

Formal Methods Europe
Minutes of the 32nd meeting (Annual General Meeting)
held at the Istituto di Elaborazione della Informazione del CNR, Pisa, Italy
19 October 2002

Present at the meeting were:

- Egon Boerger
- Jonathan Bowen
- Dines Bjørner
- Tomasso Bolognesi
- Lars-Henrik Eriksson
- Alessandro Fantechi
- John Fitzgerald (Chairman)
- Stefania Gnesi
- Dino Mandrioli
- Mieke Massink
- Jan Storbak Pedersen
- Nico Plat (Secretary)
- Kees Pronk (Treasurer)

Apologies had been received from: Derek Andrews, Cliff Jones, Markus Montigel, Eerke Boiten, Marcel Verhoef, Raymond Boute, Michel Chaudron, Stefan Gruner, René Jacquart, Tim Denvir, Jun Pang, Bruce Watson, Jim Woodcock, Peter Schmitt, Dominique Mery, Jin Song Dong, Yves Ledru, Robin Bloomfield, Jan Tretmans, Juan Bicarregui.

1 Welcome

John Fitzgerald welcomed all those present at the meeting. He thanked Stefania Gnesi and Alessandro Fantechi for organising and hosting the meeting.

2 Agree upon agenda

The agenda distributed at the meeting was agreed upon.

3 Minutes of the meeting held in Copenhagen on 25 July 2002

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved without modifications.

4 Action list

Action 28/5: Progress has been made, action continues.

Action 28/10: Closed.

Action 29/3: No progress, action continues.

Action 29/5: Done, action closed.

Action 29/8: Done, action closed.

Action 29/9: No progress, action continues.

Action 30/3: Done, action closed.

Action 30/10: Status unknown, action continues.

Action 30/15: No progress, action continues.

Action 31/1: Done, action closed.

Action 31/2: Continues.

Action 31/3: Done, action closed.

Action 31/4: Done, action closed.

5 Financial report by the Treasurer regarding the period 1 January 2001 – 31 December 2001

Kees Pronk distributed and clarified the financial reports he had made regarding the financial position of FME in the past year. Overall, the financial position is good, in fact it has improved a bit because of the surpluses of FM'99 and FME 2001. The books on FM'99 have now been

closed, this has been delayed because René Jacquart (OC chairman) had been ill. The meeting sent René their best wishes for his recovery. Also, Kees Pronk himself had been ill and had therefore missed the last two meetings. John thanked Kees for all his work as FME's Treasurer during the period discussed.

6 Report by the Audit Committee regarding the period 1 January 2001 – 31 December 2001

The members of the audit committee (Jan Storbank Pedersen and Lars-Henrik Eriksson) had individually checked the FME accounts and found no irregularities. Both reported at the meeting. The meeting discharged Treasurer Kees Pronk from his responsibilities during this period. John thanked the auditing committee for their work. Marcel Verhoef and Markus Montigel have volunteered to serve as members of next year's Audit Committee and this was approved *nem con*.

7 Account of activities during the past period

Nico Plat clarified the activity report over the past period (enclosed with the minutes). The members present accepted the report. John thanked especially those members who contributed to the FME 2002 Symposium.

8 Board member election

In accordance with Article 10.5 of the FME Statutes, Nico Plat stepped down as Secretary of FME. There were no other candidates to take his position and Nico was re-elected *nem con*.

9 Plans for the coming period

John Fitzgerald presented the policy plan for 2003 (enclosed with the minutes). The plan was supported by the members present. Dines Bjørner suggested to set up subgroups focussing more on specific formal methods, e.g. Z or VDM. He also suggested to seek more collaboration with user groups, e.g. the Z/B User Group and to set up an industrial group collaborating with CologNet (funding is present via Dines).

10 Report on FME 2002

Dines Bjørner (OC chairman) reported on the event. There had been 126 registrations. The local organisation was for a large part in the hand of students who did a good job. The tutorial on Business Process Modelling had been cancelled due to lack of interest. Dines felt that this was due to lack of advertisement by the organisers themselves. John will add this "lesson" to the Symposium Guidelines.

Action 32/1: John Fitzgerald to stress the need for advertisements of workshops in the Symposium Guidelines.

It was felt that the FloC leadership had failed to involve FME in decision making prior to the event. However the conference itself went without any problems. The question of co-location with FloC again in 2004 was raised. Dines was positive about that but Egon Boerger felt that the cultural differences between FloC and FME are too large, there is no real benefit in cooperation. Dines also felt that the fact that participants could mingle with participants of the other conferences had been very positive and that there was a certain scientific merit to it. John suggested organising an informal survey amongst the participants to ask about their experiences.

Action 32/2: John Fitzgerald to gather comments on the collocation with FloC.

