carried forward | Martyn Thomas |
| 2/5 | Item on future industrial meetings in Newsletter Carried forward | Martyn Thomas Martyn Thomas |
| 2/6 | Write to IFIP '92 re session on FME Done - see item 5 | Martyn Thomas Martyn Thomas |
| 2/7 | Draft Statute and Regulations Carried forward | Kees Pronk |
| 2/8 | Reissue FME budget Done | Jim Woodcock Peter Larsen |

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| <p>Draft Statute and Regulations Carried forward</p> | <p>Kees Pronk</p> | |
| <p>Reissue FME budget Done</p> | <p>Jim Woodcock Peter Larsen</p> | |

There are slots for 24 regular papers in the programme and a day of industrial usage reports. There are no outstanding issues or problems. The budget was available for inspection at the meeting.

5 FME94

FME94 is planned to take place in October 1994.

The meeting agreed that we should decide on a location at the next meeting so as to be able to announce it at FME93. Bids for hosting FME94 should be invited to be submitted for the next meeting. There was a feeling that it would be desirable to have FME94 in southern Europe, since the last several events have been in northern Europe (Belgium, Ireland, Germany, Denmark).

Martyn Thomas is asked to write to members of the committee asking for proposals for a site for FME94.

Action 3/1 Martyn Thomas

6 INDUSTRY SEMINARS

Tim Denvir reported on Martyn Thomas's account of the industrial seminar held at IFIP92. Martyn spent several days organising the seminar, drafting details to go in the conference brochure and writing to all the IFIP92 delegates. Unfortunately the IFIP92 organisers did not publicise the seminar at the location and registration at the seminar was almost impossible. The result was extremely disappointing and embarrassing with the speakers outnumbering the audience. In a future event of this kind we need to ensure that we interact with the formal planning of the main event in good time.

Alejandro Moya and others who were at IFIP92 concurred with this account.

In the ensuing discussion the meeting felt that local targetting by individuals who knew the environment was necessary to achieve a successful event. Academic intensive events should be avoided. It would probably be useful to attach a FM seminar to an event specialising in some other activity.

It was necessary to identify an individual member of the committee who would coordinate industrial seminars.

Eugene Durr offered to get in contact with an aviation event in order to offer them a seminar on Formal Methods.

Action 3/2 Eugene Durr

Cliff Jones asked if there was a suitable medical computing event at which FME could offer a seminar. John Nicholls suggested the AIM project. Tim Denvir offered to contact a representative of the British Medical Informatics Society. John Fitzgerald offered to explore the Safety-Critical club/area.

Action 3/3 John Nicholls
Action 3/4 Tim Denvir
Action 3/5 John Fitzgerald

Roger Jones offered to discuss with Roger Stokes whether he (Roger Stokes) would be willing to take on the responsibility to act as Industrial Seminars Coordinator.

Action 3/6 Roger Jones

7 NEWSLETTER

Tim Denvir was expecting a draft of the first newsletter from Martyn Thomas imminently (now received).

Peter Larsen pointed out that some of the material would now be out of date. He would send updated material to Martyn Thomas. Anyone else who has supplied material should send updates where applicable immediately.

Action 3/7 Peter Larsen, all

8 BROADENING MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE

The issue of what should be the constitution of the committee to achieve representation of all formal methods communities without becoming too large so that continuity of the work of the committee deteriorates was discussed.

Alejandro Moya's view was that FME should consist of an executive active core of people representative of industry and different formal methods across Europe, in addition to a general membership open to all who are interested. Peter Larsen suggested that specific subgroups could be formed when required. The duties should be spread amongst the committee and co-optees to reduce the load on any one person. In general it was the view that the existing structure as laid down in the charter enabled these objectives.

The question of what advantage is it to be a general member of FME was discussed. The principal benefits are to be informed of formal methods matters and events etc. The medium for this is the newsletter. Martyn Thomas was therefore encouraged to produce the newsletter, and to seek any assistance he might need from other members of the committee. Tim Denvir agreed to ask Martyn if he needed assistance and if so in what areas.

Action 3/8 Tim Denvir

It was agreed that a session at FME93 , perhaps at lunchtime, to publicise FME and perhaps elect the officers (who have to be elected by the membership, according to the charter), would be a good idea. Martyn Thomas is asked to place an item on the agenda for the next meeting to discuss this, and also an item to discuss having a session at FME93 to tell delegates about ESPRIT.

Action 3/9 Martyn Thomas

At the suggestion of Cliff Jones it was agreed to invite Yoshinobu Yamamura from IBM Japan, who made very useful contributions to the VDM formal semantics review board, to be on the committee. The EC would not be able to pay him any of his costs but otherwise Alejandro Moya was content for him to be invited. Martyn Thomas is asked to invite him.

Action 3/10 Martyn Thomas

It was noted that Eugene Durr continues to edit an ESPRIT page of the newsletter.

The meeting was willing for Roger Stokes to be invited on to the committee if he is not already a member.

Action 3/11 Martyn Thomas

9 NEXT MEETING and other activities

7th December 1992 in Brussels.

Other formal methods-related activities were reported upon:

Peter Larsen told of a tool information interchange activity, part of the AFRODITE project.

NPL are in the process of analysing a survey of formal methods (Graeme Parkin).

Z user meeting is to be held on 14-15 December, subject Industrial Applications, report on ZIP, Z handbook etc. at DTI London (John Nicholls).

The DRIVE project can provide information on industrial experience of formal methods in transport (Eugene Durr).

BCS FACS is holding a workshop on Formal aspects of Requirements Analysis on 16-17 December at Imperial College, London (Tim Denvir).

The 2nd International Conference on DB Systems is to be held in Zurich in September 1993. Formal methods related papers are welcomed (John Fitzgerald).