



BCS North East Branch AGM 2020

Wednesday 21st October 18.00

Online via GoTo Meeting

1. Welcome and Introductions

The incumbent chair welcomed everyone to the AGM

Present Alastair Irons, Ian Robinson, Chris Topham, Cris Bloomfield, Stewart Collins, Tom Prickett, Aad van Moorsel, Klaus-Michael Vogelberg, Cher Devy, Gillian Collins, Tim Hines, Mfuana Mkhiz, Matthew Smythe, Richard Sterry

2. Apologies for absence:

No apologies were received

3. Minutes of the previous AGM

The minutes from the previous AGM were accepted as a true record

4. Matters arising

No matters arising from the previous AGM minutes

5. A report from the Chair on the year's activities

The chair thanked everyone for their contribution and their participation in the branch activities over the last year. Thanks offered to those who helped organise events. Particular thanks to Klaus Michael Vogelberg at SAGE for arranging the Christmas session and to Marie Setterfield (BCS) for arranging the online events and for supporting all face to face events pre-COVID-19.

There were 6 events this session, compared to the 9 that took place in 19/20. Unfortunately one event was postponed and the events planned for March and April were put on hold because of the covid-19 virus. During the early COVID-19 period the committee decided not to put on online events as it was felt members were "timed-out" on TEAMS / Zoom / GoTo sessions. However, alternative sessions from other branches were promoted and 2 online events arranged from July onwards.

Overall, almost 150 members and non-members attended the reduced schedule of events.

The event schedule is summarised below.

Date	Location	Speaker	Organisation	Topic	Attendees
2 nd October 2019	University of Sunderland	Professor Jon Timmis	University of Sunderland	Autonomous Robotic Evolution - Newcastle and District Branch	40
5 th November 2019	Durham University	Joanna Berry	University of Durham	Using digital tools to teach Entrepreneurship	postponed
13 th December 2018	SAGE, Newcastle	Ann Ledwith, and Helen Baker	SAGE	Application Delivery Diversity and Inclusion	30
19 th February 2020	University of Sunderland	Kristian Stuart	Barclaycard	The Future of payments, Barclaycard innovations and going cashless	46
March to June	No NE Branch events arranged because of Covid-19				
23 rd July 2020	Online	Hannah Underwood	Data for Good	Using Data for Good	32
21 st Oct 2020	Online	Stewart Collins	Embedding Design First Principles	SAGE	

Members in the NE Branch were invited to participate in events from other regional branches and from special interest groups, including:

- 8th July 2020, BCS Webinar – Civil Liberties and the Information Society
- 11th August 2020, “Webinar: The Government's Jobs Plan in the Digital Economy - an online event”, hosted by Rebecca George, BCS President
- 1st September 2020, “Disruptive Technologies, the Future - and You!” – London North Branch
- 1st September, 2020, “Why and how should Drones be Regulated”, Law Special Interest Group
- 14th September 2020, “Quantum a New Era for Computing”, Bedford Branch
- 17th September 2020, “Service Mess to Service Mesh” - DevSecOps SG
- 29th September 2020, “Using AI for Good in the Workplace” Berkshire branch

- 7th October 2020, “Climate Change, Energy and Data Centres”, Berkshire Branch

Colleagues were also invited to attend Branches Convention 7th July and the Specialist Groups Convention 9th July.

Planning for the schedule of events for 2020/21 is underway. The target is for 10 events distributed between Newcastle, Sunderland and Durham – but likely to continue online, at least until the beginning of 2021.

The branch awarded prizes to students, the best performing first year student from each of the 4 Universities in the NE Branch geography. The students were

Newcastle University	Jack Reed BSc Computer Science
Durham University	Daniel Stone BSc Computer Science
Northumbria University	Martina Pani BSc Computer Science with Web Development
Sunderland University	Darren O’Connell, BSc Computer Science

The practice for awarding a prize to the most successful year 1 student at each of the branch area’s universities will continue in 2020/21.

Nominations from each university have been requested.

The branch will continue to support the student chapters and will endeavour to host a regional event involving all of the university chapters. Discussions are underway with colleagues in the BCS to facilitate this and how to encourage more young people to get involved with BCS NE Branch.

Discussion on gender and diversity and the principle to work as a branch to encourage greater diversity in membership, events and participation in events. See below on female representation on committee

6. Treasurer’s Report

Chris Topham delivered the financial report. For the last year we received £1,708 operating budget and £1000 provisional award to run a student hackathon event.

Thanks to the generous provision of venues, catering and free talks from speakers has meant no costs to the group. The planned student hackathon was not viable and provisional expenditure was lost.

The only expenditure last year was £360 spent on the student awards. It is planned that we will do these again. Overall we were underspent by £1,348 – very much a case of use it or lose it

Operating budget is for this year is £2308.24 and the last sentence should be 'Funding provisionally approved (£500) to help rejuvenate the student chapters subject to a completed supplementary funding request being granted.

Not expecting much expenditure until January. There may be supplementary funding available if we need it to support events next year.

The financial report was presented and accepted as a true record

Accounts proposed by Ian Robinson and seconded by Cris Bloomfield

7. Election of Chair, Treasurer and committee members

Proposal that the committee for 2020/21 would stay the same as 2019/20. Proposed by Alastair Irons seconded by Aad van Moorsel, with two exceptions

- i) Nobody indicated that they wished to stand down from the committee
- ii) Tom Prickett to join the committee (and to represent Northumbria University)
- iii) Richard Sterry to join the committee

It was noted that at present there is no female representation on the committee.

It was agreed that as an action from AGM we should try and attract some female colleagues to join the committee.

Noted the need to confirm young persons' group membership
Proposed that Tom Prickett from Northumbria joins the committee
Proposed that Richard Sterry joins committee

Alastair Irons proposed the committee. Seconded by Ian Robinson

8. AOB

No items for AOB were received in advance of the AGM

Discussion about potential subjects for talks and events in 2020/2021

Klaus Michael asked whether the current COVID situation gave an opportunity to change how we engage and run events?

BCS recommend that we use GoToMeeting which is looking very dated in comparison to Teams and Zoom.

Members encouraged to take up the offer of attending events from other BCS branches and special interest groups – chair to update membership when opportunities arise.

Meeting closed at 18.45 and adjourned for the talk by Stewart Collins from SAGE