

BCS - The Chartered Institute for IT
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the 2024/25 Session
of the South Wales Branch
18:15 Thursday 2nd October 2025
University of Wales Trinity Saint David
DRAFT

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Andy Bellamy, the branch Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting, then outlined the approach to this in person Annual General Meeting (AGM).

John Tucker and Jonathan Ayodele had sent their apologies.

2. Minutes of the Previous AGM

TBC are available on our BCS branch [web page](#).

3. Chair's report

The BCS Wales Hub is entering a new chapter, focused on enhancing digital professionalism and genuine collaboration across Wales. Five strategic priorities were introduced: raising standards, growing local talent, impactful leadership in tech innovation, inclusive disruption of tradition, and shared responsibility in addressing digital risks. These priorities guide all activities, projects, and advocacy within the Hub.

The committee for 2024-2025 was introduced, bringing together leaders from higher education, industry, and the public sector. Recently, Jonny Sammut, Director of Digital at the Welsh Ambulance Service, was appointed as the new Chair, reinforcing the Hub's commitment to social, economic, and public benefit in Wales.

Annual meetings provide all members opportunities to participate. Committee meetings typically occur monthly, themed around ongoing projects and current priorities. Information about committee roles and contact details is provided for members who wish to attend or get involved. The Hub continues to recruit volunteers for various initiatives, including co-designing the next phase of its work.

3.1. Special Projects

BCS Wales Hub

The BCS Wales Hub is committed to fostering genuine, practical collaboration across Wales, with a mission to bring IT professionalism for social, economic, and public benefit.

The Hub's direction is shaped by five clear priorities:

- **Raise the Bar:** Wales aspires to lead in digital professionalism, setting high standards, promoting chartered status, and embedding ethical practices across all sectors.
- **Grow Our Own:** The Hub is building a 'Next Gen' pipeline, nurturing talent through a consistent digital journey from coding clubs to advanced digital leadership, with an explicit aim to retain talent in Wales.
- **Lead with Impact:** The Hub aims to be a safe, inclusive sandbox for exploring emerging technology, from AI to automation, always emphasizing ethical innovation.
- **Break the Mould:** Members are encouraged to challenge old norms and empower unheard voices, promoting constructive disruption and positive change.
- **Acknowledge Risk, Own Responsibility:** There is a focus on facing digital exclusion, fragmented standards, and underused talent directly, with leadership emphasizing clarity, transparency, and collective effort.

3.1.1. Branch Website and Social Media

Jonny Sammut, Director of Digital at the Welsh Ambulance Service, was recently appointed as the new Chair of the BCS Wales Hub. The Hub is also working with BCS's Head of Community, Jon Jeffrey, to better understand membership needs across Wales and to refresh its Terms of Reference for the next phase of growth.

Members are encouraged to get involved early in this new phase, especially in co-designing future directions. Volunteers interested in shaping these plans are welcome to contact the Hub leadership team.

4. Vice Chairs Report– STEM Project

The Vice Chair's report highlighted the ongoing STEM Project, emphasizing the branch's commitment to promoting STEM subjects across Wales. Volunteers collaborate with BCS and See Science to motivate young people and help build a future-ready workforce equipped with essential skills. The group's main activities revolve around robotics, using Lego-built robots for demonstrations and educational outreach. They have created lesson plans for teaching robotics, which are available as resources to teachers, and regularly deliver presentations to schools, aligning with their curricula. The team also works closely with companies involved in robotics, and organizes exhibitions at science fairs and other major events.

Additionally, the group has played a significant role in supporting large STEM initiatives, including Teen Tech and the DVLA Code Challenge, and has ensured a visible STEM presence at high-profile events such as the National Eisteddfod. The Vice Chair encouraged the recruitment of new members, mentioning that while knowledge of robotics would be beneficial, it is not essential for participation. This collaborative effort aims to inspire students and increase public engagement with STEM across Wales, helping to address future workforce needs.

5. Heritage Computing Co-ordinator's report

The Computer Heritage Coordinator's Report highlighted the South Wales BCS Branch's ongoing commitment to supporting historical computing projects in the region since 2007. Key initiatives included providing support for Swansea University's substantial History of Computing Collection museum and archive, and jointly organizing the South Wales BCS Annual History Lecture. Additionally, the branch has been engaged in a collaborative project with Swansea University to explore the question, "What did south Wales ever do for computing?", aiming to uncover and share significant regional contributions to the discipline. The branch is also supporting the Cardiff History of Computing Committee (CHoCC), which curates a substantial collection of computing equipment dating back to the 1960s, now being consolidated into a single location. Efforts are underway to secure a permanent display site for this collection and to develop a supporting website, ensuring long-term preservation and accessibility of Wales' computing history.

