

Minutes of the fifth meeting of the UK Computing Research Committee, held at the National e-Science Centre, Edinburgh on Wednesday 27 November 2002

Present: Alan Bundy, Convenor
Muffy Calder
Brian Collins
Michael Denham
Steve Furber
Carole Goble
Wendy Hall
Tony Hoare
Cliff Jones
Ursula Martin
Derek McAuley
John McDermid
Robin Milner
Johanna Moore
Morris Sloman
Martyn Thomas
Ian Watson
Paul Watson

Apologies: Samson Abramsky
Malcolm Atkinson
Richard Bird
Mike Brady
Chris Hankin
Andy Hopper
David May
Roger Needham
Mike Paterson
Ron Perrott
Ian Sommerville
Phil Willis

In attendance: Peta Walmisley, Secretary

By invitation: Matthew Dixon

38. Apologies for absence

RECEIVED apologies as listed above.

39. Minutes of the previous meeting

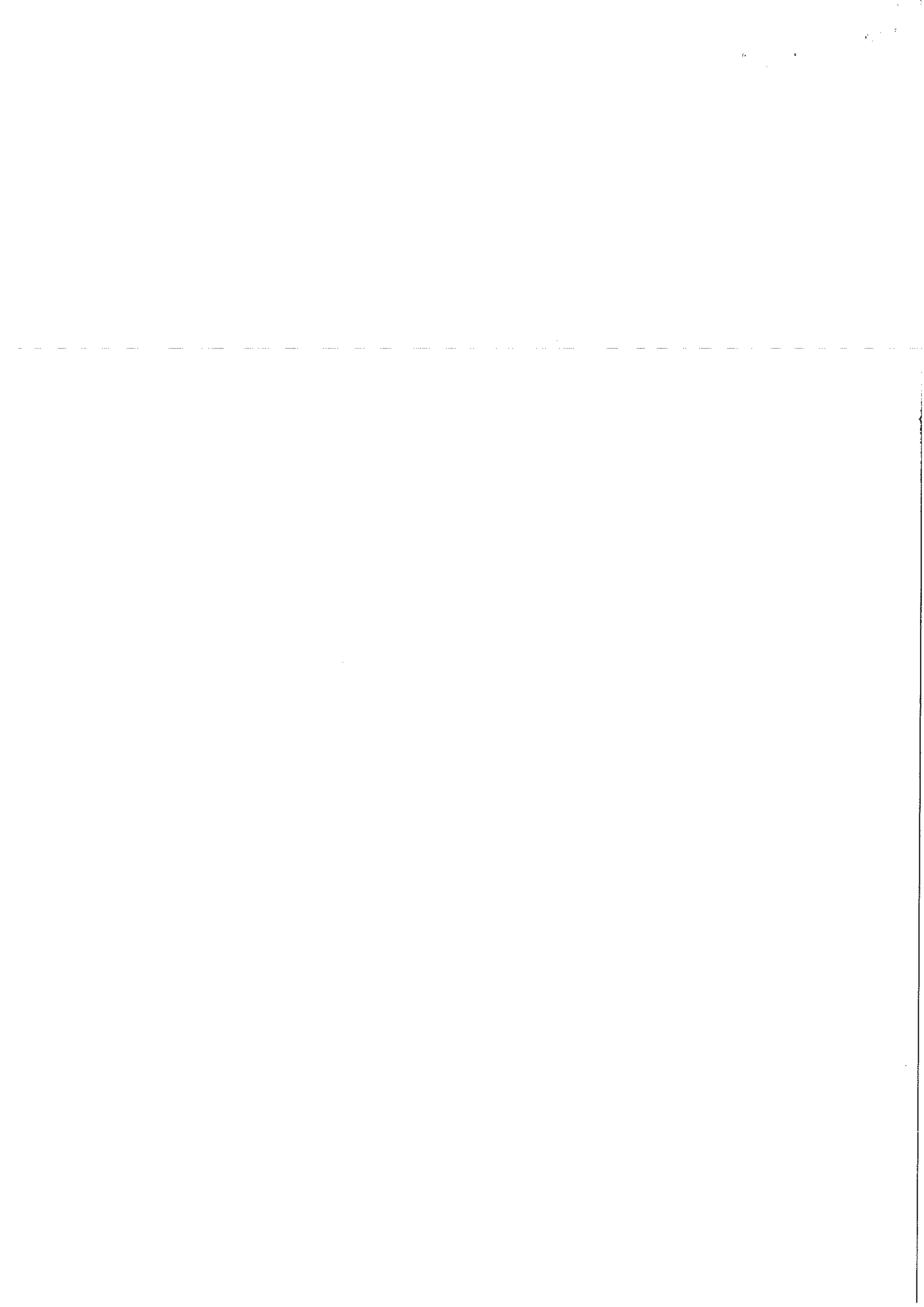
39.1 CONFIRMED the minutes of the meeting held on 27 May 2002 as a correct record.

