

BCS - The Chartered Institute for IT
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the 2019/20 Session
of the South Wales Branch
18:00 Thursday, 22 October 2020
Online Webinar
DRAFT

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Andy Bellamy welcomed everyone to the meeting. A special welcome was made to David from the London HQ office who was helping ensure that the Webinar went smoothly.

Nine committee members and 18 members joined the webinar.

Apologies had been received from Rob Ludman, Wendy Dearing and William Carter.

2. Minutes of the Previous AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM (September 2019) were accepted and are present on the website for the members to read.

3. Chair's report

3.1. Branch Committee

Andy reviewed the activity of the Committee and explained that our meetings are held on the first Wednesday evening in the month.

The branch had used online webinars for its administrative meetings and for its public events in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

3.2. Branch Events and Activities

Andy described the events we had run during the past year and thanked our hosts and speakers.

We had worked closely with the IET's two branches in South Wales in taking turns to run joint events. We have also worked with the USW Student chapter and intend to offer our assistance in its development in the coming year.

As part of our input to STEM in South Wales, the LEGO MindStorms working group had run several public events at Margam Park and developed video resources with learning plans for schools. The group, led by Paul Bulmer, intended to launch the videos in next few months.

DVLA had postponed its coding competition for schools this year but is laying plans for 2021. We hope to sponsor and attend again in 2021.

3.3. Branch Website

Andy explained that our web pages are a key way of communicating what we do. BCS HQ has recently launched a project to consider how to develop the website in the coming months.

3.4. Membership

Phil Hopkins explained that, due to the carefully paced transition of BCS' membership records to a new system, this year's report was less detailed than usual but nonetheless showed an encouraging increase in numbers.

NHS Wales Informatics Services has partnered with BCS and has grown in the past 12 months from 40+ members to 268 – it is now the largest organisational membership group. Its members have been acquiring RITTech qualifications and FEDIP membership.

3.5. Member and Specialist Group Conventions

Member groups conventions are now online (which works very well). One of the main topics at the July convention had been how to increase our relevance to local communities and at the same time compete with other bodies in the IT space and with resources like YouTube.

4. Treasurer's Report

Phil Hopkins went through the budget figures for running costs, catering, special prizes etc. He was grateful for the use of venues free of charge. The amount spent on events in 2020 was much lower than previous years due to the move to online meetings and the consequent reduction in the cost of catering. In future he anticipated a mix of online and in-person events.

He explained that the special funding budget (which last year was for items like the STEM Lego Mindstorms robots) involves submitting a separate business case to the BCS Communities Board. In the coming year we plan to submit a request for tablets to use with the STEM project.

5. Future Events

The chairman then went through the outline programme of events for the forthcoming year.

The next event is a joint event organised by the BCS Branch in Bristol and with the Mid-Wales Branch also attending.

6. Future Directions

Andy described the basis for the coming year's plans beyond the regular events programme. The main themes were:

- Continuing and expanding our work for STEM in South Wales
- Improving the balance and diversity of the committee
- Greater engagement with local businesses and communities

- Working with the new BCS Early Careers Executive
- Working with BCS HQ staff and Higher Education Institutions in South Wales to promote and develop student chapters

7. Election of Committee

The nominations for the future committee were explained and agreed. There were no nominations from the floor.

- Andy Bellamy was re-elected as chair
- Carl Allen was re-elected as secretary
- Phil Hopkins was re-elected as treasurer.

The remainder of the committee was elected en bloc with a unanimous vote of those present at the AGM.

Jeremy White	Vice chair
Paul Bulmer	Vice chair
Fred Long	Chair, mid-Wales Branch
Rob Ludman	Member
Iain King	Member
Lauren Watts-Keane	Diversity and Inclusion Officer

8. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

Andy thanked all those who attended and closed the AGM

For more information contact our Branch:

swales-chair@bcs.org.uk

<http://southwales.bcs.org>

https://twitter.com/bcs_south_wales

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8843006/>