6. Inclusion Officer's report

This shows an Inclusion and Diversity Officer's Report for the BCS South Wales Branch. It highlights membership counts and demographic distributions as of September 22, 2025. The branch has a total of 3,859 members, distributed across various grades including Affiliate (43 members), Associate (22), Student (668), Professional (3,050), and Fellowship (76).

Age distribution indicates the largest group is aged 20-25 (1,420 members), followed by 26-30 (689) and 31-40 (513). The gender split among branch members shows a significant number—2,049—have undisclosed gender information, while 1,407 members identify as male and 403 as female.

This data provides a snapshot of the branch's demographic composition, useful for tracking diversity and inclusion efforts within the mem

7. Education Liaison's report

The branch has planned several upcoming events for new and existing students, including:

- Social Taster Session on September 27, featuring coffee and board games to welcome and connect new students with the team.
- Techy Taster Session on October 1, offering university and technology advice from a lecturer along with hands-on robotics activities from Cardiff Metropolitan's robotics lab.

Ongoing activities include the Techy Tuesday Series, which delivers weekly posts on trending tech news and insights into the future of technology.

Stronger engagement has been established this year, with committee representation now covering all five major higher education institutions in South Wales:

- Cardiff University
- Swansea University
- University of South Wales

- Cardiff Metropolitan University
- University of Wales Trinity Saint David.

The branch intends to host an event that brings members from all five HE institutions together during the coming academic year.

A BCS Student Chapter has been launched at Cardiff Metropolitan University, led by:

- President: Jia Singh
- Secretary: Rylan Trodd
- Treasurer: Amirhossein Hajianfar

The chapter currently has five members and aims to create a welcoming, inclusive tech community regardless of course or background.

Student awards are recognized, with Matthew Luen, a Computer Science student at Cardiff Metropolitan, earning the CST Student of the Year 2024/25 for exceptional academic performance and commitment.

Student Chapter discussions are ongoing at Cardiff University, with first-year students invited to express interest in BCS membership (fees funded by the university), and the University of South Wales is in talks to restart their Student Chapter with the involvement of Computer Science and Cyber Security Societies in 2025.

8. BCS Young Professional Constituency (YPC)

Purpose

- Acts as a voice for young professionals within BCS.
- Advises BCS Council and Board of Trustees on strategy, policy, and activities.
- Meets quarterly with members drawn from across the UK.
- Ensures early-career professionals' perspectives are considered in BCS developments.

Key Themes Discussed This Year

- Professional development & career pathways: Exploring ways for BCS to better support young professionals at the start of their careers.
- Membership engagement: Identifying effective strategies to attract, retain, and support younger members.
- Digital skills & inclusion: Addressing the UK's digital skills gap by ensuring BCS contributes to a more inclusive digital landscape.
- Ethics & professionalism: Encouraging younger members to uphold BCS values in responsible technology practices.

Activities & Opportunities

- YPC contributes to BCS consultations on policy positions, chartered status, and professional standards.

- Provides members, including those in South Wales, the opportunity to raise issues directly to the Board through YPC channels.
- Collaborates with branches and specialist groups to increase accessibility of events for early-career members.
- Actively seeks input on how branches can better serve students, apprentices, and young professionals as a whole.

9. Treasurer's Budget Report

The Treasurer's Budget Report detailed the branch's financial operations for the past year and outlined projections for the year ahead. For 2024/25, a budget allocation of £2,565 was provided, all of which was spent on operational needs such as room hire, catering for in-person events, and expenses related to Lego Robots Group activities including participation at the National Eisteddfod in Wrexham. The branch reported zero income for the period, relying entirely on its allocated budget.

Looking ahead to 2025/26, the projected budget is £2,296 with no anticipated branch income. This budget will cover operational expenses for key in-person events, such as the AGM and Christmas Lecture, as well as ongoing support for Lego Robots STEM activities and events. The report notes that additional SFR (Special Funding Request) funds may be needed for these program activities to be fully supported.

10. Secretaries' Report

Webmaster Michael asked for any feedback on the current BCS website, which could be used to inform a planned redesign.

Branch Secretary recent development include

- The BCS recently awarded Welsh Water as a Gold Partner
- I've also been offered the role of a BCS Wales Hub ambassador.