39.2 Matters arising

39.2.1 On Minute 29.2.3: BAAS

NOTED that Malcolm Atkinson had been unsuccessful in persuading Professor Arthur Allison to be recorder of a Computing section.

AGREED that this should not be pursued.



39.2.2 On Minute 29.2.5: Relations with BCS, IEE & CPHC

AGREED that the UKCRC should support the BCS in its liaison with Parliamentarians, rather than spending precious resources itself.

39.2.3 On Minute 29.2.6: New initiatives - scale matters

NOTED that this aspect of research was still important, but the question of workshops is under review, especially in the light of the workshops arising from the Grand Challenges workshop.

39.2.4 On Minute 30: e-Science

NOTED that the Convenor had written to the Director General of Research Councils.

39.2.5 On Minute 33: IT/CS structure

NOTED that Morris Sloman had presented a revised structure to EPSRC, but it had not been accepted.

39.2.6 On Minutes 29.2.10 and 35.1: Network

NOTED that workshops would result from the Grand Challenges workshop.

AGREED that all members should update their details on the Web site.

Action: ALL

39.2.7 On Minute 35.2: College of Peers

NOTED that Phil Willis was preparing a review of the peer review process and was seeking input.

AGREED that members should provide comments to Phil Willis before 6 December.

Action: ALL

39.2.8 Tracking email discussions

NOTED that the Executive Committee was considering what process would help this. It would appoint champions for each activity and a member of the Executive in support.

40. Report from the Executive Committee

40.1 Working relationship

Martyn Thomas described the Executive's proposed method of work, with regular reports to UKCRC on the Web. UKCRC would be responsible for setting priorities and supervising the progress against them, undertaken by the Executive between meetings.

