

## Specialist Group in Software Testing

### Chair's Report – September 2011

The SIGIST has had another excellent year with varied and interesting speakers continuing to attract a healthy mix of new faces and existing members. Feedback from our members attending the events has been nearly all positive, and we have stayed with the structure and format of the day being a mix of speakers, networking sessions, book reviews and vendor exhibitions, although we did decide to temporarily drop the parallel workshops until our numbers increase (presumably as the recessions recedes). Keynote speakers of international renown have continued to be popular. Many thanks go to Graham Thomas, (our Programme Secretary until March), Bernard Melson (our Programme Secretary since March), and Mo Shannon, the Deputy Programme Secretary, for persuading such excellent speakers to present at the events.

We are still happily ensconced at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG), which has proved an excellent venue with a purpose-built conference centre and state-of-the-art facilities – and at a reasonable cost for its excellent location. We have already booked this venue for next year.

The fees for attending meetings have remained constant this year with fees for BCS members to attend meetings remaining at £100. BCS rules mean that we have to charge more for non-members, and so the cost of attendance for non-members is £110. As always, we hope to encourage increasing audiences despite the economic situation and are looking to have more success with vendors. Last year we broke even financially (as required by the BCS) and were even able to pass some surplus back; this has been largely due to a carefully aligned marketing strategy managed by Martin Adcock. We have no plans to increase fees in the next year, but will revisit the finances regularly as we always do.

Our magazine, 'The Tester', has continued in its purely soft format, downloadable from our website ([www.sigist.org.uk](http://www.sigist.org.uk)); thanks go to both Matt Archer and Phil Isles for all the work they put into creating this publication.

We rely on feedback from our members and attendees at our conferences and are very keen to hear and act on what you have to say. We particularly welcome your views on how we might increase attendance and want to understand from you why you do or do not decide to attend particular events. Please do not hesitate to speak to any committee member or complete comments on your conference evaluation forms (or use the website) to pass on your comments and suggestions. If you have anything to say to the attendees at a conference then Jennifer Lumley, our Network Coordinator, ably manages the networking at this level.

## BCS – Specialist Group in Software Testing

In the forthcoming year we shall continue to try and fulfil the mission of the SIG, which is to be a “leading forum for promoting excellence in systems and software testing”. We shall primarily do this, as before, by running a series of four one-day conferences, but we also intend to continue our support of the work being done on software testing standards, which is now at the level of worldwide ISO standards (see the Standards Working Party Report for more details).

The SIGIST is run on a voluntary basis by its committee members, some of whom have already been mentioned, but the contribution of Geoff Thompson as Vice Chair (who does much of the day-to-day management and is also the Treasurer) warrants a special expression of praise for this last year’s work. Assisting us we have administrative support from the BCS, and I would especially like to thank Gemma Stanley-Evill for all the hard work she puts in both behind the scenes and running the actual events.

Finally, I would like to wish Mike Bartley, who manages our Social Media activities, and Mohinder Khosla for their continuing enthusiasm on the committee.

*Stuart Reid*

Testing Solutions Group  
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