The sense of the meeting was that co-location with FloC in 2004 would not be appropriate (especially since this would be out of synch with the normal date for the next FME symposium). The success of the tools exhibition had been limited due to the low number of participants and a number of "no shows". The "Industrial Day" had been a significant success, the quality of the presentations had been very good but the number of participants was a bit on the low side. He suggested that it would be repeated at FM03, an idea which was supported by Stefania Gnesi (OC Chair for FM03). Costs for the day had only been EUR 4000 (budgeted EUR 500), an amount which will be paid back to FME this year. The books on FME 2002 will be closed very shortly. If there is a surplus some money will need to be paid back to the Danish government but some will go back to FME as well.

Lars-Henrik Eriksson (one of the PC Chairs) reported that 31 papers had been accepted from a total of 95 submitted papers. There is still a surplus of proceedings; they will be sent to PC members who did not attend the event and to others such as new PC members.

Action 32/3: Lars-Henrik Eriksson to send FME 2002 proceedings to PC members who did not attend.

11 Status report on FM03

Stefania Gnesi, Dino Mandrioli and Alessandro Fantechi reported on the state of affairs w.r.t. FME03 in Pisa. All rooms have now been reserved for the symposium and an application has been made for a grant by the EU, although there will probably only be funding (hotel and travel) for a limited number of European attendees.

Action 32/4: All send recommendations for European attendees who need funding for attending to Stefania Gnesi

Acquisition of sponsors has not yet been started but this will happen soon.

Action 32/5: All send suggestions for potential sponsors to Alessandro Fantechi

All dates for the publication of the call for papers etc. have been set and the CfP is almost ready. It will be actively distributed. Mieke Massink will act as Tutorial Chair. Contacts with Springer are a bit slow; Dines suggested to contact Ingeborg Meier as she usually responds rapidly. Dines also suggested sponsoring a level of secretarial support from CoLogNet. Dino Mandrioli reported on his work for putting a PC together so far; John thanked him for his work. The budget has been finalised, taking comments from Kees Pronk into account. The conference venue was inspected by the members and the contract between CNR and FME was signed at the end of the meeting.

12 FMnet Network of Excellence Proposal

Jonathan Bowen explained the background of this proposal (proposal has been enclosed with the minutes). He now has funding (travel grant 14 months, 14kEURO) to further set up the network and put together a detailed proposal (the call for proposals will be out some time in the period December 2002 – March 2003, a second call will be out early July 2003 – fall 2003). Jonathan asked FME to fund a meeting after 1 December to further put together the proposal, this was accepted.

Action 32/6: Jonathan Bowen to organize an FME funded meeting to put together the final FMnet proposal.

Jonathan went to a workshop in Brussels in May where he got the message to “think big” for these networks. In his opinion FME should play a central role in FMnet, links will be established with CologNet, The UK EPSRC Interdisciplinary Research Collaboration on Dependability (DIRC), Testnet, projects, other networks, etc.

Action 32/7: All to send suggestions to Jonathan Bowen for projects and other networks to be linked to FMnet.

With respect to funding, when the proposal is accepted there will be funding for up to 25% of the coordination work of the network, grants for PhD students, exchanges, etc.

More information can be found at www.fmnet.info

Action 32/8: Nico Plat to put a link to www.fmnet.info on the FME web site.

13 FME publications proposal

This agenda item originated from an analysis made by Stefan Gruner on the possibilities for FME to play a role in the publication of formal method related materials. An extensive discussion followed where all possibilities ranging from FME acting as a full publisher (which was not widely supported) to acting as a “web publisher”. The latter idea raised more enthusiasm, giving there is a trend to make publications more widely available on the web (e.g. Tony Hoare’s “old” CSP book is now freely available on the internet). A problem, however, is that such publications get less credits for the authors, something which is especially a problem in the academic world. However, although these problems are present, the general feeling was that it might be worthwhile to further investigate this possibility by a newly formed subgroup on Web Publications. Stefan Gruner will be asked to act as convener, John Fitzgerald and Jonathan Bowen offered to become members.

Action 32/9: John Fitzgerald to ask Stefan Gruner to form a subgroup on Web Publications.

14 Subgroups

The FME subgroups have undertaken very little action in the last year, with the exception of the subgroup on Education. The subgroups on Marketing and on Scope should be considered dead. The problem is not that people don't want to be active, but everybody is extremely busy and lacks time. And also, the aim of most subgroups is not well defined and therefore they have nothing to work towards. In the future, therefore, subgroups will not exist until they have well defined aim and plan.