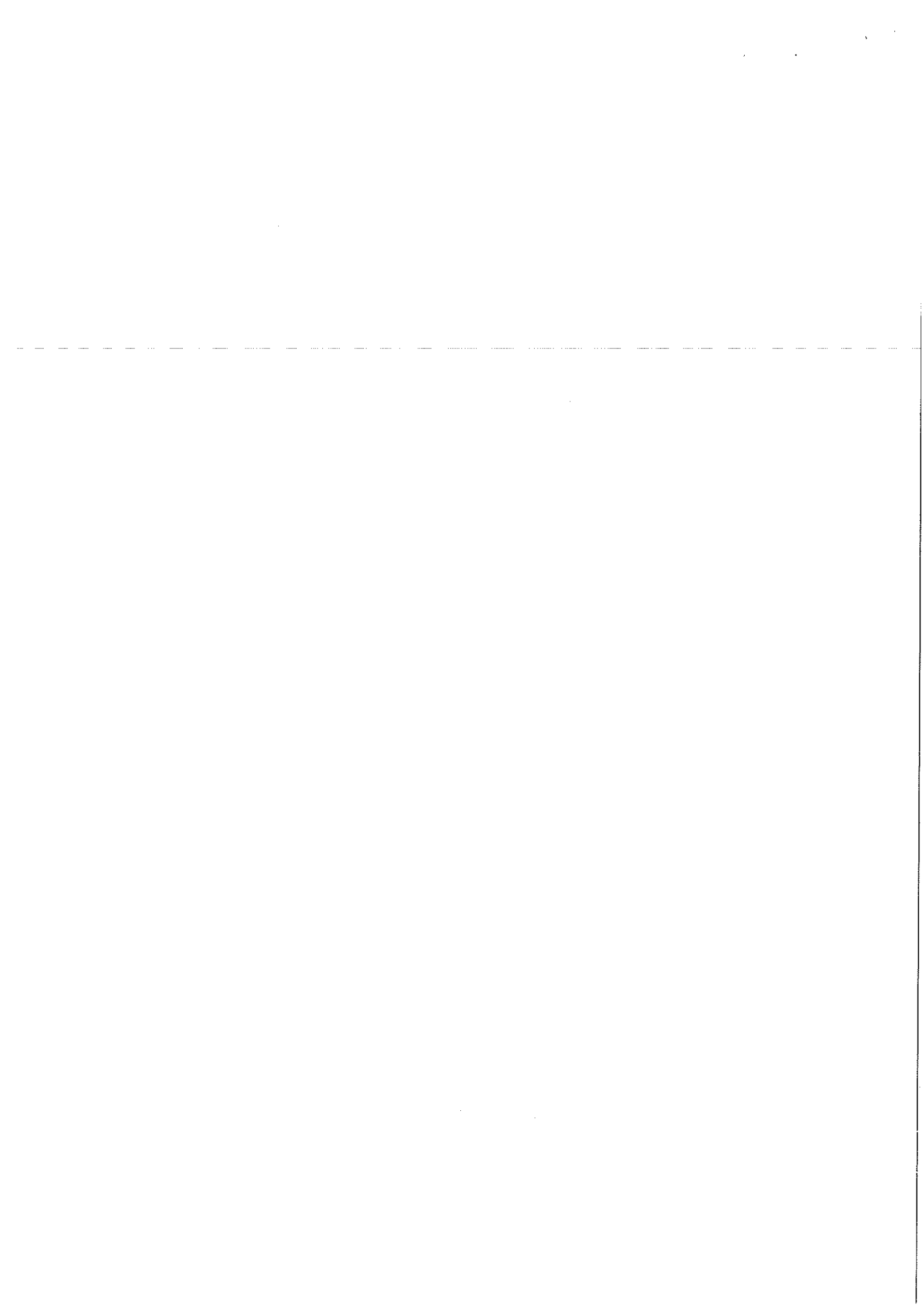
AGREED that the UKCRC should oversee the work of the Executive Committee and be responsible for setting priorities.

40.2 Constitution

NOTED that the Executive had agreed that the Convenor should serve for 3 years. The Executive Committee is now an Expert Panel of BCS and IEE and hopes to become one for CPHC. A meeting was being organised with representatives of CPHC, to ensure its support. The Executive was exploring options to get more members and Derek McAuley, in succession to Wendy Hall, was to prepare a proposal to the June 2003 meeting.

AGREED that the Executive Committee should become the decision making body, with UKCRC increasing its membership (actual size to be decided) and therefore more representative of the community. The Convenor to report back to IEE and BCS.

Action: Derek McAuley /Alan Bundy



40.3 Network grant

NOTED that John McDermid would report the financial position by the end of 2002.

Action: John McDermid

40.4 Future activities

RECEIVED an oral report by the Convenor of the meeting held earlier the same day.

NOTED that the Executive recommended the priorities should be:

a) to raise the profile, through pursuit of the Grand Challenges, case studies of PhD successes and technology transfer

b) to push for dependable computing, through cooperation with the Information Age Partnership and the DTI Innovations unit, as a result of the meeting with Lord Sainsbury and Intellect

c) to seek funding for computing research from organisations other than EPSRC ICT, perhaps by arranging presentations at CPHC conference by other funding bodies. An example might be individual grand challenges, which could perhaps obtain special initiatives funding.

d) to create a well organised body, with champions for each activities, drawn from UKCRC members, and a supporter from the Executive.

AGREED that the Convenor and Morris Sloman, as members of the Strategy Advisory Team for computing in EPSRC, should offer UKCRC's help in developing strategy.

