BCS Berkshire Branch AGM Minutes
25-September-2019

Held in Room 101, Building L33, Reading University Institute of Education, London Road
Campus, Redlands Road, Reading, RG1 5AG
Start: 19:00

2018-19 Committee

Anthony Parker (Chair)

Chris Todd Davies (Treasurer)

Andrew Fieldsend (Secretary)

Mike Buckland

Michael Dzandu

Pete Self

David Sturt

Dr Blessing Mbipom

Dr Yota Dimitriadi

Shantiprasad (Prasad) Amirthasagaran

Andrejus Kostarevas

Total attendance was 14, including the above committee members.

1 Introduction

Anthony Parker opened the meeting by introducing those present and passing on apologies received. The minutes of the 2018 AGM were then accepted with no comments.

2 Reports

Anthony presented the following report from the chair:

What an exciting year we've had. Brexit and Irish border technology solutions; the WeWork hot desk community unicorn valued at $46bn, now nearer $10bn; autonomous cars continue to provide ethical and moral questions; AI is not nearly ready yet, but quantum computing may be with Google reaching Quantum supremacy in the last week. Blockchain is continuing to be developed, whilst Facebook enters into the cryptocurrency sector by creating a global central bank currency competitor with Libra. Who wouldn't be interested in IT during these exiting times when security and privacy of our data is constantly in the press?

At the Berkshire Branch we continue to push the boundaries of offering events to our members and access to key products and services through bcs.org.uk. Specialist groups, publications and career guidance frameworks are still available for all BCS members, with many getting real benefit from understanding the latest advances in technology. In the past year we have held the following events:

- Coding using AI
- 5G Connected Communities
- State of JavaScript
- GDPR conference
- Open source AI
- How businesses can remain agile post Brexit
- Can new technology transform healthcare
- Transport Data and Innovation
- Choosing the right mindset
- Cyber: Insider Threat
- Best practices in Collaboration

Some of our successes include:

- Stronger collaboration with community groups Google Dev, Reading hackspace, Reading University RU Hacking
- Attending local schools and conference to share IT and make IT good for society by inspiring the next generation with Continued support of Teentech and Skill Shows from Chris our Treasurer and BCS members
- Offering additional exclusive membership benefits such as free or heavily discounted tickets to conferences such Data Protection Conference.
- Supporting the Curious Lounge initiative in Reading - a public space where tech companies can collaborate and learn together in Thames Valley

- Well attended events throughout the year and providing an in-depth range of events, both from the BCS and around the area
- Collaboration across the Thames Valley and Surrey areas with other membership groups such as IET, IMECHE, ICE and ICHEME for our yearly Great Debate each April
- Stronger relationship with Key stakeholders in the community e.g. UTC and our local labour council
- Worked to bring articles and educational material on latest developments in industry AI, Javascript, 5G, Blockchain
- Working directly with other specialist and central HQ team to create a better end to end membership service
- Working with HQ to develop and improve our shortcoming as a organisation and to shape the YPG in the future
- Feeding back to Membership what can work in a branch and how best practice can help with decision making. The Berkshire Branch has already installed a Social Media Policy, new member onboarding process and events process to streamline decision making within our current branch

We've achieved a lot and our committee members dedicate their time to make a difference. This year we say goodbye to Tony Levene, Gargi Gupta, Jez Murray and Pete Self, who have really helped us in various areas as we thank them for their efforts as they seek other life experiences. Having said that, we can't run these events and branch without the help of people in the community. We have such enthusiasm to educate and help those as IT professionals to make IT good for Society. You are all welcome to join our movement and I do hope you can offer us advice on events and initiatives you would like to see represented.

Here's to an even more exciting 2020!

Chris Todd-Davies then presented the following treasurer's report:

Last year we had a budget of £3200. At year end we had spent £3301 or 103.1% of budget. This year we had a budget of £3650 and spent £3616. The breakdown is detailed in the table below. We also spent £260 supporting hackathons under the SFR (Special Funding Request) rules. We also ran one chargeable event "5G" which brought in income of £150 leaving net expenditure at £3465 or 94.9% of budget.

Financial Report BCS Berks 2018/19	26-Sep-19		
EXPENSE	**Spent**	**Budget**	**Left**	**%Spent**
3010: Travel/Subsistence	485.09	750.00	264.91	64.7%
4000: Stationery	38.75	160.00	121.25	24.2%
4100 Postage	15.35		-15.35	
4110: Room Hire		300.00	300.00	0.0%
4130: Speakers expenses		200.00	200.00	0.0%
4150: Catering	1423.22	1090.00	-333.22	130.6%
4212: Publicity & Materials	308.43	300.00	-8.43	102.8%
4290: Subs to Other Bodies				
4291: Sponsorship	1027.63	600.00	-427.63	171.3%
4900 Other Costs General	22.38		-22.38	
4931: Eventbrite Charges	17.31			
5102: Student Prizes	240.00	150.00	-90.00	160.0%
7100: Equipment Costs	37.92	100.00	62.08	NA
Expenditure	**£3,616.08**	**£3,650.00**	**£51.23**	**99.1%**

Chargeable Events (unbudgeted)

Income	£150.62			
Expenditure Less Income.	**£3,465.46**	**% budget**		**94.9%**

Special Funding Projects

5101: Hackathons - FY2019.29	260.45	500.00	239.55	52.1%

This year our biggest expenditure was **catering** which totaled £**1423** (£1273) followed by **sponsorship** at £**1027** (£250). Travel expenses at £485 were lower than last year (£636) due to holding committee meetings via GoToMeeting and attending less STEM events in Surrey. Speaker expenses were nil this year v £320 last year.

Going into **2019/20** our budget has been increased to **£3950 (+8%)** plus £500 for two Hackathons.

3 Committee Elections 2019-20

Anthony Parker thanked the committee and stood down as chair. The branch officers were then elected unopposed:

- Anthony Parker was proposed as chair by Andrew Fieldsend and seconded by Pete Self.
- Chris Todd-Davies was proposed as treasurer by Yota Dimitriadi and seconded by Mike Buckland.

The following additional committee members were then elected by acclamation:

- Andrew Fieldsend
- Mike Buckland
- Michael Dzandu
- David Sturt
- Pete Self
- Dr Blessing Mbipom
- Dr Yota Dimitriadi
- Shantiprasad (Prasad) Amirthasagaran

In addition, Sukanta Chakravorty and Nilmadhab Mandal volunteered from the room and were co-opted onto the committee, and Ludmila Cerne joins the committee in her role as the new chair of RU Hacking, replacing Andrejus Kostarevas.

4 Any Other Business

Apart from a general discussion on recent events, no other business was raised, and the meeting closed at 19:15.