British Computer Society, Manchester Branch,
Chairman's Report, September 2009.

The Branch continues to grow, both in terms of membership and the number and variety of events it offers. Membership now stands at 2,950, an increase of over 6% from last year, whilst attendance at the increasing number of Branch run or supported events is up, at over 8,000 (see the Branch Review for details of what we've been doing). However the Branch still lacks in membership participation - a point I wish to discuss further.

With such a large and increasing membership I believe the Branch must start to answer the following question: What more can we do for Manchester, the IT profession and our members? These may at first sound strange questions to ask, as the Branch is already doing a large number of things that address them. However with so many members should we not be doing more?

The BCS offers members many benefits but I believe that to gain the most from it you should be prepared to do something. There are many enjoyable opportunities for you to become involved and do something that would benefit you, your profession and your organisation. This is of course a joint adventure between you and your Branch. The problem of course is finding the right path, which could see you:
- presenting your organisation to fellow members, either off or on-site;
- mentoring a Year IN Industry student during their placement with your organisation;
- promoting the IT profession at events such as The Big Bang;
- encouraging IT students to stay in Manchester after graduation;
- discussing with fellow members that recent project you so professionally completed;
- representing your Branch on IT groups throughout Greater Manchester.

Over the next year your Branch's committee will start looking for answers to the above questions from you. And if we do not, then perhaps you should be asking us why!

Finally, for making this a successful year, may I express my thanks to:
- the committee for all their endeavours over the year;
- Professor Nigel Linge and his team at Salford University for organising the Family Telecommunications Days;
- Lewis Endlar at MMU and MMU's Business School for assisting us with some of our events;
- Manchester University for organising another great Turing Lecture (and to the British government for saying sorry, though somewhat belatedly, for Turing's treatment);
- the various BCS and other engineering institutions that have worked with us during the year;
- the speakers at our events who have all given their time freely to the benefit of the profession.

Andrew Mohan,
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N.B. Watch-out as over the coming weeks the BCS is about to undergo a major change. A small part of which has, for the more observant amongst you, already occurred, that is, the change of month of the AGM from May to September. Accounts, you see! Or more precisely, the BCS changed its year-end from 31st April to the 31st August. Hence the change in date, as a function of the AGM is to accept the accounts from the previous financial year.