Minutes of the Hilary 2021 AGM

Figure 1: The current CompSoc committee meets with the newly elected CompSoc committee and the future Hackathon Society committee (2021, colourised).

1 Members present

In person:

- Fryderyk Wiatrowski (President)
- John Ryan (Vice President)
- Matthew Ruddy (Secretary)
- Cameron Chisholm (Social Secretary)
- James Hughes (Treasurer)
- Alasdair Kergon
- Alexandra Manciu

- Ilia Manolov
- Joe Farebrother
- Joe Gardiner
- Josh Smailes
- Katherine Benjamin
- Șerban Șlincu
- Toby Cathcart Burn

2 Committee reports

2.1 President

Fryderyk: Thanks for coming. I'd also like to thank the old committee for helping us out last year and introducing us to being a committee member, it's an amazing experience. Thanks to all our members for coming during the pandemic and keeping up the community feeling. I'll quickly go through what we've done this year. It's been a difficult time for all of us but we quite enjoyed the challenge. Our plans had to change, there were some things we wanted to do which were made impossible by the pandemic: collaborations with Cambridge or football/gym evenings. Many things worked well, I think the highlight of this year was our crossover with the Jamaican UMCS Computing Society. We got in touch in May last year, they don't have good opportunities to learn computer science and it's a shame they can't study as many fun topics as we can. The idea was to organise a hackathon together, with them visiting us afterwards (and us reimbursing the cost of the trip) to taste Oxford life. It didn't work out, the pandemic was still there in December but the hackathon went ahead, which was still a great thing. You'd regret missing the presentations, they were so funny! As a prize we gave out some online courses so they have some more opportunities to develop their skills. We also started working on stash last month, it's almost ready right now so we'll be sending it out soon. Despite the difficulties, we still had quite a high attendance. The society was still running very smoothly and I think it was very good for mental health. It wouldn't be possible without the hard work of the rest of the committee, it's been hard for all of us but they've done incredible work.

Fryderyk: One other thing, we have a new Senior Member - Gavin Lowe! We look forward to working with him.

> *General positive comments and approval. For context, Gavin tutors CompSci at St. Catherine's Colelge, the college of a fair portion of our more active members as well as most of the 2019-2020 committee.*

2.2 Vice President

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John:

2.3 Secretary

Matthew: I don't have much to follow up with, my role has reminaed pretty constant throughout my time on the committee. I'm still sending out the newsletters, everyone seems happy with them. The website's still up and running and the sponsors all seem happy

2.4 Social Secretary

Cameron: This term has gone pretty well on my front. Socials have been going smoothly, we got totry a cross-continental collaboration with the University of the West Indies. A few fan favourite events returned as well. I've tried making more use of Discord to keep people up to date on events with the Announcements channel, as well as a bot to help with that. I've also been meeting with sponsors to organise sponsor talks.

Fryderyk: Cameron's had to take over John's responsibilities this term, despite doing the role of Social Sec he was also helping me and working with sponsors. It's a lot of effort so thanks for that Cameron, you ran two roles this term!

2.5 Treasurer

James: Last year our balance was £15,891. As of now we have £28,319. AS Sam discussed last year, we've taken on a huge surplus and it's gotten bigger over the pandemic with less to spend money on. We had an income of approximately £15,000. This includes sponsorships we took on over the summer and some payments from the previous year. As for the term, we began with £28,792. Our expenditure so far this term has been £468, our lowest out of all three terms as a committee. Including future payments and payment for stash (around £660) we predict we'll have spent £1,300. Our income from sponsors has stayed pretty high, we talked about reducing it although it didn't happen as much as we might have wanted. I also want to say a huge thanks to the previous committee members who've helped with some issues through this year.

Current balance	£28 319
Balance this time last year	£15 891
Difference of	£12 428

Table 1: Accounts

3 Other motions

3.1 Compsoc should take over the Oxford Hackathon Society, currently responsible for Oxford Hack.

Șerban: I'll give some background on why I suggested this motion. Oxford Hack is the student hackathon, organised in Oxford, really big, we get over 300 people every year. Usually it happens in-person, in the maths institute. This year, we organised it digitally and that was really successful as well. A lot of people all around the world get to experience Oxford through Oxford Hack. A lot of other societies around the UK have their hackathons organised by their computer societies. CompSoc taking over the Hackathon Society would be a really good thing in terms of marketing: more members, more sponsors and making the sponsors we currently have happier. Another thing is that Oxford Hack currently has a bank account with £10,000 in it. With the £28,000 CompSoc already has, we could grow that to £38,000 which will hopefully make organising Oxford Hack and CompSoc events easier. Organising the hackathon could be difficult if started late, but we start 6 months in advance, and with some help from us it wouldn't be too difficult for the people taking over. So the motion itself is that CompSoc should take over the Hackathon Society, which is just a society we created to gain credibility which exists only to organise Oxford Hack.

