

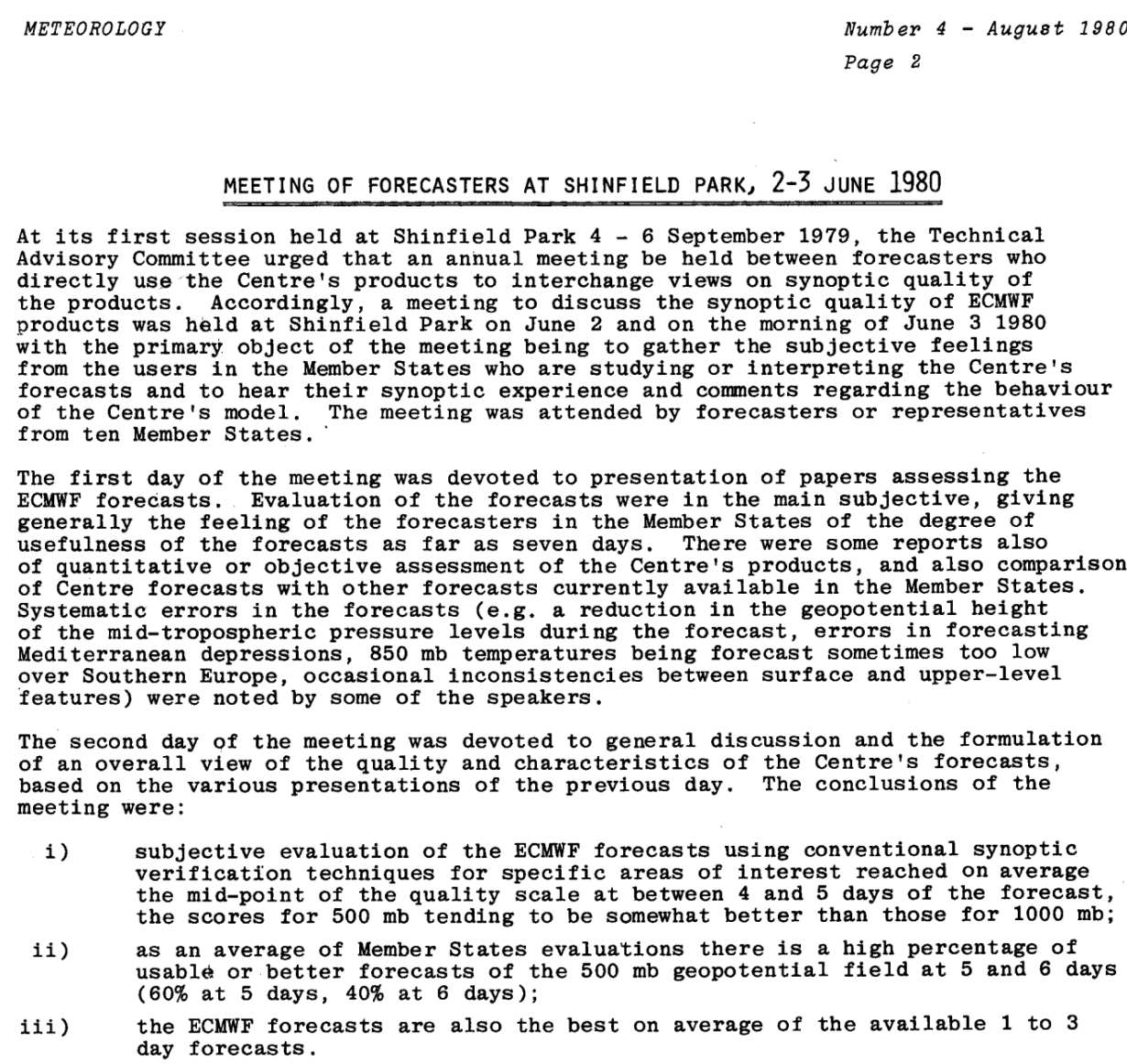
Using ECMWF Forecasts (UEF) meetings: Through the years

