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:
1/5  Draft difference between VDM and Z  
     In progress  
     Carried forward

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

1/10 Write to trade journals about FME  
      Deferred until production of Newsletter.  
      Carried forward

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

2/2  Second Call for Papers for FME  
      Done

2/3  Report on industrial meeting  
      Done

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

2/5  Item on future industrial meetings in Newsletter  
      Carried forward

2/6  Write to IFIP '92 re session on FME  
      Done - see item 5

2/7  Draft Statute and Regulations  
      Carried forward

2/8  Reissue FME budget  
      Done
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In progress
Carried forward

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Done - see Item 5

Draft Statute and Regulations
Carried forward

Reissue FME budget
Done

Contact
Cliff Jones
John Nicholls

Peter Larsen
Martyn Thomas

Martyn Thomas

Kees Pronk
Cliff Jones
Martyn Thomas
Nico Plat

Martyn Thomas
Tim Denvir
Alejandro Moya

Martyn Thomas

The people to a specific
produce
what

Kees Pronk
Jim Woodcock
Peter Larsen
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 targeting 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 it is 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 Dervir).

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