

## Minutes of the BCS IRSG Committee Meeting

23 September 2024

Zoom Meeting 17:00 (London)

### Present

Udo Kruschwitz [UK] (Chair), Graham McDonald [GM] (Vice-chair), Monica Paramita [MP] (Secretary), Ingo Frommholz [IF] (Treasurer), Haiming Liu [HL] (Membership Secretary), Tony Russell-Rose [TRR] (Events Coordinator), Andy Hind (joined 5:30pm) [AH] (Early Careers Advocate), Gregor Donabauer [GD], Nicola Tonellotti [NT], Sean MacAvaney [SM], Iadh Ounis [IO], David Rau [DR]

### 1. Apologies and Minutes of Previous IRSG Committee Meeting

Apologies: Yashar Mohfeghi [YM] (Inclusion Officer).

Minutes approved.

### 2. Actions arising from June 2024

Action Number	Action	Action on
JUN 24.01	Address Informer and external communications issues	GM, UK <b>Done</b>
JUN 24.02	To handover files to new secretary + handover status of BCS file share	UK <b>Done</b>
JUN 24.03	Prepare call for one-day events and agree with committee via email	TRR <b>Done</b>
JUN 24.04	Confirm budget for one-day event support, i.e. whether we can promise support or not (or submit supplementary fund request)	IF <b>Done</b>
JUN 24.05	Send out draft of bid to host ECIR 2026 to committee with timeline as in past year	UK <b>Done</b>
JUN 24.06	Explore possible agreements with IP&M Journal	UK & GM <b>On-going</b>
JUN 24.07	Keep in touch with Bloomberg to explore future funding	HL <b>Done</b>
JUN 24.08	Chase BCS to get access to Informer Archives.	UK <b>Done</b>
JUN 24.09	Circulate a draft for call to host ECIR 2026 to the committee	UK <b>Done</b>
JUN 24.10	Send out call to host a one-day event	TRR <b>Done</b>

<b>JUN 24.11</b>	Send a report for Informer to GD	GM <b>Done</b>
<b>JUN 24.12</b>	Promote the call for Search Solutions 2024 tutorials in social media (BCS IRSG Twitter and LinkedIn account)	IF & UK <b>Done</b>
<b>JUN 24.13</b>	Send out the second call for Search Solutions 2024.	UK & TRR <b>Done</b>
<b>JUN 24.14</b>	Discuss the possibility of increasing the honorarium for Search Solutions 2024 (and future Search Solutions)	UK, IF, HL and ALL <b>On-going</b>
<b>JUN 24.15</b>	Share the call for nominations to the KSJ Award on LinkedIn	UK <b>Done</b>
<b>JUN 24.16</b>	Prepare and submit SFR to support CLEF 2024	IF <b>Done</b>
<b>JUN 24.17</b>	Check if Medium has any view limitations for readers.	GD <b>Done</b>
<b>JUN 24.18</b>	UK to arrange a Doodle for the next meeting in September. IF will find an available meeting room once the meeting date has been set.	UK & IF <b>Done</b>
<b>JUN 24.19</b>	UK to check with SZ re: the status of BCS file share to share with MP	UK <b>Done</b>

### 3. Items Agreed by email

Nothing.

### 4. Chair's report

- The BCS have finally made the Informer back catalogue available via an archived version at <https://archive-irsg.bcs.org/informer/> (more in Informer under Agenda item 17)
- Great progress has been made in regards of the sponsorship of the KSJ Award, thanks Haiming and Ingo in particular! (more under Agenda item 13)
- Elections are coming up (see Agenda item 12), please consider putting your name forward
- The new IR Research Journal (IRRJ) has been announced: <https://irrij.org>
- We have been approached to promote the REF 2029 main panel chair recruitment (<https://www.ref.ac.uk/panels/ref-2029-main-panel-chair-recruitment/>). Spread the word ...

### 5. Report Inclusion Officer

Nothing received.

### 6. Report Early Careers Advocate

Nothing received.

## 7. Event Organiser's report

Draft call for one day events sent out in June with deadline of August 2:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kJzmdF2x6Z3nH8ynhaMkioBAApYBlvTcRwZCANW4Kro/edit?usp=sharing>

- No proposals received.

**Action TRR and ALL: Think about the future of one-day events.**

### *Search Solutions 2024*

Search Solutions planning and prep going well. Programme full, looking relatively strong

(<https://medium.com/bcs-irsg-informer/search-solutions-2024-registration-open-74733c7bd242>).

Second wave of promo due next month. Total ticket bookings so far: 9. Two tutorials planned (one in the morning and one in the afternoon).

### *Search Industry Awards*

Search Industry Awards open since May. Nominations close October 31. No applications have been received so far. Final promo campaign is due next month.

## 8. ECIR 2024

Coming to a close now, will be able to forward 8k to support ECIR 2025.

## 9. ECIR 2025

All the planning are going smoothly. NT queries for more information about KvR Award, whether it should be awarded every year or two years, as it will influence the number of keynote speakers invited to the conference. The committee discussed whether KvR Award can be run for every two years, taking it in turn with KSJ Award. IO is in contact with Alan Turing Institute to explore whether they can sponsor the KvR Award.

**Action IO: Send the brief for KvR Award to NT.**

**Action ALL: Discuss holding KvR Award every two years.**

## 10. ECIR 2026 (Bid Reviews)

We have received three proposals from [The Hague](#), [Southampton](#) and [Toulouse](#). (The [marking template](#) has been circulated to the committee members.)

