**British Computer Society, Manchester Branch,**
**Chairman's Report, May 2007.**

**A successful year**

It has been another successful year. In that the Branch has put on a series of interesting and relevant events and has increasing engaged with its members and other IT organisations in Greater Manchester. This success is due to a group of hard working volunteers who, as the Branch committee, run this Branch.

The main effort of the committee is put into running a range of monthly meetings, on a variety of IT related topics. This year these have included GPS on the buses, e-Crime and the whys and wherefores of keeping digital data forever. We also learnt in the Turing Lecture that software engineering is really very hard and the reason why the weight of software matters.

Communicating with the Branch's members has also absorbed a great amount of the committee's effort. With this communication being in the form of a website, welcome letters to new members, emails and newsletters. The result of these efforts, slowly but surely, is to engage with the two and half thousand (or so) members of the Branch. The purpose of this is to tell them what their Branch is doing and to provide them an opportunity to have their say – on how the Branch is doing or what it could be doing.

**The Year Ahead**

The Branch represents the BCS in Greater Manchester. As such its aim is to promote the spread of IT knowledge and best practice. Consequently the Branch will continue to co-operate with other BCS groups and establish links with any relevant group, such as the Society for Computers and Law, IET, Institute of Physics and Chamber of Commerce, to meet this aim. The Branch is even establishing a website to enable all engineering bodies in the North West to list their events.

To help promote the spread of IT knowledge and best practise the Branch committee is currently putting the finishing touches to a new programme of events. These events are as interesting as they are varied: with talks ranging from simulating a nuclear reactor to the legalities of Avatars. If there is a topic you think we should cover, then please let me know.

Communication with members of the Branch and the general public, students and organisations in Greater Manchester is vital if the Branch is to fulfil its aim. The committee is aware it needs to be improved and will be examining and exploring ways in which this can be achieved.

Your help, as a member of this Branch, will be greatly appreciated on this matter. It could be something as simple as informing someone or an organisation (sixth form, college, university, office, etc.) that might be interested in attending a BCS meeting, that they are welcome to do so.

The Branch is not all about a programme of events. It should be about encouraging and engaging with students, users and engineers of IT and helping them explore their chosen field of engineering and promoting IT Professionalism. This is what I am aiming to achieve here in Greater Manchester, with the help of this Branch's committee and members.

Andrew Mohan,
Chairman,
BCS Manchester Branch.