I continue to support the committee in three roles: the branch secretary, members secretary and Webmaster. and hope to be able to provide more information in the future on this. They continue to volunteer for the Enterprise Architect Specialist Groups to raise the profile of our branch. I have had to resign from my volunteer roles with the BCS Community Support. Committee and MyDigitalFuture. ,

Finally takes an active part in developing and delivering the BCS in Wales Hub.

Members secretary, Michael, as the provide an overview of our branch members, including by grade, age, and gender. Also, a comparison of any movement in our membership over the last year since our last AGM.

In Summary: we are still the second largest BCS branch, group or section, only London Central has more members. Our member has increased by 676 this year to 3,934. The fourth year in a row. This has been driven by Cardiff University joining the BCS as an academic scheme member.

There has been a shift from student membership to professional member, as these student graduate and take advantage of free professional membership for one year.

Membership Report 2025

Overall Membership by Grade

- Total branch membership in 2025 is 3,857, marking a slight decrease from 3,934 in 2024.
- Breakdown by category for 2025:
 - Affiliate: 43 (1%)
 - Associate: 21 (1%)
 - Student: 675 (18%)
 - Professional: 3,042 (79%)
 - Fellowship: 76 (2%)

Annual Changes

- Net change in membership in 2025:
 - Total: -77
 - Notable category movements:
 - Professional members increased by 73, while student membership declined by 129
 - Affiliates (-12), Associates (-7), Fellowship (-2)
- The report notes that this is the first membership reduction in four years, which is considered impressive given current economic challenges. The branch remains the largest outside Central London.

Membership by Age (2025 vs 2024)

- <20: 32 (down from 190)
- 20-25: 1,430 (up from 1,423)
- 26-30: 682 (up from 589)
- 31-40: 509 (up from 501)
- 41-50: 479 (down from 494)
- 51-60: 403 (down from 410)
- 61-70: 131 (unchanged)
- 70+: 185 (down from 189)

- Undisclosed: 6 (down from 7).

Membership by Gender (2025 vs 2024)

- Female: 404 (down from 433)
- Male: 1,406 (down from 1,444)
- Undisclosed: 2,047 (down from 2,057).

11. 2024/25 Events

October 2024 – Cardiff

- "Putting Digital and Data at the heart of Health and Care transformation; and the Role of the Profession" (Speaker: Mike Emery, followed by AGM).

April 2025 – Pencoed

- "AI and the Future of Medical Imaging" (Speaker: Dr. Phillip Wardle).

June 2025 – Swansea

- "Wide Bandgap Semiconductors: The Route to Efficient Power Management" (Speaker: Professor Mike Jennings, in partnership with IET).

Ongoing

- Great robotics events run by the Lego Working Group.

12. Election of Committed for 2025-26

The following members have been nominated and elected to serve on the BCS South Wales Branch Committee for 2025-2026:

- Andy Bellamy: Branch Chair and Higher Education Liaison (USW)
- Jonathan Fish: Branch Treasurer and Industry Liaison
- Milan Parikh: Branch Secretary
- Paul Bulmer: Branch Vice Chair and STEM Coordinator
- Fred Long: Mid Wales Branch Chair
- Ruth Kanjoo Mbaindjiukua: Membership Secretary
- Charles Ma: Publicity Coordinator
- John Tucker: Computer Heritage Coordinator and Higher Education Liaison (Swansea U)
- Elaine Haigh: Inclusion & Diversity Officer, Education Coordinator, and Higher Education Liaison (Cardiff U)
- Dr 'Shinie' Bentotahewa: Higher Education Liaison (Cardiff Met)

- Kapilan Radhakrishnan: Higher Education Liaison (UWTSD)
- Simon Field: Events Coordinator
- Michael Warman: Industry Liaison

All nominations met membership criteria and were supported by existing committee sponsors. Voting was conducted at the AGM, and all nominees were elected without opposition or with significant majority support.

No objections were received to any of these elections. All nominees met membership and sponsorship requirements per BCS guidelines.

13. Any other Business

No other business was raised

14. Date of next AGM

Proposed October 2026 date to be confirmed.

For more information contact our Branch contacts:

Chairs email swales-chair@bcs.org.uk

Branch web page <http://southwales.bcs.org>

Social media: https://x.com/bcs_south_wales
<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8843006/>

LinkTree: <https://linktr.ee/SouthWalesBCS>

The recording for this year's AGM can be viewed TBC .

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