Consultancy Specialist Group

Chair's Annual Report 2019

Overview

This report covers the period from the AGM in October 2018 to end September 2019.

The Consultancy Specialist Group presented eight events, doubling the number from the previous year. Attendances have also been trending upwards recently. This was achieved on budget. An AGM and two Committee meetings were held. Basecamp was adopted as a collaboration tool and the SG's use of new media (linkedin and twitter) was further developed. A team organisation for event nights developed organically during the year. The collaboration with the Institute of Consulting strengthened. Events were often streamed and recorded with the aim of starting to build an on-line audience from those BCS members who cannot attend physically. In September our events moved to the new London HQ building and the September event was used to trial, for the BCS, the use of external video professionals to achieve TED-like video content for the BCS YouTube channel.

All the events take effort to organise and I am grateful to the speakers for their contributions to the SG and the Committee members who make all the arrangements and manage the event on the night. I am also extremely grateful to the staff of the BCS who work behind the scenes to help with bookings, badges, catering and setting up the event on the day.

About the BCS Consultancy Specialist Group

The Consultancy SG is one of the largest groups within the BCS. Our aim is to debate, encourage and promote the practice of 'Professionalism in consultancy' and to help our members develop their knowledge and consultancy competencies and skills. Additionally, through close liaison with academic and other professional institutions the Consultancy SG helps to develop best practice within the consulting profession. It is open to all BCS members who are interested in consultancy whether they are sole practitioners, employed by large or small consultancy practices or are internal consultants within organisations in the private and public sectors; and there is no additional annual membership fee.

Events Programme

This year's eight events continued the mix of soft skills and informative topics of relevance to consultancy.

Month	Event Content	Approx No.
09 Oct 18	Insights from Neuroscience for Project Delivery & Consultancy	27
06 Dec 18	Consultants' Opportunity: Artificial Intelligence (AI)	30
12 Feb 19	ISO20700 – The New International Standard for Consultancy	25
12 Mar 19	GDPR is One Year Old: What has happened?	25

Month	Event Content	Approx No.
02 Apr 19	The Influential Consultant: Making Your Expertise Really Count	22
07 May 19	So, You Want to Go Contracting or Freelance: A Step by Step Guide	27
09 Jun19	Consultants' Opportunity: Augmented Reality (AR)	30
10 Sep 19	The Future Reinvented	48

All the events were marketed jointly with the Institute of Consulting (IC).

For all of this year's events we charged attendees a small fee to cover the cost of refreshments.

Committee Meetings

Three committee meetings were held during the year.

Date	Meeting
09 Oct 19	Annual General Meeting (AGM)
28 Feb 19	Committee Meeting
28 May 19	Committee Meeting

Committee Finances

The financial and budget performance of the SG is reported in detail in the Treasurer's report.

Key is that the SG achieved its budgets for the year and that under the Treasurer's experienced leadership there were no issues.

The Treasurer, with the support of the Chair and Committee, requested a budget increase for 2019/20 to allow the Consultancy SG to operate similarly to other Groups with more flexibility in not charging for refreshments at events. This request was agreed by the BCS.

Committee Activities

A lot of effort has gone in by all committee members this year. The following are the main developments.

- Contributions to the wider Communities area within the BCS. This has included attendance at Community workshops and participation in the on-line Communities discussion forum.
- Achieving the budget and targets set by the BCS for this SG.
- Adopting the use of the BCS's Basecamp collaboration forum for communications & projects.
- Moving Committee meetings on-line to make attendance easier and reduce carbon footprint.
- Efforts to increase the streaming and recording of events to build on-line audience.
- Tightening the control of social media in support of tightening BCS policies in this area.

- Working through the implications of the BCS office move from Covent Garden to Moorgate.
- Efforts to assist with accurate catering ordering to reduce waste whilst avoiding shortages at events.
- Introducing paper copies of slides for visual impaired attendees.

Committee Members

The SG has been fortunate to have a small, dedicated set of committee members who have all contributed significantly throughout the year.

Committee members:

- Terence Freeman
- Antonio Hildago Landa (Secretary)
- Colin Pearson (Treasurer)
- Derran Stokes
- Simon Wallace
- Alan Warr (Chair)

During the year John McGarvey stood down from the Committee. The Chair would like to acknowledge, with immense gratitude, his nearly 20 years of outstanding service to the Consultancy Specialist Group, much of this time as its Chair.

Contributions from BCS Full-Time Officers

The Chair would like to acknowledge with gratitude the contribution of Sallyann Covey from the BCS staff who superbly supported the Consultancy SG throughout the year.

Roadmap of Developments for the Coming Year

A number of developments are underway:

- **Events.** The SG plans to consolidate at the current level of around 8 events per year. Finding speakers remains a challenge but the aim is to get speakers in place further ahead to assist with the earlier marketing of the events programme to members.

- **Attendees.** As a result of the increased budget this year, the SG will experiment and then develop with not charging (fully or in part or for some types of members) for refreshments at events. The aim is to grow attendance numbers particularly amongst types of members for whom a fee is a barrier to attending.

- **Building an On-Line Audience.** The SG is continuing to develop its capabilities in streaming and recording its events with the aim of building up a substantial on-line audience as an additional value to members.

- **Use of Social Media.** The SG intends to explore how to use the Group's LinkedIn and Twitter accounts to better effect to publicise its events, build the on-line audience for recordings of events and to engage the members in discussions.

- **BCS Community.** The SG is continuing to support the wider BCS community in achieving its overall mission and in specific activities.

- **Industry Liaison.** The connection to the London Committee of the Institute of Consulting will continue to be important. Additionally, the SG is exploring forging connections into the IT and management consultancies for mutual support and sponsorship.

- **Committee Members.** The SG will seek to bring more members onto the Committee who volunteer and are able to make a full contribution to its activities.

Dr Alan Warr CITP MBCS
As Chair of the BCS Consultancy Specialist Group
3rd October 2019