Action: Alan Bundy/Morris Sloman

41. Grand challenges

RECEIVED a report by Robin Milner of the workshop held over the previous two days.

NOTED that the number of submissions, 109, had exceeded expectations, which resulted in about half being invited to the workshop. All submissions had been classified into 4 categories: strong software (31), ubiquitous computing (20), human aspects (36) and modelling and design of organisms (22) and had been put on the Web site, with access by all submitters. The workshop had worked to reduce the number of challenges, which could be supported by communities of researchers. The output would be put on the web site and made publicly available within 2 weeks. These would then be taken forward over 6 months by champions, with a proposal of how to enact them to be presented to UKCRC. 2 IRCs had already offered to fund a follow up workshop from Panel C.1ar

RECORDED thanks to Tony Hoare and Robin Milner for their work. Thanks also to Malcolm Atkinson for hosting the workshop, as well as Tom Rodden and John McDermid for providing additional funding.

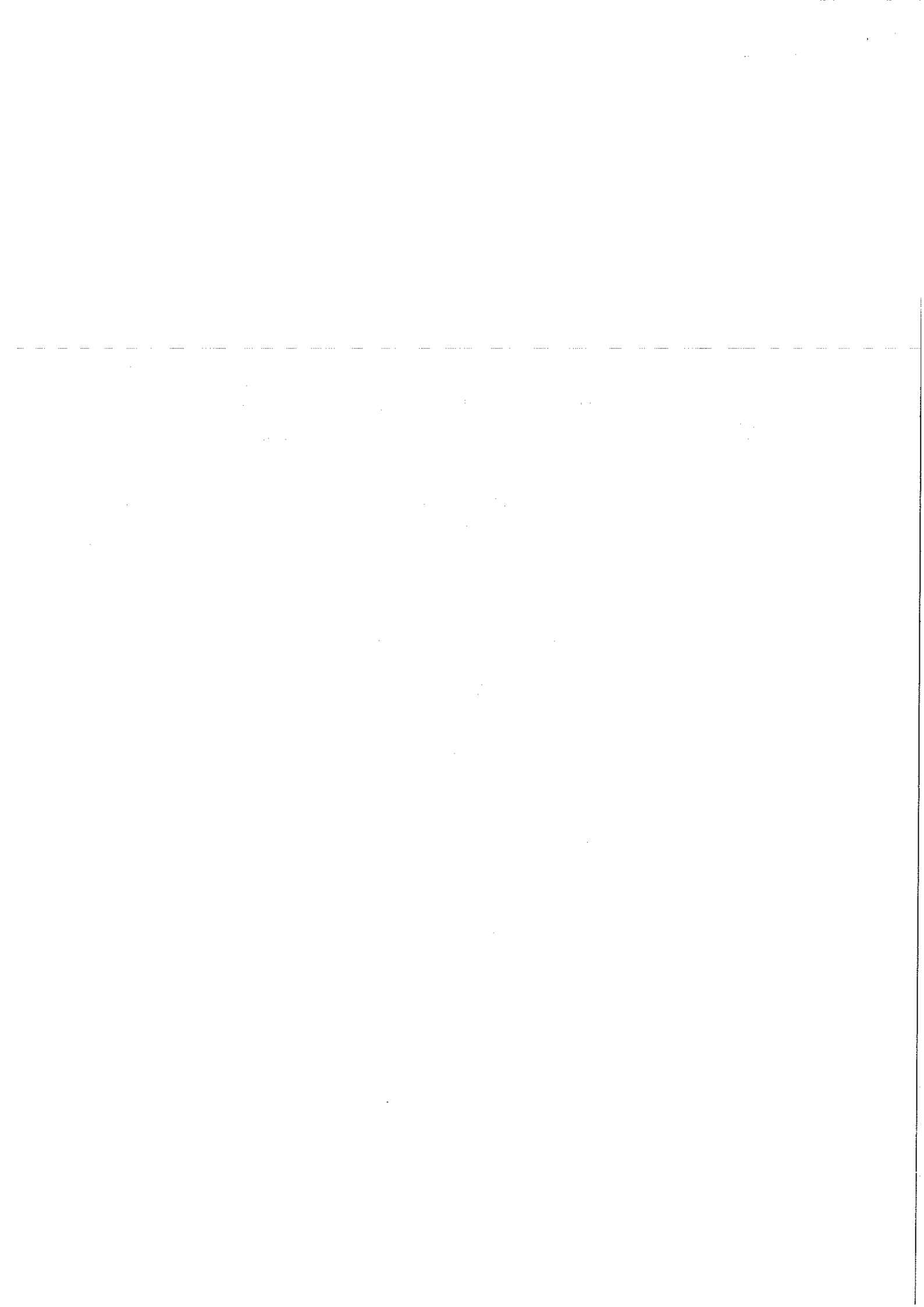
AGREED that follow up workshops should be organised. The organisers to decide where the follow up discussion should be based, either NeSC or UKCRC web sites.

