



BCS North East Branch AGM 2017

Wednesday the 24th of May 2017 at 1830

Durham University Business School: Millhill Ln, Durham DH1 3LB

Room MHL 453

Present: Professor Alastair Irons (chair), Nigel Morton, James Fowler, Chris Topham, Wendy Craig, Steve Hewitt, Cris Bloomfield, Olufemi Folorunso

1. Welcome and Introductions

The incumbent chair welcomed everyone to the AGM

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Ian Robinson, Klaus Michael Vogelberg, Patsy Walsh

3. Minutes of the previous AGM

The minutes from the previous AGM were accepted as a true record

4. Matters arising from the minutes

No matters arising from the agenda

Soon after the last AGM Graham Moor resigned as secretary due to work commitments. The chair thanked Graham for his contribution to the NE branch.

It was noted that Talha Khali, Julian Brown and Ashley Graven did not wish to be considered for re-election to the BCS NE Branch Committee. The chair thanked these colleagues for their contribution, hoped that they would continue to support events in the NE and wished them well for the future.

5. A report from the Chair on the year's activities

The chair thanked everyone for their contribution and their participation in the branch activities over the last year.

Work has been done in collaboration with the BCS central IT team to redevelop and relaunch the website. The chair thanks colleagues for their help and support. Old versions of the branch website have been archived.

An exercise took place during the year to ensure that all BCS branches and special interest groups complied with the ICO data expectations. A report was sent from the NE branch and it was duly reported that the branch complied as all recorded of members were held centrally.

During the year the North West section of the branch (previously the NE branch had included Cumbria) had established a separate and new branch. The chair wished the group every success, and offers have been made to support and help in getting the new branch established. It is hoped that combined events will be considered in the future.

Three of the regions universities have established student chapters and initial discussions are underway to explore how the branch can support and work with the chapters, particularly offering help to promote the BCS to HE and FE students and pupils at school.

The year had seen an increase in the number of events (one per month) and the attendance from members at the events had increased in comparison to the last two years. Overall more than 340 members and non-members attended the events.

Date	Location	Speaker	Organisation	Topic	Attendees
21st Sept 2016	Sunderland	Paul Fletcher	BCS CEO	Making IT Good for Society	45
19th October 2016	Newcastle	Mike O'Brien	Opencast Software	From Invention to Innovation via Mergers and Acquisitions in IT	25
21st November 2016	Sunderland	Russell May	4NS	Challenges Facing Computer Forensics Practitioners	40
14th Dec 2016	Newcastle	Susana Duran, Alex Fawcet, Richard Custance	SAGE	Chatbots the Story of Pegg	55
11th Jan 2017	Durham	Anne Jenkinson	Sapphire	What Should Universities be Teaching	30
1st March 2017	Newcastle	Rebecca Strachan	Northumbria University	Using Technology to Enhance Education and Society	34
29th March 2017	Newcastle	Paul Watson	Newcastle University	Cloud Computing for Big Data Analytics	50
3rd May	Newcastle	Jill Dovey and Steve Williams	Muckle LLP and Waterstons	What does GDPR mean for IT	47
24 th May	Durham	Christopher Grosberg	Waterstons	Office 365 at the Movies	14

Planning for the schedule of events for 2017/18 is underway. The target is for 10 events distributed between Newcastle, Sunderland and Durham.

6. A report from the Treasurer, including a review of income and expenditure against the budget agreed with BCS HQ for the past year and an explanation of next year's budget request.

The financial report was presented and accepted as a true record

7. Election of Chair, Treasurer and committee members

Elections:

Post	Nominations	Proposed	Seconded
Chair	Alastair Irons	Chris Topham	Cris Bloomfield
Vice Chair	Ian Robinson*	Alastair Irons	Cris Bloomfield
Secretary	Wendy Craig	Steve Hewitt	Chris Topham
Treasurer	Chris Topham	Alastair Irons	Steve Hewitt
Committee	Steve Hewitt	Cris Bloomfield	Alastair Irons
Committee	Klaus Michael Vogelberg*	Alastair Irons	Chris Topham
Committee	Cris Bloomfield	Alastair Irons	Chris Topham
Committee	James Fowler	Steve Hewitt	Cris Bloomfield
Committee	Patsy Walsh*	Alastair Irons	Chris Topham
Committee	Nigel Morton	Steve Hewitt	Chris Topham

*Nomination received in advance

Note - since the AGM – two requests to join the committee have been received from Dominc Gray and Pauline Ironside. Chair's actin has been taken to co-opt these willing volunteers

8. Any other business – no items have been raised with chair

The BCS 60TH Anniversary celebrations were discussed and colleagues noted the plans for centrally organised events to be held throughout the year. It was agreed that the branch would put on a celebratory event towards the end of 2017 as part of the 2017/18 schedule

The re-introduction of student prizes for the best first year student at each of the region's universities was discussed and agreed that this should happen. A prize of £100 per student will be requested (using the new prize request procedures)

Attempts would be made to improve communications via social media – Cris Bloomfield agreed to take on a co-coordinating role for this task

It was noted that MYBCS would replace the current member secure area

Meeting closed at 19.10 and adjourned for Chris Grosberg's talk