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BCS Chester and North Wales Branch

AGM – 17th November 2015, 7.30pm

Cedar House, Chester Zoo, Caughall Rd, CH2 1LH

MINUTES

1. WELCOME

Chair – Garfield Southall
Secretary – Paul D Murphy
Treasurer – Karen Vickers

Attendees:
John Bond, Carol Crump, Stuart Cunningham, Susan Davies, Kate Fletcher,
Stanley Foxhall, Tony Friis, Andrew Gilbert, Neil Gould, Vic Grout, Gareth Jones,
Martin King, Elizabeth Jones, John Kewley, Thomas Lea, Stuart McNeil,
John Milnes, David Neave, Robert O'Neil, Alison Povall, Les Pritchard,
Keith Richardson, Shaun Roberts, David Robinson, Charles Ryder,
Helen Searle Jones, Susan Shepherd, Andrew Smith, Zed Spencer-Milnes,
David Wild, Nigel Williams, David Williamson, Ruth Windon, John Zlosnik

2. APOLOGIES

Received from: Sallyann Cosey, Shelagh Griffith, Martin Kendall, Andy Kinseley,
David O'Callaghan, Peter Pugh, Doug Silk, Eduardo Vega

3. MINUTES OF LAST AGM

Approved at Committee Meeting in February 2015.

4. MATTERS ARISING

N/A

5. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair began by asking the question –
What do you want from this branch of the BCS?
He reflected on the following:
- The new BCS CEO has the mantra – 'Making IT good for Society'.
- We need to consider how the branch best engages with the local community.
- What messages should we be sending out?
- The government has announced the need for 50,000 new Cybersecurity professionals – how can this be achieved ?
- Cybersecurity affects a huge age range, from kids to senior citizens.

Contributions from the floor:
- John Kewley observed that the BCS was initially set up as a learned society; emphasis on learning, but also need to consider what BCS should be doing for society in general.
- Martin King stated that he had made an initial approach to the BCS for mentoring; the upshot of his enquiries being that he found himself offering mentoring!

The chair observed that there were no real professional qualifications that the BCS could offer to emulate, say, apprenticeships in trades. Microsoft and similar qualifications offer proprietorial, as opposed to core skills. They are by nature closed (focusing on IT), as opposed to addressing wider community issues.
- The role of Social Media was raised, creating virtual communities and capturing the younger audience.
- It was observed that the Shropshire branch used Twitter, adding value to discussion of issues.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

Formal EOY accounts not yet released.
Summary of Accounts:
2014/2015:
    Underspend (£540 from budget of £1906) - being over frugal?
    The £540 spend comprised:
        Student Prizes 2x£150
        Room Hire £134.01
        Catering £105.87
    Two big events were in planning but didn't get any further
2015/2016:
    Lower budget of £1290 (supplementary funding can be applied for)
    Current spend of £550:
        Student Prizes 2x£150
        This AGM £250
    Leaving a balance of £740

7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The three Account Signatories:

Two current signatories chose to stand down:-

Paul Murphy from being Secretary, freeing up time to focus on, and to re-energise, branch events.

Karen Vickers from being Treasurer, freeing up time towards achieving key career milestones and accreditation in Information Security. Looking to obtain CISM (Certified Information Security Manager) and CISSP(Certified Information Systems Security Professional) qualifications.

The committee elected for the coming year is as follows:-

Chair – Garfield Southall (unanimously re-elected)
Vice Chair - Helen Searle Jones (unanimously re-elected)
Treasurer – Keith Richardson (proposed Shaun Roberts, seconded Les Pritchard, unanimously elected)
Secretary – John Zlosnik (proposed Zed Spencer-Milnes, seconded Keith Richardson, unanimously elected)

KR is a Director of NHS Consulting, and is currently studying for a doctorate in Business Administration.
JZ is retired; career covered a range of practitioner, consultancy and teaching roles in IT.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

… formal business of AGM was closed …

9. GUEST PRESENTATION

"The Islands Project", Martin King (Head of IT at Chester Zoo)

Martin spoke about the full story behind the IT involvement on Islands at Chester Zoo. How 4 years of planning, problem-solving, long nights, early starts, pizza deliveries to building site entrances and teamwork shaped the experience that all the guests feel, touch, hear and smell through Islands.

This was an excellent presentation, giving an informative insight into the challenges of providing complex IT infrastructure to underpin an innovative, multidisciplinary project in a 'living' zoo environment. As IT manager, Martin was an integral member of the project planning team, and was involved in the creative aspects of the project throughout.