Minutes of the Michaelmas 2020 TGM
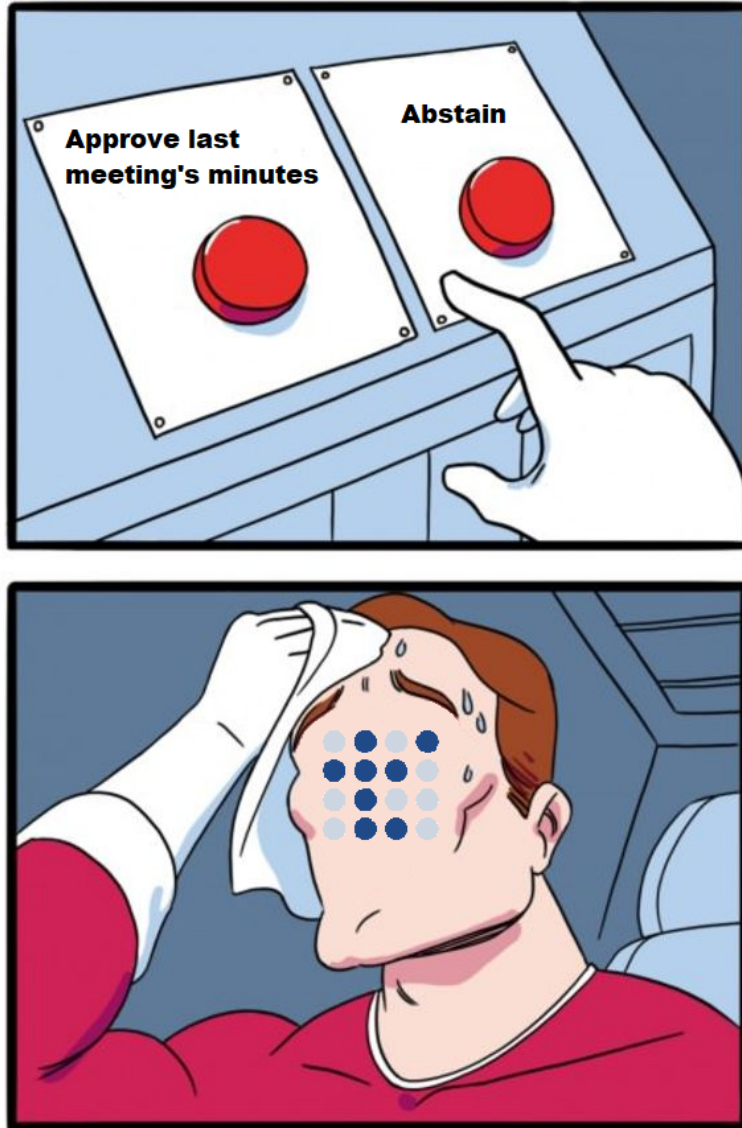

Figure 1: The society makes every term's most difficult decision.

1 Members present

In person:

- Fryderyk Wiatrowski (President)
- John Ryan (Vice President)
- Matthew Ruddy (Secretary)
- Cameron Chisholm (Social Secretary)
- James Hughes (Treasurer)
- Joe Gardiner

- Alasdair Kergon
- Joe Farebrother
- Șerban Șlincu
- Toby Cathcart Burn
- Liam Sawyer

2 Committee reports

2.1 President

Fryderyk: Welcome to this unusual TGM this term. I don't think we expected such circumstances after the Summer when everything calmed down a little bit. Also, the situation was very uncertain, we weren't even sure whether events would happen in person or remotely. We announced the events as remote just in case and it was a good idea. We really hope that next term some in-person events might be held in smaller groups. We already have some ideas to make it happen in the future, COVID-safe and more interactive than it was this term. Although this term was very challenging and we faced many difficulties I think we did a really good job. Compared to other societies, we had events every week, including Saturday social nights and Wednesday sponsor events. One of the biggest challenges this term was satisfying the needs of the sponsors because of course the sponsors wanted to have a big attendance, but people are not as willing to come to the events that are remote and consist just of the talks, compared the the in-person events where people could chat and have pizza for example. That was quite a challenge, but from my talks with sponsors they were all very happy with our attendance compared to other UK societies, so I think we can be very proud of that. Also, to keep CompSoc with its atmosphere as friendly and social as possible. I think we did a good job because we had our constant people that went to the events, that happen as usual. People seemed very happy so I'm glad about that. I think CompSoc worked as it should have worked. I think the remote nature of CompSoc now is natural to our society, it shows the people who are interested in the events themselves and not just pizza, so COVID excluded the "pizza people" which was the problem before, extremely happy about that. It shows that we still have some people, lots of people, who are interested in our events. We can be very happy with our attendance. I really hope that the next term goes at least as well as this term, we have have some really cool plans, including stash over the Christmas break. We're also planning different

Current balance	£28 787
Balance this time last year	£20 004
Difference of	£8 783
Balance at start of term	£29 853
Expenditure	£1 066

Table 1: Accounts

ways of doing events and we're excited about that. I'd also like to mention the great job that both society members and committee members did. Big thanks for running the society and keeping the atmosphere friendly. I think when we all go to CompSoc we feel at home, like something we look forward to every week. I'd like to thank you very much for this because it's been an incredible term.