All agreed that all three bids were strong. A decision was made at the meeting.

**Action UK & MP: Circulate a draft email to the committee to check.**

**Action UK & MP: Inform all applicants of the decision.**

## 11. AGM 2024

AGM 2024 will be held alongside Search Solutions 2024 (26/27 November 2024). Committee meeting on the 26th November 2024. UK proposes AGM to be held on the 27 November after the main Search Solutions event.

## 12. Elections

We will circulate a call for nominations to fill vacancies on the committee for the following roles:

- Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Membership Secretary
- 2 ordinary members of the committee

If there are more candidates than vacancies, an election will be held, last year this was not the case.

**Action MP + UK: to send out a call for nominations to fill vacancies on the committee.**

**Action MP + UK: if there are more candidates than vacancies, set up a poll.**

## 13. KSJ Award

Four strong nominations have been received for the KSJ Award. Sponsorship by Bloomberg has been secured for this year. Bloomberg is also considered for future years.

KSJ Award Panel will decide the winner in November. The winner will be announced in December. The decision will be informed to Nicola for ECIR 2025 planning.

ECIR 2025 keynote speaker: free registration should be provided.

**Action HL & NT: to discuss expenses for keynote speakers which should be covered for ECIR 2025. This will be done after the winner has been selected.**

## 14. ICTIR report

[IF] Discussion about ICTIR 2025, which will take place @SIGIR 2025 in Padua on a dedicated day (Friday, July 18). We need general and programme chairs. Proposal: Hamed Zamani as GC and Benjamin Piwowarski & Laura Dietz as PC. Hamed & Benjamin accepted; Laura raised some questions to discuss first, including a potential 60% acceptance rate (with poster presentations), reviewer incentives (best reviewer award) and a tough stance against using AI for reviewing duties. Harrie Oosterhuis (ICTIR 2024 GC) will be invited to join the committee. I raised a concern regarding the 60% acceptance rate, which is more one for a workshop rather than a conference (but there were high acceptance rates before. Where would IRSG want ICTIR to go?

## 15. Strix Award

Strix nominations close this Friday 6pm 27th Sep. The panel have not met yet but are looking to schedule a meeting for the 2nd week in Oct. So far, there are no known submissions.

## 16. Budget

[IF] **Operational Spend:** -£2,526.91 – actually the surplus of income (£8,666.91) vs costs (£6,140.00) in our budget allocation. Costs are operational costs that cover the running costs of our group; no further authorisation required. Further expenditures (**special projects**) that were in our requested budget could be released through Supplementary Funding Requests (ideally 2 months in advance, as the CBFC will decide). Any funding requests for expenditure on *overseas travel* must have prior approval from both the BCS Chief Executive as well as the Finance Committee, and therefore we should allow enough time for the BCS team to carry out this process.

**Action - IF:** Task for treasurer: check if SFR for Search Solutions tutors is required (cf task JUN 24.14). Some speaker expenses, but not all, are in the budget (£700 vs £1,200 requested). Can we assume 2 tutors? In this case, we don't have to request and could provide them with £350 each. HL said that each tutorial should be costed £300 each, so a total of £600 will be needed.

## 17. Informer

We started to publish on Medium in July (<https://medium.com/bcs-irsg-informer>). Since then five articles were posted (general post about new format, ECIR 2024 conference report, Search Solutions 2023 report, BCS Industry Awards 2024 call, Search Solutions 2024 - registration open).

**Action - all: write something for Informer (and contact GD).**

## 18. AOB

No other business.

## 19. Next meeting

UK proposes Tuesday, 26 November at 6pm at the BCS Moorgate.

## 20. Action arising from the meeting

Action Number	Action	Action on
SEP 24.01	Follow closely the developments of the new IRRJ with a view on setting possibly up a future agreement similar to the one we had with IRJ ( <i>Was: Explore possible agreements with IP&amp;M Journal</i> )	UK & GM
SEP 24.02	Discuss the possibility of increasing the honorarium for Search Solutions 2024 (and future Search Solutions)	UK, IF, HL and ALL

<b>SEP 24.03</b>	Discuss the future of one-day events	<b>TRR and ALL</b>
<b>SEP 24.04</b>	Send the brief for KvR Award to NT	<b>IO</b>
<b>SEP 24.05</b>	Discuss whether KvR Award should be held every one/two years	<b>ALL</b>
<b>SEP 24.06</b>	Circulate a draft email about ECIR 2026 bids to the committee to check.	<b>UK &amp; MP</b>
<b>SEP 24.07</b>	Inform all applicants of the ECIR 2026 bids decision	<b>UK &amp; MP</b>
<b>SEP 24.08</b>	Send out a call for nominations to fill vacancies on the BCS IRSG committee.	<b>MP &amp; UK</b>
<b>SEP 24.09</b>	If there are more candidates than vacancies, set up a poll.	<b>MP &amp; UK</b>
<b>SEP 24.10</b>	Discuss expenses for keynote speakers which should be covered for ECIR 2025. This will be done after the winner has been selected (Dec).	<b>HL &amp; NT</b>
<b>SEP 24.11</b>	Write something for Informer (and contact GD)	<b>ALL</b>

Meeting Closed at 19:00