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1980 – mid 1990s

ECMWF has engaged with its forecast users during its entire history with the first ‘Meeting of Forecasters’ held at Shinfield Park in June 1980. This was reported in ECMWF Newsletter No 4, Summer 1980, (see right) along with an explanation that the “*Technical Advisory Committee urged that an annual meeting be held between forecasters who directly use the Centre’s products to interchange views on synoptic quality of the products*”. Meetings with ECMWF forecast users have been annual events ever since. They have evolved through the years, but the premise remains the same, a meeting to discuss ECMWF forecasts with operational forecasters and other forecast users.



Mid 1990s - 2013



Forecast Products User's Meeting from 2007 (with some familiar faces!)

In the mid 1990's, ‘Medium Range Forecasts’ Users meetings’ and ‘Seasonal Forecasting Users meetings’ can be seen as annual two-day meetings in ECMWF’s calendar of events.

In 2004, these meetings evolved into a three-day ‘Forecast Products Users’ meeting’. An ECMWF Newsletter (No. 112) article describes the 2007 meeting as welcoming 45 attendees from National Meteorological Services and commercial users with major developments presented including the VarEPS system, extended the medium-range forecast to 15 days and a new version of the seasonal forecast. The 2013 meeting was the first themed meeting on ‘Working together to address weather forecasting challenges’ and lead the way for the now themed UEF events.

