

**MPPC General Meeting V**  
**8<sup>th</sup> May 2019**  
**MAPTC/OG/014**  
**15:00 – 16:30**

---

Attendees: Owen McBrien, Rachel Booth, James Gillander, Caitlin Gilchrist-Millar, Mandy Hewitt, Christine Collins, Luke Shingles  
Apologies: Jamie Robinson

Talking points:

1. Upcoming seminars:
    - a. Christine's Jupyter notebooks seminar
      - i. Is the topic fair?
      - ii. Is there anything people want covered in particular?
      - iii. When suits?
    - b. Future events like Cormac Hylands's event, or even a Hack-A-Thon?
  2. Previous seminars:
    - a. Simon's LaTeX seminar:
      - i. Was this useful?
      - ii. Do people use the LaTeX shared document?
    - b. Cormac Hyland's best programming practises seminar:
      - i. Again, was this useful/would people like more of this?
      - ii. How would we change it if we did a pure MPPC event?
      - iii. Is invited industry speakers worthwhile, is doing practical events worthwhile?
  3. Long term planning of MPPC:
    - a. Outreach
    - b. Invited speakers
    - c. Financing events
    - d. Wiki resources and Slack
    - e. I need to find a successor
    - f. Integrating new students in October
      - i. Finding out what they want from MPPC
    - g. Membership from other research groups
- 

## Minutes

- Feedback for Cormac's best programming practises seminar raised by Owen:
  - Owen had a concern that trying to do a lecture, practical session and having an industry speaker is a very compressed schedule for one morning. Future events will either need to cut content or expand on time.
  - Caitlin raised some concern with the transparency of the material expressing a sentiment of concern for entering into the professional software development world.
- Feedback for Simon's LaTeX seminar:
  - The seminar was received positively with useful, applicable material (Mandy, Caitlin, Rachel).

- As of yet, no one in attendance has needed to use the working Overleaf document but many expressed that they will need to.
- Mandy raised the possibility of repeating this tutorial for the benefit of new members once they start in October. The idea being it is pitched just above the new user requirements, so should be optimally accessible.
- Owen suggested workshopping this some time before differentiation for the benefit.
  - Alternative workshop ideas include the common areas like the command line, user environments and python.
  - Mandy expressed that an introduction to bash should be the first thing covered.
- James suggested people keep a log of useful tricks and workarounds they find to help ease processes for other members.
  - Some members do this in some capacity, Mandy urged people keep dummy's guides that can be shared and passed down to future students.
- On the acquiring financing – Mandy has spoken to Francis about this. Apparently, Francis isn't too fussed on throwing some coins our way to pay for coffees to encourage people to attend.
  - If we widen the net to the whole school though, it stops being Francis' issue mentioned James
  - Rachel raised a graduate school program that can secure funding for postgraduate-led initiatives: <http://www.qub.ac.uk/graduate-school/community-connections/postgraduate-led-initiatives/>
  - Further to the graduate school courses, just mingling with other departments and cluster can improve your knowledge and mindset for different aspects of work.
  - This lead to a large discussion on trying to increase participation in the various department-wide activities that aim to get groups to mingle.
- As an actionable item, we would like to plan some welcome/introductory event to attract new members from other groups:
  - We need to obtain funds for this
  - Pick a date
  - Move the wiki into a public domain
  - Advertise
- For upcoming seminars, suggestions are:
  - Jamie Robinson to do a Jupyter tutorial
  - Christine to also do a Jupyter tutorial
  - Luke to do a bash tutorial
- Mandy suggested having an AGM with which we can outline what we are intending to do with programming club for the benefit of new members (e.g. when workshops are, when we would outline the 'power structure' of MPPC etc.)
  - For new members and new PhD students this would be most beneficial in late October/early November.
- Owen raised the broader point of the power structure of MPPC. Owing to the temporary nature of a PhD, we need to think about how to pass the 'leadership' roles around to new members (who does admin, who does finance, who does outreach, who books rooms etc.)
  - Perhaps a topic for the AGM