

**Formal Methods Europe**  
**Minutes of the 27<sup>th</sup> meeting (Annual General Meeting 2000)**  
**held at Universidade do Minho, Braga, Portugal, 11 November 2000**

Present at the meeting were:

- Dines Bjørner
- Lars-Henrik Eriksson
- John Fitzgerald (Chairman after item 8 of the agenda)
- René Jacquart
- Peter Gorm Larsen
- Peter Lucas (Chairman up until item 8 of the agenda)
- Luis Neves (after lunch)
- José Oliveira
- Jan Storbank Pedersen
- Nico Plat (Secretary)
- Kees Pronk

Apologies had been received from: Bernhard Aichernig, Derek Andrews, Eerke Boiten, Manfred Broy, Andrew Butterfield, Michel Chaudron, Tim Denvir, Chris George, Stefania Gnesi, Stefan Gruner, Cliff Jones, Steve King, Derrick Kourie, Michael Mac an Airchinnigh, Dino Mandrioli, Markus Montigel, Richard Moore, Paul Mukherjee, Stephen Paynter, Wolfgang Reisig, Jan Tretmans, Marcel Verhoef, Bruce Watson and Jim Woodcock.

**1 Welcome**

Peter Lucas welcomed all those present at the meeting and he thanked José Oliveira and his secretary Paula Maria Anjo for all the work involved in hosting the meeting.

**2 Agree upon agenda**

The agenda distributed at the meeting was agreed upon.

**3 Minutes of the meeting held in Berlin on 17 June 2000**

The minutes were approved without modifications.

**4 Action list**

Action 25/7: Awaits the final financial results of FM'99. Carried forward.

Action 26/1: Done. Bernhard Aichernig had agreed to become the new coordinator of the applications database. At the meeting, Lars-Henrik Eriksson offered his help as well.

Action 26/2: Andrew Butterfield had made a first proposal for an ITT (see also item 15) but it is not yet finished. Carried forward.

Action 26/3: Done.

Action 26/4: Remains open as no call for participation has been sent out yet.

Action 26/5: Done.

Action 26/6: Done.

Action 26/7: Done. Paul Mukherjee had agreed to be come the tools exhibition organiser at FME 2001.

Action 26/8: Done.

Action 26/9: Done, Dines distributed a plan at the meeting (see also item 14).

Action 26/10: Peter Lucas had discussed initial ideas with Andrew Butterfield, he is now writing a draft memo on the matter. Carried forward.

Action 26/11: Several complaints have come in concerning the use of the mailing list. This has led to the idea of turning the list into a moderated one. Carried forward.

Action 26/12: Done.

**5 Financial report by the treasurer covering the period 31 December 1998 – 31 December 1999**

The financial results for this period had already been discussed at the Newcastle meeting in February, and therefore needed no further discussion here.

**6 Report by the audit committee regarding the period 31 December 1998 – 31 December 1999**

The audit committee (Jan Storbak Pedersen and Bernhard Aichernig) had individually checked the FME accounts and had found no irregularities. The meeting therefore discharged treasurer Kees Pronk from his responsibilities in this period. Jan remarked that it was a big advantage that accounts have been changed from Belgian Francs into Euro: this makes checking them a lot easier (conversion rates, costs for exchange, etc.).

**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.

**8 Board member election**

In accordance with his previous announcement, Peter Lucas stepped down as Chairman of FME. John Fitzgerald was unanimously elected as Chairman in his place. Nico Plat and Kees Pronk were unanimously re-elected as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. After the election procedure John Fitzgerald took over as Chairman of the meeting.

After accepting the Chairmanship, John Fitzgerald nominated Peter Lucas as the first Honorary Member of FME (the nomination is appended). The proposal was seconded by Dines Bjørner and passed unanimously.

In accepting his Honorary Membership, Peter paid tribute to the work of his colleagues in establishing FME's constitution and in securing the success of FM'99. In response Kees Pronk presented Peter with a gift of a crystal paperweight as a token of the good wishes of the FME officers and members. Dines Bjørner gave a short speech of congratulation (appended).

**9 Plans for the coming period**

John Fitzgerald presented the policy plan for 2001 (enclosed with the minutes).