Action: Tony Hoare/Robin Milner

42. Communications Group report

RECEIVED a report by the Chair, Ursula Martin (UKCRC/02-11-06).

NOTED that a policy statement had been developed, as a brief for lobbying. A series of meetings/visits were planned: to government, Research Councils and other organisations. The IEE and BCS had offered the support of their PR Managers, who had been helpful in developing the message.



AGREED that UKCRC events and activities should be clearly branded and reported on the Web pages.

43. **Statistics**

RECEIVED a summary digest of statistics, prepared by Matthew Dixon (UKCRC/02-11-02). This work had been funded by the BCS.

AGREED that all members should provide suggestions of additional material to Matthew. He will prepare a 2-page summary to be used by members who were meeting key people. The international dimension would be useful.

Action: ALL/Matthew Dixon

RECORDED thanks to Matthew Dixon.

44. **PhD case studies/Technology transfer**

RECEIVED a brief for the PhD case studies project (UKCRC/02-11-03).

NOTED that the BCS Knowledge Services Board had approved funding of £5000 to support the publicity of successful PhDs in industry and investigation of long-term research that had led to successful products. The BCS PR mechanism would promote the PhD case studies, so the funds could be used to commission an outline proposal which could be used to seek funding from external organisations, eg OST or EPSRC.

AGREED that the Chair of the Communications Group should seek a researcher to develop 3-4 topics as 2-page briefs by April 2003. Members to suggest suitable products. The PhD case studies should be coordinated by Phil Willis.

