North Staffordshire Branch AGM 2018

Minutes of the BCS North Staffordshire Branch Annual General Meeting held at Staffordshire University in Stoke-on-Trent on Tuesday 9th October 2018 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm.

351.0 Present
Chris Richardson (CR), Richard Hall (RH), Chris Snee (CS), Charlie Houston-Brown (CHB), Jonathan Westlake (JW), 6 non-committee members.

351.1 Absent with apologies
Ian Sunley, Colin Pearson.

351.2 Approval of Minutes from Previous Committee Meeting
The minutes were accepted as true record with no amendments required.

351.3 Matters Arising
(none)

351.4 Chair's Report – Chris Richardson
This is my forth report as Branch Chairman and I am glad to report that the format of holding a meeting once a quarter seems to be working. My report, in the required BCS CHQ format is attached as Appendix 1. I need to make a special mention and thank you for all of the Committee members for continuing to support the Branch over the last year. Particularly Jonathan Westlake, Richard Hall and Chris Snee. Once again, these three stalwarts take on several roles during the year and without their support the branch would cease to operate and develop.

351.5 Treasurer's Report – Chris Snee
Summary of discussion:
- The Budget for 2017/18 was: £4,120.00;
- Spend was: £2906.29;
- Underspend: £1213.74.

The Budget for 2018/19 is: £4850.00. This includes:
- Student Prizes of: £500.00;
- Event Sponsorships of: £2,000.00;
- Operating Costs of: £2,350.00;
- The Branch may request additional funds for specific projects.

351.6 Election of Officers
Standing Down:
- Chair – Chris Richardson
- Secretary – Richard Hall

Election Results:
Chair: William (Charlie) Houston-Brown (unanimous)
Vice Chair: Jonathan Westlake (re-election - unanimous)
Treasurer: Chris Snee (re-election - unanimous)
Secretary: Chris Richardson (unanimous)
Committee Members: Colin Pearson, Ian Sunley, Tim Chapman, Bappaditya Mandal.

351.7 Programme
- There was a notional booking for a Fujitsu cyber security update in early December. The Chair (CHB) would contact the Fujitsu team to confirm availability and a date.
- It was suggested that we should consider building to 5 or 6 events per year. This should include a visit to a well known Cyber / IT / IS / Computing venue or conference. Suggestions were welcome and would be considered at a future Committee Meeting.
- It was suggested that we should re-start the Student Papers competition. The Vice-Chair (JW) would contact Staffordshire University and Keele University to establish dates and a format.
- It was agreed to investigate holding meetings at different venues (Keele, Stafford, etc) to attempt to increase attendance figures, as well as look to arrange a social - such as a trip to the National Museum Of Computing and Bletchley Park.

351.8 AoB
There was no other business to report.

351.9 Next Meeting
The next meeting would be early December (but on or before the 11th Dec) depending on the availability of the Cyber Security team. December 4th would be the target date.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting – Appendix 1

Chair's Annual Report 2018
BCS North Staffordshire Branch

Chair's Annual Report 2018

Overview

This is my fourth report as Branch Chairman and I am pleased to report that 2017-2018 season was a successful one for the branch with well attended branch events.

BCS continues to support local branch events by subsidising where possible.

The committee continued the focus on quarterly meetings based in Staffordshire with all held at the Stoke campuses of the Staffordshire University.

Programme

What We Did Last Year

The quarterly meetings included:

- GDPR – What is means for us.
- Cyber Security: Threats, trends and what the future holds

During the year we also supported:

- GradEx at Staffordshire University
- Computer Science in School Conference at Staffordshire University
- The BCS Spring Convention

Next Year:

For the new season we anticipate holding 4 technically led sessions with the usual chance to network over a buffet.

Making IT Good for Society

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

During the year, one of our members held a few "Village Hall" events where they used our communally available laptop to introduce senior members in their local community to email, word processing and spreadsheets.

Next year:

I encourage all our members to hold similar events.

Community

Who We Serve and How We Engage with Our Community

This year we supported 2 local IT conventions

Next year:

We plan to continue to support local events and to promote the importance of IT and Computing.

Objectives for Next Year

Our Plan

We do not have a firm plan in place for next year. We are seeking to have an update from Fujitsu about Cyber Security. But we do not have confirmed booking dates.

Challenges

The Barriers We Face

The rate of change in the IT and Computing world is continuing to increase. Everyone is very busy.

The challenge is to get as many of our members joining us at events at a time and place that we can also get presenters to.

Please let us know if you have any suggestions on how to deal with these difficulties.

Inclusion and Diversity

How We Are Working for Everyone

The BCS continues to ensure that all of the BCS Staff and Committee members at all levels are diversity aware. Consequently, all committee members are encouraged to receive a diversity briefing. This will be an ongoing feature of Branch Committee member training.

Committee

About the Committee

The committee have done a sterling job over the last 4 years.

However, I believe that I need to stand down as Chair and allow someone else to take the position. In addition, The Secretary has also had to stand down.

So, we need a new Chair and Secretary.

Chris Snee has agreed to stay as Treasurer.

Jonathan Westlake has agreed to be a supporting and co-ordinating member without portfolio.

Thank you to all of the Committee members for continuing to support the Branch over the last year and as we welcome new members on to the Committee to help us develop Branch activities and to move the BCS forward. If you feel that you can assist in any way the message remains p lease step forward and **PLEASE VOLUNTEER.**