René Jacquart remarked that it is important to distinguish the 'Scope' issue from 'Marketing' (as is done by the current separation in subgroups) but that the same vision and ideas on formal methods should be shared amongst these subgroups. The 'Scope' subgroup is very important in this respect and should be activated. Peter Larsen pointed out that it is important to know what the rest of the world is doing in this respect and that this should be taken into account as well. Hence it is also a marketing issue: a strategy is needed to deal with this.

*Action 27/1: John Fitzgerald to activate the 'Scope' subgroup.*

The plan was accepted and approved by the members present.

**10 Report on FM'99**

A financial report on FM'99 was distributed by René Jacquart. The books can not yet be closed at ONERA because of internal accounting procedures. There are still some unpaid (or partially paid) fees. A preliminary surplus (about FF 150.000) has been transferred to FME. René will continue to (actively) pursue the remaining funds, leading to another payment of approximately FF 100.000 to FME. It was agreed that the financial books on FM'99 will be closed on 1 February 2001 at the latest.

Special issues with material on FM'99 of three journals will appear: Formal Aspects of

Computing, vol. 12, no. 3 and 4, 2000 (two volumes, one with regular papers and one with a special paper on the tools exhibition), Formal Methods in System Design, vol. 17 no. 3, 2000 and IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering, vol. 26, no. 8, August 2000.

## **11 FME 2001**

Wolfgang Reisig was not present at the meeting and had not sent in a written report. However, he was available over the phone at his current address in Israel. Kees Pronk had identified a number of problems with the budget (insufficient reservations made for the banquet, refreshments, no risk surplus included and a few other minor points) which were discussed and settled over the phone with Wolfgang. This means that the budget can now be finalised (hopefully within a few weeks at most), the contract between FME and Humboldt University can be signed and an advance can be transferred to the OC in Berlin. The latter is becoming urgent as the symposium announcement poster is almost finished and needs to be sent to the printers. It was also decided to raise the early registration fee with 50 EURO.

It was noted that the symposium web site is not up-to-date and does not contain the right information to attract attendees to the symposium. Wolfgang explained over the phone that maintenance of the web site is done by a student, it is not clear who that is exactly. Jan Storbank Pedersen agreed to monitor and report on the content of the web site.

*Action 27/2: Jan Storbank Pedersen to monitor the symposium web site.*

It was also noted that it is not clear which companies will sponsor the symposium but Wolfgang explained over the phone that this issue was being addressed.

René Jacquart volunteered to contact Stephan Jähnichen (OC-member) to ask his opinion on the state of affairs with FME 2001.

*Action 27/3: René Jacquart to contact Stephan Jähnichen on his opinion on the state of affairs with FME 2001.*

The PC meeting had taken place the day prior to this meeting. 33 Papers out of 71 had been accepted. An electronic discussion preceded the 'physical' PC meeting. Information for the PC meeting was made available on the web. This enabled extensive discussion and reference back to referees prior to the formal PC meeting. The final programme is now being planned, including a scheme for the sessions, etc.

Paul Mukherjee had sent in a report on the status of the FME 2001 Tools Exhibition. Kees Pronk asked if there was any plan to specifically approach German researchers and industrial partners to participate. It was therefore suggested that Paul would contact Stephan Jähnichen for German contacts.

*Action 27/4: Paul Mukherjee to contact Stephan Jähnichen to ask for suggestions for German participants to the tools exhibition.*

Wolfgang's assistant Ms. Heene is the local contact for the tools exhibition.

## **12 FME 2002**

Dines Bjørner reported on the state of affairs.

FME 2002 will be organised as part of the three-yearly FLoC (Federation of Logic Conferences). FLoC is comprised of CAVE, FME, LICS, CAD, ICLP, RTA and TABLEAUX. It is a two-week event this time, FME '2002 will be organised during the first week, together with CAVE and LICS. 1000 people are expected to attend over a period of two weeks. Dines is as a member of the global FLoC OC (LOC) responsible for the FLoC poster, industry and sponsors, public relations and electronic mailing lists. Dines expects to raise almost US \$100.000 sponsor money. Dines will be probably also be the OC-chairman for FME 2002 itself.

There will be a base cost per participant to be paid to FLoC (roughly \$200) but this will cover for a

lot of the expenditures (and work being done by FLoC).

Urgent issues are the establishment of an FME 2002 OC and also for FME 2002 PC chairs. John will enquire among the FME members for PC chair candidates.