Action: Ursula Martin/ALL/Phil Willis

45. **Consultations**

45.1 HEFCE review of RAE

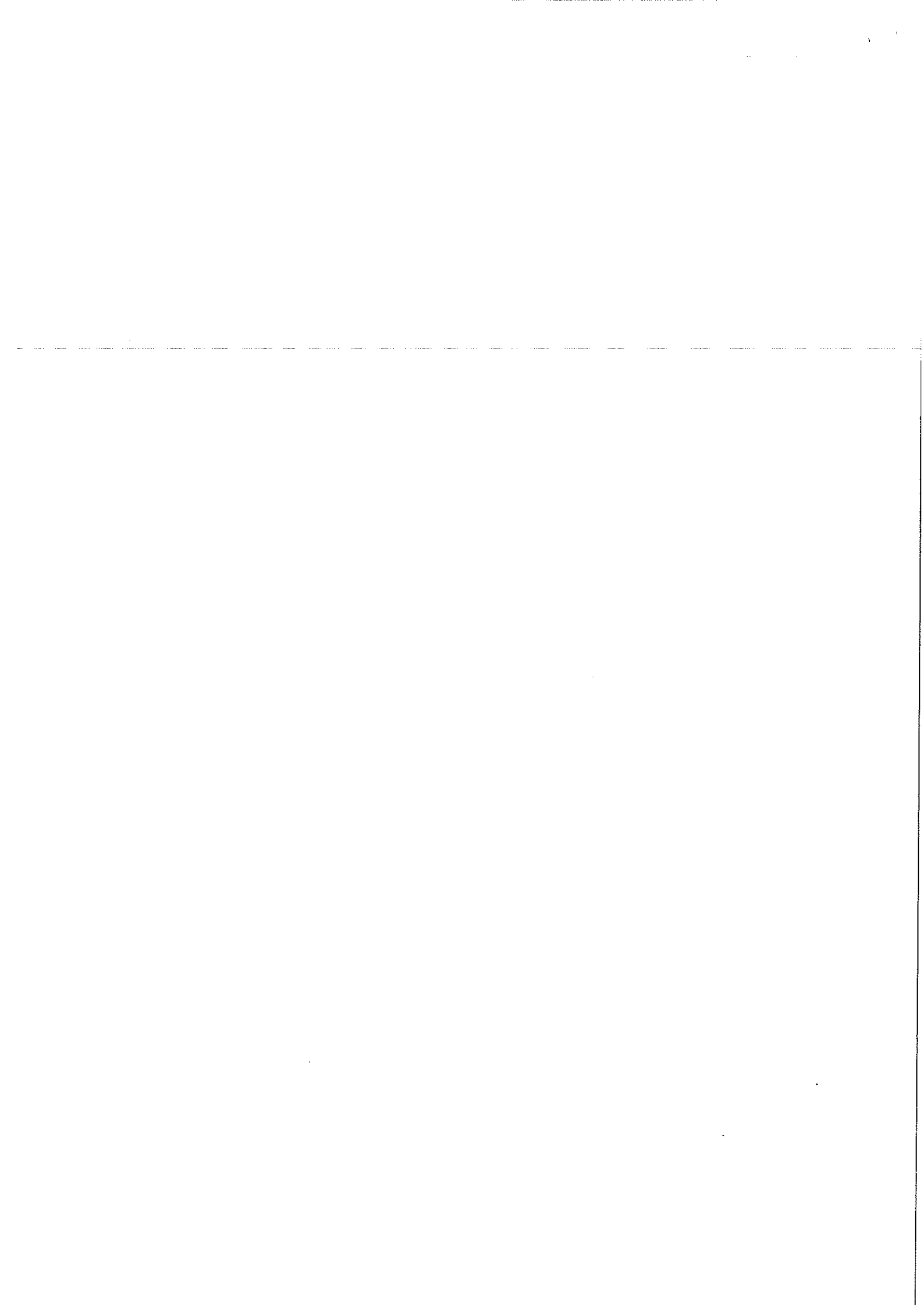
RECEIVED a draft submission, prepared by Muffy Calder and Ian Sommerville (UKCRC/02-11-04) and the submission prepared by the IEE (UKCRC/02-11-6).

NOTED that the approaches taken by the UKCRC and the IEE were conflicting. Muffy had attended a meeting at which Sir Gareth Roberts had invited comments from the community, based on a series of questions, which provided little scope for new thinking, although he was requesting this.

Discussion showed that the views of UKCRC members were also diverse.

AGREED that Muffy should amend the document in the light of comments at the meeting and submit it as the UKCRC submission, concentrating on amendments to the RAE, rather than radical changes. The Convenor to discuss how submissions are coordinated with the IEE in future at his meeting with the new Head of Strategy and the head of Engineering Policy on 11 December.

Secretary's note: the IEE had included an item in its covering memo pointing out that it had a number of Expert Panels which would have separate views, so that the UKCRC was free to make its own submission.



45.2 Foresight

RECEIVED the IEE's proposal to coordinate a project on cyber-trust (UKCRC/02-11-05).

NOTED that Brian Collins and Martyn Thomas were members of the group which had produced this.

45.3 Others

45.3.1 Patentability of software

NOTED that the European union was interested in views on this topic.

AGREED that UKCRC should support the BCS in this area, perhaps offering the help of the Edinburgh IT Law Centre.

45.3.2 DTI R&D

NOTED that the Government were inviting comments on a proposal to open Europe's doors to competition and the UK was likely to say no. The IEE was coordinating a response.

AGREED that Brian Collins should be the UKCRC representative in this.

Action: Brian Collins

46. **Any other business**

46.1 ICANN

NOTED that ICANN may be dissolved.

47. **Next meeting**

AGREED that the next meeting should be held on 2 June 2003 in London.

AB/PW
24.12.2002