

Chair's Annual Report 2009/2010

As in previous years, I would like to thank the continuing support of our sponsor - 'The Training Foundry' at Sheffield Hallam University for their support throughout the year, in providing a venue both for many of our public and committee meetings.

Our policy is to deliver all our communications to members via e-mail and through our website: <http://sy.bcs.org> and we also started to use social networking to communicate with groups set up on facebook[®] and linked-in[®]. I would encourage you to ensure that the BCS HQ has an active email address for you.

Annual Student Prizes

We continue to award the annual "Eliot Chiat" student prize, named after our long serving branch Secretary who died in January 2003, to a second year single honours student in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Sheffield. This it was awarded to **Mark Warburton** on the MComp course. We also awarded a prize to **Bobby Turner** for best performance in professional development on a computing undergraduate course at Sheffield Hallam University.

Due to a change in the financial reporting calendar at BCS HQ this AGM is for the last 18 months, from now on will be every 12 months in October.

The Branch Committee

This is my first year as branch Chair and I am offering myself up for re-election this year.

I would like to extend my thanks to the branch committee for its support and effort during the past year – without their help and support none of the nine events we have held would have been possible.

I would also like to formally thank **Nick Dibben** who is stepping down as branch secretary this year, Nick has held most committee posts over the 20 years of service to the BCS in South Yorkshire and we will miss his active contribution to the committee. We presented Nick with a BCS Certificate of Appreciation at his last committee meeting in May.

Louise Webb (ex-chair) has offered to be elected as the next branch secretary and I appreciate her support. My thanks also go to **Martin Beer**, our treasurer who ensures that all the bills are paid, we stay within budget and deals with the BCS's finance department.

Our branch committee is vital to planning and organising our events, if you would like to be part of the committee and can spare 1 hour an month for an evening meeting in Sheffield you would be welcome.

We have welcomed one new committee member since the last AGM, in **Rukhsar Shafiq** and he is standing for election at this AGM.

If you are interested in joining the committee please contact us via the web site or at any of our meetings.

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Updated rebranded web site

As the BCS rebranded earlier in the year this meant a significant change to our local web site and I would like to thank **Chris Gray** and **Gavin Whitelaw** for the time and effort in making the necessary changes. Our website can be found at <http://sy.bcs.org>

It continues to be the source of information regarding upcoming events, and where you register to attend meetings.

2009 -2010 Events Programme

During the past year we have successfully held eight monthly events and had on average at least fifty people attend these events. Two of these events were shared with other groups, Project Management presentation with the BCS Proms-G project management specialist group. The South Yorkshire Broadband digital region presentation was a shared event with the IET.

We also joined with our friends in the BCS West Yorkshire branch and organised a trip for twenty three South Yorkshire members to the National Code Centre at Bletchley Park.

2010 – 2011 Events Programme

We normally hold our events on the third Thursday in the month, starting after the AGM this evening on Thursday 21st October 2010, except December when it is a week early (9th). Our final event of this programme will be in May 2011.

Anyone who wishes a topic to be included please contact us via our web site, or a committee member at a meeting.

All details of the programme will be available through the branch web-site: <http://sy.bcs.org> and via email to the branch list. Please register if you are coming to a meeting via the web site at least a week before the meeting date so we can ensure we cater for the right number of attendees.

I hope you enjoy the programme in the coming year and look forward to seeing you at our events.



Steve Hartley MBCS CITP