bcs **Consultancy Specialist Group**

Chair's Annual Report 2023

Overview

This report covers the period from October 2022 to end September 2023.

About the BCS Consultancy Specialist Group

The Consultancy SG is the 3rd largest Specialist Groups within the BCS. Our aim is to debate, encourage and promote the practice of 'Professionalism in IT consultancy' and to help our members develop their knowledge and consultancy competencies and skills. Additionally, through liaison with academic and other professional institutions the Consultancy SG helps to develop best practice within the consulting profession. Membership is open to all BCS members who are interested in consultancy whether they are sole practitioners, employed by large or small consultancy practices or are internal consultants within organisations in the private and public sectors; there is no additional annual membership fee. Events and on-demand videos are available to non-members (BCS event supporters) too.

Membership

The Consultancy SG is the 3rd largest Specialist Group within the BCS with 1,901 members, closely following to the 2nd largest (PROMS-G) by a few tens of members, and far bigger than the rest. Nevertheless, we are seeing our membership slowly decreasing year after year. It is worth noting that that from the 52,605 members from BCS, there are 40,563 with no specialist group. We want committee members to reflect on the barriers that members may find to join this or any other Specialist Group.
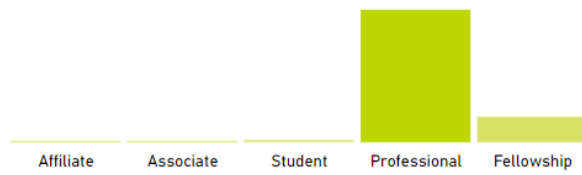

Primary branch allocation based on postcode entered in membership sign-up.

Clearly, the SG has attracted a membership that is senior in membership grade, well advanced in their careers and mainly male.
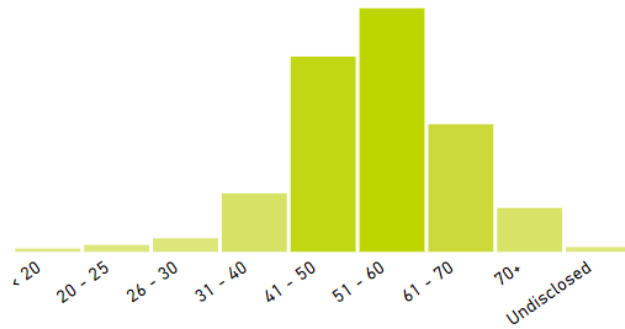
Grade	Member Count
Affiliate	16
Associate	<10
Student	27
Professional	1,552
Fellowship	298
Total	**1,901**

Grade Distribution

Age Range	Member Count
< 20	<10
20 – 25	19
26 – 30	37
31 – 40	160
41 – 50	534
51 – 60	666
61 – 70	349
70+	120
Undisclosed	13
Total	**1,901**

Age Range Distribution

Gender	Member Count
Female	173
Male	1,564
Undisclosed	164
Total	**1,901**

Gender Distribution
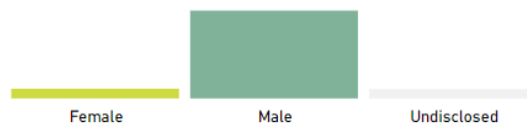
Most of the SG members (1704) are in the UK with over 697 in Greater London.
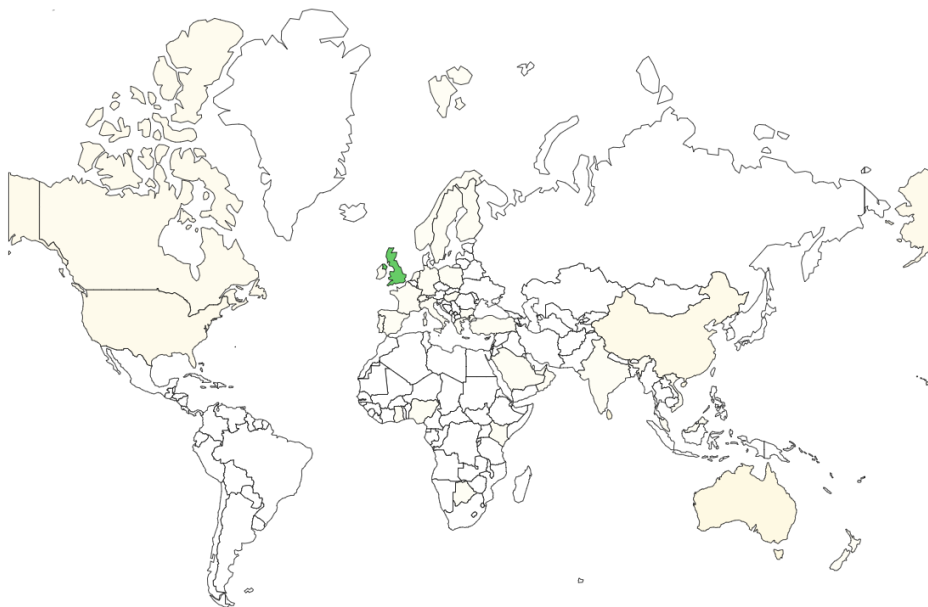
Opportunities clearly exist to grow further by attracting those audiences in the IT consultancy industry that are currently under-represented. Diversity has also been a focus within the SG, promoting female leaders within our events. Efforts via social media to attract a more international audience have also

begun with non-members now attending our webinars in small numbers from overseas. Furthermore, we have invited to few speakers to virtual/hybrid events from outside of the UK.

Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Programme

We have met our target for this year of 8 CPD events. They range on a variety of contemporary topics. All speakers were from the consulting industry. We have fully implemented a successful hybrid approach. However, physical attendance has not been a great as before Covid 19. All webinars became available as on-demand recordings on the BCS YouTube Channel.

Date	Titel	Speakers
26 Sep, 6:30pm	Hybrid event: Navigating the AI Revolution: A New Era for Consultancy and Business Change	Gary Lloyd, Martin White, Paul Taylor
11 May, 6:30pm	Hybrid event: Female Leadership in Consultancy	Andrea Palmer, Jo Stansfield, Tricia Phillips, Rebecca George.
20 Apr, 6:30pm	Workarounds – their impact and consequences - Consultancy SG	Martin White
2 Mar, 6:30pm	Hybrid event: Contractual issues in consulting engagements - Consultancy SG	Dr Sam De Silva and Lili Elenoglou (CMS)
2 Feb, 6:30pm	Hybrid event: President Mayank Prakash talks: Scalable digital transformation	President Mayank Prakash
10 Nov, 6:30pm	Webinar: How to fund the growth of your IT or consultancy business	Sam Simpson
20 Oct, 6:30pm	Webinar: Management consulting excellence	Nick Bush
6 Oct, 6:45pm	Hybrid event: An introduction for consultants to cloud security	David Pool and Barry Turner

Committee Meetings

Three committee meetings (plus the AGM) were held during the year.

Date	Meeting
Tue 31 Jan 2023	Committee Meeting
Tue 23rd May 2023	Committee Meeting
Tue 5th Sep 2023	Committee Meeting
Thu 26th Oct 2022	Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Committee Finances & Governance

Dr Alan Warr has taken the mantle as Treasurer of the Group. Alan will elaborate further about the healthy finances from the group in the Treasurer's report. Most of the expenditure has been incurred by BCS Groups and the London office as they take care of the venue, catering and Zoom licences. The Chair would like to acknowledge the contributions of Alan as Treasurer in securing the financial support for the SG, continuing to keep the SG in good financial order.

Processes & Platforms

The Chair wants to acknowledge this year again the efforts from Simon Wallace on the editing of the videos and the fantastic work on media coverage. Simon's work on video editing has allowed us to continue with a very slick operation with videos of events becoming available as on-demand webinars within a few days and with high quality. Furthermore, his help on media coverage and event presentation are undoubtedly of great value for the SG.

Committee Members

Our SG has been able to grow our committee with a few great new additions. We are fortunate to have a small, dedicated set of Committee Members who have all contributed significantly throughout the year. We have identified the need for better diversity. Therefore, we want to make an effort to target women and minority groups for new committee members. We want to thank to our new Inclusion Officer, Ade Akande, for his observations and suggestions.

Committee members:
- Terence Freeman
- Amit Modhvadia
- Colin Pearson
- Simon Wallace (Early Career Advocate)
- Ade Akande (Inclusion Officer)
- Oladipupo Sulaiman (Secretary and Industry Liaison)
- Alan Warr (Treasurer)
- Antonio Hidalgo-Landa (Chair)

The Committee put out a call for further volunteers to serve on the Committee at the end of last year and will do so again this year. This year, the call will be targeted to a female audience and to minority groups. The potential to expand the work of the SG is being constrained by the small Committee. The aspiration is therefore to grow the size of the Committee if we can.

Contributions from BCS Full-Time Officers

The Chair would like to acknowledge with gratitude the contribution of the BCS staff Mandy Bauer who superbly supported the Consultancy SG throughout the year, along with the many other staff who contributed in numerous ways.

Contributions from Industry Speakers

The Chair needs to recognise with thanks the contributions of our many speakers from industry, who selflessly give their time, expertise, and engagement to the two events programmes.

Working with Other Community Groups

During the year, the SG had joint events with the BCSWomen SG and Business Change SG.

Working with the Consulting Industry

We planned to engage more with the larger IT and management consultancies and some progress was made with speakers from large IT firms and from one of the big-5 consultancies complementing our traditional core support from solo, boutique and medium sized consultancies.

Roadmap of Developments for the Coming Year

The following **continuous improvement opportunities** are planned:

Physical/Hybrid events – in concert with the rest of the BCS we are presenting our events to hybrid physical and on-line events at the central London BCS conference centre.

CPD Programme – We will continue to budget for 8 events as our target for the coming year. We are developing several joint panel events with other groups (BCSWomen, Business Change and IT Leaders, and we aim to make some of them recurrent panel discussions.

External Liaison – Our focus remains on engaging with the large IT consulting firms in the UK.

Antonio Hidalgo-Landa CITP MBCS
As Chair of the BCS Consultancy Specialist Group
19th September 2023