From:	Robin Milner [Robin.Milner@cl.cam.ac.uk]
Sent:	12 May 2003 12:01
To:	Tony Hoare
Cc:	Robin Milner
Subject:	Re:

Tony

> I am beginning to see why emergence of a Grand Challenge Project is a
> slow process. It is intended to be a band-wagon, and to have a high
> inertia. It takes people a long time to realise that a particular
> challenge is likely to be the best there will ever be in the field.
> And just as long to realise that one's own favourite research interest
> can actually be advanced by joining the bandwagon. So maybe we should
> look two years ahead for the first of our Challenge Projects to start
> rolling, and five years for the last of the Challenge projects that we
> are currently considering.

I think this is about right. This affects what we say in our (the PC's) report, and
more importantly what CRC then says to the larger world.
We somehow want to arrange that we progress the 7 proposals over the next year or so
so that:

-- we determine which --if any -- attains the status of a GC Project;
-- for those that don't, we propose a form it can take in order to get
    full benefit from the band-wagon effect;
-- in both cases, we begin to engage the funding agencies (esp EPSRC)
    so that they agree with us;
-- in both cases we keep the proposals visible to the CS community as
    much as we can, to nurture the band-wagon;
-- we continue to act clearly in evocative (not directive) mode.

So this gives us a design challenge!

Robin