BCS South Yorkshire Branch
Chair's Annual Report 2016
20 October 2016

Introduction

A warm welcome to all BCS South Yorkshire Branch members from myself, Chris Gray, as part of the Branch AGM Chair's Report. 2015 – 2016 has been my first year as Chair and I would like to thank the committee, members, speakers, attendees and Sheffield Hallam University for another successful year for the branch.

Branch Committee

As always thanks goes out to all the committee for helping to run the branch and organise the Events Programme. In particular, thanks go to Martin Beer and Lucian Tipi have continued their roles as treasurer and secretary respectively, key office roles required for the South Yorkshire branch to operate.

Gavin Whitelaw, Andrew Shaw, Eva Barabas, Colin Smythe and Colin Brooks form the rest of the active committee providing support including YPG, Email Communications and Website Administration.

The branch committee is vital to planning and organising our events, and for the continuing operation of the branch. We are always looking out for new members with new ideas for how to improve the branch and organise events to represent the IT community. Anyone interested in joining the committee, or helping out in any other capacity, are welcome to speak with us at any event.

Branch Communications

The Branch Website[i] continues to be the main source of information for upcoming events, event registration and contacting the Branch. In 2016-2017 we are looking a updating the site to bring it up to date with the main BCS website to allow us to provide more regular updates and communications. We are also looking at how we can use LinkedIn to support the website and email communications.

Branch Supported Events: Steelcon and Tech for Troops

This year saw the BCS South Yorkshire branch sponsor both Kids Tracks (ages 4-9 and 10+) at Steelcon[ii], Sheffield's Security Conference, for the third time. The Kids Track provided the equipment and workshops for the attendees to be introduced to the world of IT and supporting BCS's Computing at School programme[iii].

The Branch also supported for the first time Tech for Troops[iv], a day aimed specifically at ex-Armed Forces personnel who are considering a career in cyber security, and aims to tackle the UK's deficit of cyber security professionals, by tapping into the ex-military talent pool.

2015-2016 Events Programme

During the past year we have successfully held eight monthly events with average attendance of 20 people. Events are typically held on the third Thursday of each month between October and May,

with the last year seeing events including Windows 10, Digital Crime, Cyber Campuses and a Science Week showcase.

2016 - 2017 Events Programme

As we start the 2016 – 2017 year we hope the events will provide networking, learning and discussion opportunities across IT topics for all members, with a number of events already lined up[v].

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. The prize will be awarded at the start of the 2016 – 2017 Events Programme.

Volunteers and Speakers

We ae always looking for volunteers to help run the branch and speakers for events, and invite any members interested in reach out to us[vi].

Thanks,
Chris Gray
BCS South Yorkshire Branch Chair

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[i] http://sy.bcs.org
[ii] https://www.steelcon.info/
[iii] http://www.computingatschool.org.uk
[iv] http://www4.shu.ac.uk/mediacentre/technology-training-ex-troops-looks-inspire
[v] http://sy.bcs.org/index.php?c=events
[vi] http://sy.bcs.org/index.php?c=contact