*Action 27/5: John Fitzgerald to ask FME members for suggestions for the FME 2002 PC-chairs.*

### **13 FME subgroup on Education**

Andrew Butterfield had visited Peter Lucas in Graz and had discussed the mathematical basis of formal methods with him. Peter's notes will be distributed.

*Action 27/6: Peter Lucas to distribute his notes on the 'Education' meeting with Andrew Butterfield.*

### **14 FME subgroup on Marketing**

The idea of producing a formal methods marketing CD-ROM was briefly discussed, Dines had already distributed some ideas on this issue (enclosed with the minutes). Peter will enquire amongst FME members who would like to be involved in the production of such a CD-ROM.

*Action 27/7: Peter Gorm Larsen to find volunteers among the FME members to work on the subgroup on 'Marketing'.*

A report by Robin Bloomfield (available from the Adelard web page at <http://www.adelard.co.uk/resources/fmreport/index.htm>) had been circulated (also to the EU). FME is hardly mentioned in this report; the conclusion was that FME's ideas are apparently not spread well enough.

### **15 FME web site**

Nico Plat presented his draft plan for the further development of the FME web site. A central part of it is to have the web site content maintained by different FME members, each responsible for a separate section. Nico will ask for volunteers among the FME members.

*Action 27/8: Nico Plat to find volunteers among the FME members for maintaining the content of the FME web site.*

Nico also remarked that the traffic to the web site has been increasing over the past several months. It is becoming better known.

Andrew Butterfield has made a first draft for an ITT, mainly concerning the design of the web site. The ITT needs to be further developed first before anything can be decided upon it.

### **16 Date and place of next meeting**

The next meeting will be during the FME 2001 Symposium in Berlin, March 2001. José will propose a date and time, coordinating this with Wolfgang Reisig when the symposium programme has been finalized.

*Action 27/9: José Oliveira to propose date and time for the FME meeting in Berlin.*

### **17 Other business**

Nico Plat had been approached by FME member Stefania Gnesi who proposed to organize the FME Symposium in 2003 in Pisa, Italy. Nico will ask her to come to the next meeting in Berlin and present herself and her plans there to the members present.

*Action 27/10: Nico Plat to invite Stefania Gnesi to the FME meeting in Berlin and present her plans for organizing FME 2003 in Pisa, Italy.*

### **Summary of actions**

Action 25/7: Kees Pronk and Peter Lucas to inform the EU that the grant provided by them will be renounced.

Action 26/2: Andrew Butterfield to draft an ITT for the design of the FME web site and send it to Tim Denvir to check.

Action 26/4: All to check José's address overview on the web and to send suggestions for addressees of the FME 2001 Call for Papers/Call for Participation to José.

Action 26/10: Peter Lucas to gather opinions amongst FME members on the 'Scope' issue.

Action 26/11: John Fitzgerald to instruct FME members on the purpose of the mailing list.

Action 27/1: Jan Storbak Pedersen to monitor the symposium web site.

Action 27/2: René Jacquart to contact Stephan Jähnichen on his opinion on the state of affairs with FME 2001.

Action 27/3: Paul Mukherjee to contact Stephan Jähnichen to ask for suggestions for German participants to the tools exhibition.

Action 27/4: John Fitzgerald to ask FME members for suggestions for the FME 2002 PC-chairs.

Action 27/5: Peter Lucas to distribute his notes on the 'Education' meeting with Andrew Butterfield.

Action 27/6: John Fitzgerald to activate the 'Scope' subgroup.

Action 27/7: Peter Gorm Larsen to find volunteers among the FME members to work on the subgroup on 'Marketing'.

Action 27/8: Nico Plat to find volunteers among the FME members for maintaining the content of the FME web site.

Action 27/9: José Oliveira to propose date and time for the FME meeting in Berlin.

Action 27/10: Nico Plat to invite Stefania Gnesi to the FME meeting in Berlin and present her plans for organizing FME 2003 in Pisa, Italy.

**Members of the Subgroup on Education (SoE):**

- Andrew Butterfield
- John Fitzgerald
- Steve King
- Peter Lucas (convenor)
- José Oliveira

**Members of the Subgroup on Scope (SoS):**

- Dines Bjørner
- John Fitzgerald
- René Jacquart
- Cliff Jones
- Peter Gorm Larsen
- Peter Lucas
- José Oliveira

**Members of the Subgroup on Marketing (SoM):**

- Dines Bjørner
- Peter Gorm Larsen