James: When would the merger be happening? It would be easiest if it happened at the end of this financial year, the end of Trinity term.

Șerban: That makes sense. There's no fixed deadline, we would have to email the proctors and our senior members. I think the earlier the better since CompSoc needs to designate somebody in charge of the hackathon and they should start planning as soon as possible.

Alexandra: It's more to do with what we have to do, rather than what the CompSoc committee has to do. We'll be in charge of merging, with your approval, if this motion passes.

Josh: Would a second group of people be organising the hackathon, or would it be up to the new committee?

Alexandra: It would be up to them. With all the help that is in place for it, it's not that much of an effort. It could be done with a small team, but it would need to be at least one person. We can offer advice to help.

oxford university
compsoc

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Alasdair: So what exactly is the motion saying? Is it really saying "The society is authorising the committee to negotiate arrangements with Oxford Hack", or have these negotiations already happened and the motion is "Please approve these new arrangements"? Where is the decision going to be made, will the committee make the decision or the society?

Fryderyk: The society will make the decision.

Alasdair: If this is the decision, there's no detail of what is being decided. You'd normally set out the arrangements, but you don't even know what the date is.

Șerban: I can provide some more details here. In 2016 there were only 2 students who organised Oxford Hack. In 2017 the Oxford Entrepeneurs organised it, in 2018 there was another student organising it, then in 2019 we created the Hackathon Society which is the main figure responsible for the event. We don't hold any IP for Oxford Hack, but we as a society have a partnership with Major League Hacking, who have agreed to help us in the future even if ownership is transferred to other people. CompSoc would have the support of the current members, so it would be easier for them to plan it. The main thing is that CompSoc would be taking over all of the documents and assets we own.

Alasdair: If you're formally taking over another society, you need an actual motion explaining that you'll take over the other society, and it'll be taken over on a certain date. It seems like we're voting on giving the committee the authority to negotiate these details. We'll need a vote from the other society on the same motion.

Șerban: I should've written the motion a bit more clearly. We can either re-do the motion now, or we can leave it as-is and go for the motion as you understand it.

Alasdair unfortunately briefly lost connection at this point.

Alexandra: His point made sense. The idea now is to decide if the society agrees that CompSoc, in the future, may merge with the Hackathon Society. It would be at the committee's discretion to negotiate the other details.

Alasdair reconnects

Alasdair: Essentially, both societies should formulate a document which details the merger, then both societies should vote on it.

Voting ensues.

For	10
Abstain	3

MOTION PASSED

Fryderyk: It's a big honour for us to be able organise such a huge event.

3.2 Approving the minutes from last term

Fryderyk: We need to approve the minutes from last term.

Toby: When it says "Members present in person"... what does it mean in this context?

Matthew: That was a tricky one. I counted being "present" as "in the voice call". The alternative is being present via proxy, which is only true if you have authorised someone else to vote on your behalf. This wasn't true for anyone at the last meeting. Everyone was "in-person" in the sense that they were present in the meeting and could actively contribute to the conversation and vote on their own behalf.

Alasdair: This could be included as a footnote for clarification, especially for future committees.

James: Could this be the first time we ever `don't` approve the minutes?

Matthew: Well this is the only reason approving the minutes exists, is if members feel there is something they want changed. I'd have to fix them and we'd re-approve them next meeting.

Fryderyk: Any other questions regarding the minutes?

Josh: It's more of a comment, but I'm glad that the memes on the front page are still alive!

Voting ensues

Josh: So this is voting to approve with the changes?

Cameron: No, this is voting to approve as-is. A vote of "no" indicates that you want the minutes to be changed and potentially re-approved next meeting.

Matthew: Looks like it was the most controversial vote in our committee's history!

For	8
Against	5

MOTION PASSED

3.3 Election of the new committee

Fryderyk: Time for the committee elections. Are there any candidates for any of the roles in the committee?

No candidates wished to run for a role

Fryderyk: As expected. As we've previously discussed, we'll have to postpone the elections to next term. Formally, the current committee will be re-elected for their positions then next term, if candidates run for our position, we'll resign it.

Josh: Should this be its own motion, to re-elect the entire committee instead of re-electing each member individually?

Fryderyk: Yes, we should vote to elect the entire committee.

Alasdair: So voting "no" here means that you want each member to re-elect individually as usual. The committee can vote on this as normal.

Voting ensues.

For	12
Abstain	1

MOTION PASSED