2.2 Vice President

John: I don't have a tremendous amount extra to add because I don't want to step on the toes of anyone who has specifics to go over. I would like to reiterate that the events seemed to have gone very well. I wasn't able to attend many of them but I know that Matt, James and Cameron have been very good and without them social events wouldn't have gone as smoothly. Following on from what Fryderyk said with the sponsors, we seem to have maintained far more sponsorships than other societies have. We've kept the vast majority of our sponsors which bodes well for the new year.

2.3 Treasurer

James: We still have money. At the end of last TGM we had some extra money from Bloomberg which has now been returned to them. There was also a duplicate sponsorship payment from Cisco which has also been returned so essentially about £7500 which should not have been sent to us has made its way back. At the end of last term we had £27,403.51. Subtracting the money we shouldn't have had that's £19,853.51, so that's effectively our true balance. Now with sponsorships and this term's expenses we have £28,787.88. Our total sponsorship payments reached £12,750. £10,000 of that was recieved over the sumer, £2,750 we already had at the last TGM. Our expenditure this term was just over £1000, about £420 more than last term. The increased expenditure has been due to prizes and more pizza (since pizza ordering happened throughout the entire term). This time last year we had around £20,000 so our balance has increased by around £8,750.

2.4 Secretary

Matthew: So everything's been pretty good on my end. We had some minor issues with the website near the end of term, we've sorted them out and we've also progressed to the current secretary having ownership of the server, which is a good thing going forward. It was previously owned by an ex-committee member for many years. Something else that has been suggested was sending out reminder emails for tech talks. We had some issues with low attendance for some talks which we think is an issue of people either forgetting about them or not knowing they were happening in the first place. This is something I need input from other people on because I don't know if it's something that's wanted or something that's needed. I'd be sending out a reminder on the days when talks are happening, especially given that in quarantine we don't always have a talk every week. Does anyone have any thoughts one way or the other?

Toby: Post something on the Discord about them.

Joe G: Yeah, you can also use @here when the talk is about an hour from happening to get people ready. That's a fine use of @here.

Matthew: That's true. I think part of it is that the tech talks don't tend to happen on the Discord. Some people use the society just for tech talks and are less likely to be engaged on the Discord because they might not care for the social events as much. We do use Facebook's event system which has a reminder system if you've signed up via Facebook, although we see that often most people don't sign up for our events via Facebook.

Fryderyk: Of course we can start using Discord as well, we will do it for next term if it's more convenient.

Toby: I haven't been very aware of them, I don't check Facebook very often.

Matthew: I do put them in the newsletter but again people tend to either forget or not read them.

Joe G: I personally haven't been on the non-messenger bit of Facebook for quite a bit now, I just don't see those events anymore. Discord is good.

2.5 Social Secretary

Cameron: In terms of social events, all of them have been online. We've had a relatively consistent group coming to all events which was nice. Every event we've held this term has had decent attendance considering that it's online and afforementioned pizza stuff. As we ran up to the term I had some ambitious ideas about in-person COVID-compliant events, but we figured out that those were going to be impractical at best. Next term I wouldn't want to make any predictions. We could have one or two maybe, but it's more likely that all of them are going to be remote again.

There were some events we could improve on, the mini hackathon in particular. I like the idea of doing it with OxWoCS, although we need to make sure it has better outreach since we had only one OxWoCS member. I would definitely be up for doing that again with OxWoCS, maybe increasing the outreach on the OxWoCS side to ensure a better balance of members. I think this term we've done much better in terms events that aren't just playing games online. As someone who enjoys playing game online I like those events but it's understandable that some people wouldn't want to do them every week. We've done much better this term in terms of having challenges: the quiz night, code golf, Core War, things that aren't just playing on the internet. I'll also do more outreach on Discord as well.

Fryderyk: John mentioned it was a busy term for him. I'd like to highlight how hard the job was for Cameron, Matt and James who had to take over more responsibilities for this term. Really well done you guys, it's been an incredible job from you.

3 Other motions

3.1 Adopt last meeting's minutes.

Fryderyk: We're using a Google Form right?

Cameron: Yes, I've set up a Google Form for it. Does anyone have any questions about the minutes?

James: For anyone who hasn't seen this before, the motion we have to do each TGM is accept the minutes of the previous term.

Cameron: I've added a security code phrase to ensure we're getting genuine votes. Please enter "drop table compsoc votes", then vote.

Brief pause while everyone votes, with far more success than last time. After discussion on how to format the code phrase we end up with 11 unique syntaxes.

For	10
Abstain	1

MOTION PASSED

Joe F: What actually happens if the minutes aren't approved?

Cameron: I think CompSoc implodes

Matthew: I get the sense that you wouldn't approve them if they were genuinely innacurate or there was something you want to redact, so I'd have to go and do that.

Joe G: The next TGM would need two motions for approving minutes!

Fryderyk: I think that'd be done if we don't get enough pizza!

Joe G: Speaking of pizza...

The TGM draws to a close as members proceed to order pizzas.