

Future of HPC Champions

Summary of responses to Slido Polls, Birmingham on 5/9/18

What scope should Champions cover?

Tier 1 and Tier 2

10%

All academic HPC systems

40%

All HPC Systems

50%

No reason for it to continue

0%

[In the discussion, it was generally agreed that everyone was welcome, though the focus should naturally be on systems that provide general access.]

What topics would encourage you to come to Champions?

- Links with RSE
- Get systems people along
- Success stories, failures and lessons learnt on getting users engaged with HPC and RSE services.
- sharing
- New technologies for training
- Building a network
- frustrations
- Failures and gotchas
- How to get different communities onto hpc
- failure experiences
- data issues e.g. end of project - experiences, best practice
- Parallel io
- data management
- Information on what other rses are doing
- coherent and / or coordinated user support channel-building (to ensure I can point my researchers and users at the minimum number of 'points

of contact' that will help them quickly and reliably to identify which services are best matched to their needs)

- Measuring impact
- Sharing experience
- Beer
- Learning how to use profiling
- debugging mpi programs
- training
- training community technical
- Discover how others are approaching similar problems as you. News about new technologies. Community
- accessibility
- community
- Booze
- training
- New HPC user groups
- Training
- WIP
- real life experience using HPC, particularly problems
- access information outreach opportunities / experiences short technical experience talks balances with more "soft" topics - e.g. diversity
- containerisation
- Technical networking/community building future of hpc
- National community best practice training
- Benchmarking
- Local community events (day travel distance)
- profilers
- tutorials and workshops
- Improvements, training
- Performance and scalability
- Planning events/training
- End of project strategies... what do we do with 20TB of data on ARCHER/tier 2/.... ?
- how to best support users

- - Works in progress - Failed experiments /dead ends
- Debate re HPC-oriented software stack managers (Spack, EasyBuild, Nix etc)
- Access mechanisms
- community
- Diversity in HPC
- Updates on new techniques and technologies in HPC
- Tools & utility training events

Any other thoughts/suggestions on the future of Champions?

- Make info on how to join the mailing list on the website
- I like the idea of a broad/inclusive list of "HPC Champions", but should there also be a stated subset of the list specifying the people who would have experience of helping researchers get onto Tier-1/Tier-2 facilities.
- Do we need a mailing list?
- Should we have regular virtual open desk sessions where champions can turn up with questions/queries?
- Who is the contact for each system. Add affiliation to list of champions
- A HPC Champions info pack with the basic info you need
- Access to the national Tier2/tier1 systems is I can get experience with them
- Should the list of champions going forward be hosted on the Archer website?
- A way to get help with local events. E.g. can someone help me with a local outreach/training event involving HPC
- Apply for network funding to support HPC champions network
- Provide short info (bios) of relevant people to identify them
- Does HPC include optimising on your laptop?
- some way to know who is involved in the community and where they are based?
- Joint projects across the UK to benefit the wider hoc community
- How do I compile code X which has dependency hell
- Focus on training local HPC users to "upgrade" to Tiers, Tier1.
- Purpose defined broadly so that it's easy to justify travel funding!

- How to participate when not associated with a Tier 1/2 cluster?
- How to run remote training
- Re-use well-established comms channels if possible (rather than create new ones) for profile/visibility.
- lightning talks located across different sites in the UK short interactive sessions short tutorial sessions RSE conference links
- User Handholding
- Colocation with other events
- Online community / forum for discussions
- should start first with slack channel :)
- Stay diverse -- RSEs but also support etc
- Regular local events, annual regional events
- Regular champions workshops training workshops hpc symposium
- Pool of people to talk at local events
- Technical sessions
- should be called HPC Champions. with frequent meetups.
- "Champions" should be more than just the meetings
- slack ways to communicate quickly with network
- Slidi
- Lightning talks! Wooo
- Discussion sessions
- Available for centres to host their own
- Interaction with industry
- Lightning talks
- Frequent, local meetups
- funding?
- Alongside RSE conference
- Linked to current events