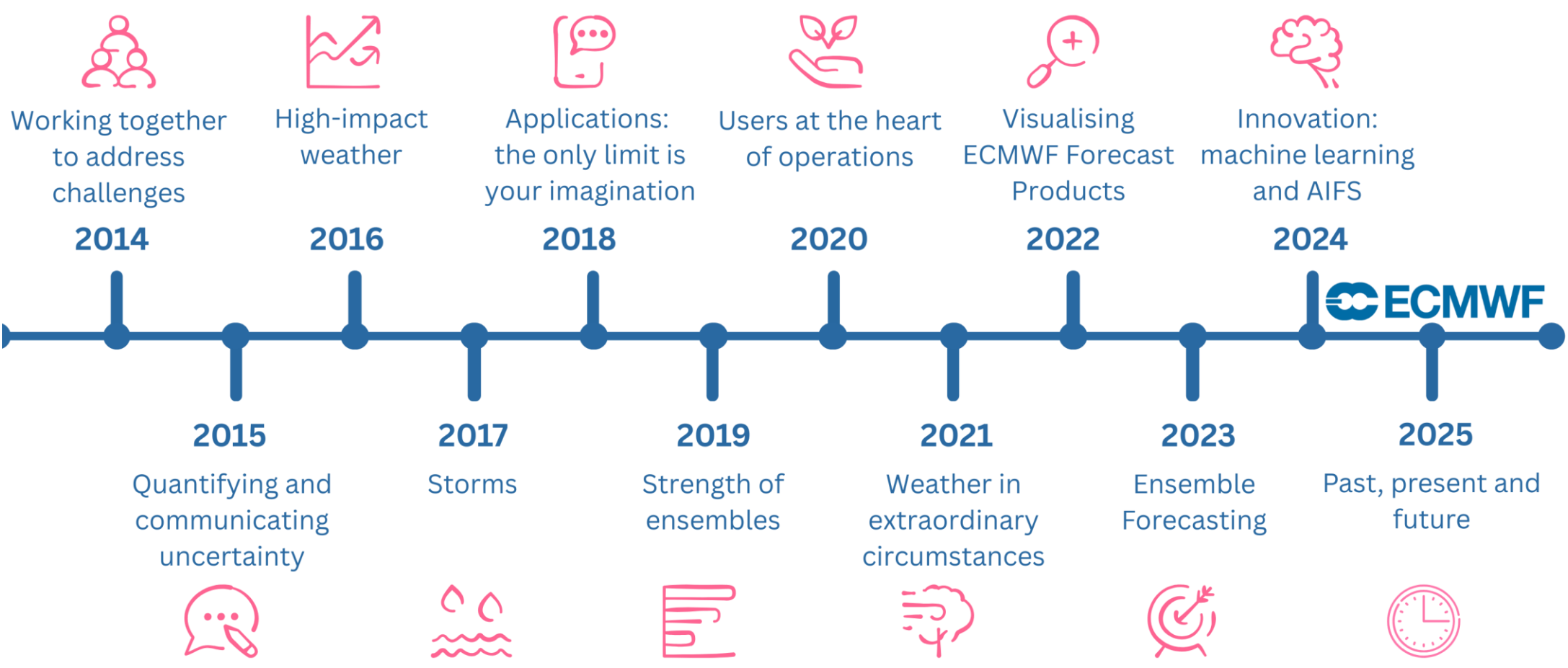
2014 onwards



The first Using ECMWF’s Forecasts (UEF) meeting was held in 2014. In 2020, the first fully online UEF was held, with 2021 and 2024 also being fully online. Since 2022, all UEFs have been hybrid, welcoming participation in-person and online. The 2022 edition was followed by a successful hackathon on the same theme of Visualising Meteorological Data. The 2025 meeting was held in Bologna as part of the ECMWF 50th Anniversary events.

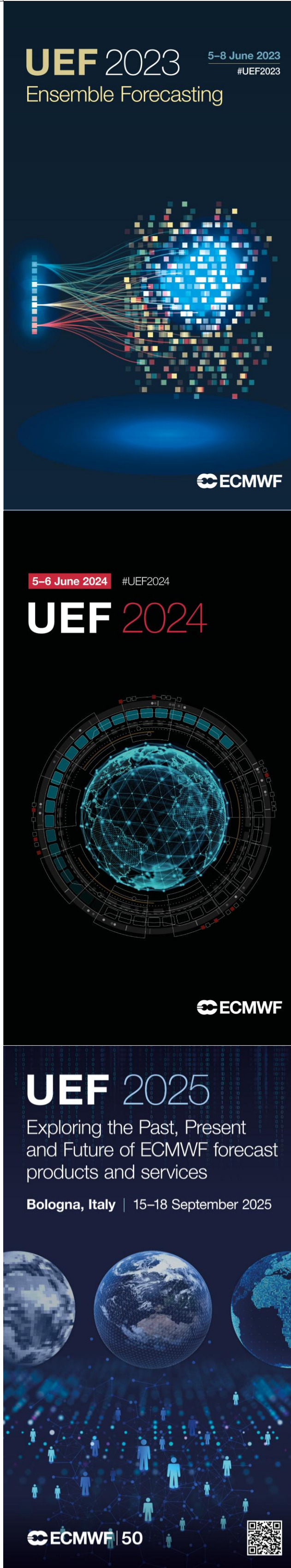
Each UEF has a theme around which presentations and sessions are focused, meetings comprise of many elements:

- Abstract submissions with oral or poster presentations from forecast users
- Keynote speakers and invited presentations
- ECMWF updates from ECMWF staff
- Interactive sessions, like ‘Weather Stations’ in 2025, ‘Ensemble discussions’ in 2023, ‘Product Visualisation’ in 2022 and ‘Science and Art’ in 2019
- User Voice Corner discussing forecast products and services feedback
- Speakers Corner introducing new and updated forecast products



UEF events are open to all ECMWF forecast users from around the world and provide opportunities to connect with ECMWF staff and fellow users to share experiences and network. They typically attract ~100 external attendees from over 40 countries.

While the meeting itself has evolved through time, the aim of UEF meetings remains timeless “*a forum for ECMWF forecast users to exchange ideas, share experiences, and discuss the use and performance of ECMWF’s forecasts and related products.*” with meetings being an important part of the ECMWF forecast user calendar.



Future

UEF2026 will be held on 1-4 June 2026 at ECMWF, Shinfield Park, Reading
How should UEF evolve in the future? Ideas and suggestions to becky.hemingway@ecmwf.int