Plans for new subgroups are:

- Web Publications (see agenda item 13)
- FMnet (members: Jan Storbank Pedersen, John Fitzgerald, Nico Plat, Dines Bjørner)
- Industrial Associations (member: Dines Bjørner)

Dino Mandrioli suggested to distribute minutes of subgroup meetings amongst the FME members so that they can be more actively followed and supported.

15 FME web site

Nico Plat reported that students of Raymond Boute had redesigned the FME web site, also increasing its maintainability. In Nico's opinion Raymond's students had done a very good job, and most of the members present agreed with him. Nico suggested, therefore, to give them a gift certificate of EUR 50 each. This idea was supported.

Action 32/10: Nico Plat to ask Raymond Boute to give gift certificates to his two students for their work on the web site (will be reimbursed by FME).

Unfortunately, due to lack of time, Nico has not yet been able to make the site go "live". Volunteers to contribute to the web site are more than welcome.

16 Date and place of next meeting

The next meeting will be organised in March 2003 by José Oliveira (location probably Braga, Portugal). The theme will be "Education".

Action 32/11: Nico Plat to ask Jose Oliveira to start organising the next FME meeting.

John Fitzgerald and Jonathan Bowen will organise an FME meeting in late spring/early summer 2003 focussing on FMnet.

Action 32/12: John Fitzgerald and Jonathan Bowen to organise an FMnet FME meeting.

17 Other business

Dines Bjørner mentioned that he will send a message to the FME members asking them to become a CologNet member as well. In this message he will explain the benefits and consequences of membership.

Jonathan Bowen asked if FME would be interested in sponsoring the ZB2003 conference, e.g. by reimbursing a student's attendance. John and Jonathan will come up with a proposal to be approved by the Board on advice.

Action 32/13: John Fitzgerald and Jonathan Bowen to formulate a proposal for FME sponsorship of ZB2003.

Summary of actions

Action 28/5: John Fitzgerald to coordinate the production of a document on “Best practices while organising a FME symposium”.

Action 29/3: John Fitzgerald to inform FME members on the purpose of the subgroups.

Action 29/9: Marcel Verhoef to set up a web-based survey for FME symposium attendees in the past.

Action 30/10: Eerke Boiten to inform Marcel Verhoef on software for analysing web-based surveys.

Action 30/15: Nico Plat to find a volunteer to set up a web page with FME members and associated skills.

Action 31/2: John Fitzgerald to discuss future roles with Cliff Jones.

Action 32/1: John Fitzgerald to stress the need for advertisements of workshops in the Symposium Guidelines.

Action 32/2: John Fitzgerald to gather comments on the collocation with FloC

Action 32/3: Lars-Henrik Eriksson to send FME 2002 proceedings to PC members who did not attend.

Action 32/4: All send recommendations for European attendees who need funding for attending to Stefania Gnesi

Action 32/5: All send suggestions for potential sponsors to Alessandro Fantechi

Action 32/6: Jonathan Bowen to organize an FME funded meeting to put together the final FMnet proposal.

Action 32/7: All to send suggestions to Jonathan Bowen for projects and other networks to be linked to FMnet.

Action 32/8: Nico Plat to put a link to www.fmnet.info on the FME web site.

Action 32/9: John Fitzgerald to ask Stefan Gruner to form a subgroup on Web Publications.

Action 32/10: Nico Plat to ask Raymond Boute to give gift certificates to this two students for their work on the web site (will be reimbursed by FME).

Action 32/11: Nico Plat to ask Jose Oliveira to start organising the next FME meeting.

Action 32/12: John Fitzgerald and Jonathan Bowen to organise an FMnet FME meeting.

Action 32/13: John Fitzgerald and Jonathan Bowen to formulate a proposal for FME sponsorship of ZB2003.

Members of the Subgroup on Education:

- Dines Bjørner
- Eerke Boiten
- Raymond Boute
- Andrew Butterfield
- John Fitzgerald
- Randolph Johnson
- Steve King
- Peter Lucas
- Michael Mac an Airchinnigh
- Dino Mandrioli
- Andrew Martin
- José Oliveira (Convenor)
- Kees Pronk
- Wolfgang Reisg

Members of the Web Publications (to be formed):

- Jonathan Bowen
- John Fitzgerald
- Stefan Gruner (Convenor)

Members of the FMnet Subgroup (to be formed):

- Dines Bjørner
- John Fitzgerald
- Jan Storbank Pedersen
- Nico Plat

Members of the Subgroup on Industrial Associations (to be formed):

- Dines Bjørner

Members of the subgroup on the FME symposium:

- Dines Bjørner
- Lars-Henrik Eriksson
- John Fitzgerald
- Michael Goldsmith
- Stefania Gnesi (Convenor)
- Peter Lindsay
- Paul Mukherjee
- José Oliveira
- Nico Plat
- Kees Pronk
- Wolfgang Reisig