**bcs** The Chartered Institute for IT

# Digital Accessibility Specialist Group

*Minutes Committee Meeting 7/01/15*

## 1 Attendance

### *Present:*

- David Rippon
- Geoff McMullen
- Gill Whitney
- Howard Leicester
- Jean Irvine
- Jeff Hughes
- Peter Abrahams

### *Apologies:*

- Andrew Knight
- Dave Haynes
- E. A. Draffan
- Nigel Lewis
- Olu Ogbe
- Ray Waddington-Jones
- Ricci Downard

## 2 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted. All matters arising are covered under agenda items.

## 3 Accessibility for BCS Staff & Members – D. Rippon

DR: contacted Karen Tuck, but little has happened and there has been no feedback about the BDF Maturity Model; there is a feeling that accessibility is an imposition. Maybe we should try contacting the CEO directly.

HL: We should make it clear that accessibility should include support for disabled staff, so that there are opportunities to employ people with disabilities.

HL: had noted successes over the women's agenda, noted in recent editions of ITNow. Perhaps that was a result of active membership of particular committees.

DR: Do we need to get on to some committees? Answer yes see item 5.

HL: It was suggested that I write an article for IT Now explaining my problems as a disabled member of the BCS.

JH: Accessibility issues with ECDL are being pushed by British Dyslexia Association. This was initially issues with the exams but now includes issues with the teaching material. Who has responsibility for access to exams BCS or providers of exams (not just digital but also physical access)?

JI: what about marketing of Web Essentials, the BCS has an excellent product but do not seem to be marketing it strongly.

GM: We should talk to John Buttriss CEO BCS Learning & Development Ltd.

*GM had seen him before the meeting and went to invite him to join the meeting. The meeting was joined by John Buttriss CEO and Tom Abrams Chairman BCS Learning and Development.*

They listened to our concerns about the accessibility of their products and agree to investigate. Jon said he would set up a small party to review the issue and report back to us; he might also ask us to provide some specialist knowledge to help him.

Tom Abram is also a member of the BCS Council so DR raised the issue of the lack of progress on the BDF Maturity Model (see earlier discussion in this item). He promised to look into it.

DR: After the success of inviting Jon and Tom into our meeting it would be useful to invite other members of boards to discuss their role in accessibility, for example Adam Thilthorpe, Director of Professionalism on his thoughts regarding professionalism and SFIA+ (the invitation could be extended to Paul Martynenko VP Professionalism).

**Action: DR** to write to Brian Runciman offering article on accessibility.

**Action: John Buttriss** to report back to DR on ECDL accessibility review.

**Action: Tom Abram** to report back on progress with BDF.

**Action: DR** Invite Adam Thilthorpe and Paul Martynenko to next meeting.

# 4   BCS web site and document accessibility – P.  Abrahams

No action since last meeting.

**Action: PA** to contact Brian Runciman for progress.

# 5   Representation on Membership Board Committees – All

DR: We should have members on some of the board committees  (see item 3). The Membership Board is looking for nominations, are there any volunteers? JH and PA expressed interest.

**Action: DR, PA, JH** DR to get details of process, PA and JH to nominate themselves.

## 6 BCS Staff Accessibility Champion – D. Rippon

Nothing happened. Put into abeyance until Jon and Tom report back.

## 7 BCS Academy – G. McMullen/E. A. Draffan/G. Whitney

GM: Has had no response from Professor James Davenport (VP of BCS Academy). GM will keep trying Bill Mitchell, the staff director responsible.

**Action: GM** continue to follow up.

## 8 EAccess 2015 – D. Rippon

DR has circulated information. The conference is 24 February and there is a discount for BCS members.

## 9 Oxford Union Debate – D. Rippon/J. Lamb

Not happening.

DR: Should we have a WCIT/BCS debate?

JH: What about a Turing lecture on accessibility?

**Action: GM** to find how Turing lecture is organised.

AT should include medical and keep at home.

## 10 Joint events with other organisations – G. Collins/G. Whitney/N. Lewis

Carry forward.

## 11 Digital Design for Everyone – D. Rippon/J. Lamb

DR: this does not look as if it is going to happen.

PA: we should pass the idea to Digital Accessibility Alliance (DAA) website team.

**Action: PA** raise issue with Nigel Lewis at DAA website meeting.

## 12 SFIA+/ECDL Engagement – N. Lewis

No progress should be included in 3

## 13 BCS Best Practice Committee – P. Abrahams

PA could not attend convention due to ill health.

## 14 Professionals Associations Research Network – J. Irvine

JI: PARN happy to explore joint meeting with BCS on accessibility.

DR: is being lobbied to put on events by Sallyann Cossey (staff) that could be the meeting with PARN.

HR: raised 'www.easychirp.org' as an example, alternative front-end making the Twitter site easier to use. He also noted work by Office for National Statistics (ONS) to monitor 'E/Digital commerce' in the UK and across Europe. Social Media was included, with the whole forming part of their eSociety programme. Graphical presentations and tools were in development as a quick monitoring facility.

DR: Should we be using social media? The response was not enthusiastic, if we use anything it should be Linkedin. Worth finding out who is responsible for social media in BCS.

**Action: DR, JI** to talk to PARN and create agenda (on accessibility of social media) to take to Sallyann Cossey.

**Action: JI** Put PARN in touch with David Miles

**Action: DR** Who is responsible for social media in BCS

## 15 Road Shows

Carry forward for when we have resource

## 16 Liaison with other organisations (One Voice, BCS Health, IAAP, Tech UK)

PA: OneVoice has merged with the Digital Accessibility Alliance (DAA) which is run out of The Department of Culture, Media and Sport.

HL: Should we be involved with W3C and WCAG and updating WCAG 2, WAI. Discussion implied that this could involve a lot of work and no one at the meeting had the resources to help. DR will find out the process for contributing.

HL: We can say that accessibility is a good thing but it becomes more difficult when we are asked what are the steps required to make it happen.

HL: noted the definition of ATs, used in UK health and care, being broad and not IT specific – 'any equipment or process that makes things easier for older and disabled people'.

GM: Do we need to create and supply a tool kit to help people to get started?

PA: This is what John Lamb's Digital Design for Everyone (see item 11) was designed to do. It would require at least one man day a week for editing.

GM: will look for sources of funding for developing John Lamb's toolkit web site.

**Action: DR** point to opportunity to contribute to WAI.

**Action: PA** what should a tool kit included how to put it up on BCS website, discuss with EA Draffan and Alastair King.

**Action: DR** how to promote in BCS

**Action: GM** investigate financing of tool kit

# 17 Finances – N. Lewis

NL was unable to attend so no update.

**Action: NL** to report to next meeting.

# 18 Any other business

HL: I would like DASG to provide more support for IT professionals with disabilities, in particular would like to have an accessible forum to discuss issues relating to IT Professionals with disabilities. Can Alasdair King help with better screen readers to read Linkedin?

**Action: JH and HR** talk to Alasdair King about HL problem. How do you make social media more accessible, what is best forum for people with disabilities.

# 19 Date, time and venue for next meeting

**Action: DR**  to set up Doodle to find suitable dates for rest of 2015.to