

Consultancy Specialist Group

Chair's Annual Report 2017

Overview

During the past 12 months, the group presented five events based around consultancy and human factors and consultancy skills. All the events take some organising and I am grateful to the speakers for their efforts and the committee members who make all the arrangements. I am also grateful to our Treasurer who keeps the books balanced as well as overseeing catering and even the event recording.

I am also extremely grateful to the staff of the BCS who work so tirelessly behind the scenes to help with bookings, badges, catering and setting up the event on the day.

Programme

What We Did Last Year

This year's programme consisted on five events. These were generally well attended events with over 66% of available seats being sold. The year started in September with the AGM followed by our first event "Persuasive Presentation Design". In October, we followed up with "The Changing Role of Consultancy in Modern Businesses and Digital Governments" our best attended event of the year.

For those just starting out in consultancy, the event "Becoming a Consultant - the Next Generation" attracted a lot of new faces interested in entering the profession. In May, we started to look at negotiation skills for consultants with "Become a Black Belt Negotiator: Don't be beaten down!"

In July 2017, we completed the year's events with "When politics intrudes: why political risk is important". An interesting event indicating some of the political fallout from Brexit.

Three of these events were joint events with colleagues from the London branch of Institute of Consulting.

Making IT Good for Society

How We are Making IT Good for Society as a Member Group

By raising the profile of the BCS by the facilitation of learning, knowledge sharing and the dissemination of information. This is achieved through the promotion of a variety of events including joint events with other specialist groups and other professional institutions.

Community

Who We Serve and How We Engage with Our Community

The Consultancy SG is one of the largest groups within the BCS with 3247 members¹. Our aim is to debate, encourage and promote the practice of 'Professionalism in consultancy' and to help our members develop their knowledge and consultancy competencies and skills. Additionally, through close liaison with academic and other professional institutions mutually help each other to develop best practice within the consulting profession.

The Group provides a platform for engagement through social media having a dedicated LinkedIn channel as well as our own 'Twitter' feed. Consultancy SG showcases around 6 events thorough the year, mostly but not exclusively in London.

In addition, from time, the team broadcast to the community through our dedicated mail-server list asking for suggestions to the programme or requesting opinions of asking for help with events or consultancy topics. Two of this year's events were digitally recorded and are available and via 'You tube' for anyone who was unable to attend or wishes review the slides and the video presentation at a later date.

Leadership

How we provide Leadership to Our Community

The whole 'team' put in their time free of charge to help their colleagues, young professionals starting out as well as new comers to the profession. The committee encourage and promote leadership skills in consultancy through our continuous programmes of events concerning 'soft skills' required of consultants.

The committee are dedicated to raising the profile of the BCS and to facilitate learning, knowledge sharing and the dissemination of information through the promotion of a variety of events, including joint events with other specialist groups and other professional institutions.

Objectives for Next Year

Our Plan

Next year, the Consultancy SG Committee plans to continue with a further series joint events with Institute of Consulting based around core consultancy themes. The programme of work is well under development and the first event of the new series will be in January 2018.

Achievements

Our Successes

In presenting our events we have made world class material available to consultants and other IT professionals in consultancy based around consultancy 'core competences' such as promoting various business offerings, negotiation and facilitation as well as in the use of science based tools to help their clients whilst on various assignments.

Challenges

The Barriers We Face

The Committee has never had all the available posts filled and currently we have two resignations from the team of six. Maintaining an 'active committee is certainly a challenge as is selecting topics, recruiting speakers and putting on events. The feedbacks we have received has all been positive and attendance is usually very high with few places remaining unfilled.

Inclusion and Diversity

How We Are Working for Everyone

The Consultancy Specialist Group 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; and there is no additional annual membership fee.



Committee

About the Committee

Chairman: John McGarvey BSc. FBCS CITP

Treasurer: Colin Pearson CEng. MBCS CITP

Membership Secretary: Vacant (Resignation)

Academic Liaison Officer: Marwan Elnaghi PhD MSc, PGCE, PGDip, BSc, MBCS, AMIET, MGT

Committee Members:

Terence Freedman

Kumar Gaurav (Resignation).

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John McGarvey BSc. FBCS CITP

Chairman, Consultancy SG

14.11.2017