

**BCS IT Leaders Forum AGM, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020, 1600 hrs.**

**Virtual**

**1. Attendees**

2020 Committee members

Jeremy Acklam  
Emmanuel Ademola  
Philip Crewe  
Jacqui Hogan  
John McCarthy  
David Miller  
Algirdas Pakštas  
Chris Pinnock  
Jon Hall  
Jacqui Hogan

IT Leaders Forum Members

Carol Long	Stephen Hau
Desmond Alvarez	Nick Hilton
Stephen Castell	Paul Homan
Jonathan Leeson	Panagiota Karadimitriou
Tim Matson	Steve Karmeinsky
Bayo Ajayi	Ian Kingdom
Martyn Amos	Gary Lefman
Hans Bathija	Tim Matsell
Mark Bew	Roland Merrick
Mike Broomhead	Gregory Meyers
Paul Bulmer	Glenn Miller
Clare Chambers	Pam Miller
Allen Chester	John Mitchell
Paul Cunningham	Idris Musa
Victor Darrel	Sarah Omoike
Daniel Doe	Sean Petralia
John Edwards	Stephan Potter
Paul Featherstone	Freddie Quek
Terence Freedman	Kami Sivagurunathan
Richard Godfrey	Paul M Smith
Fin Goulding	James Stallard
Mario Guarino	Sean Sullivan
Jeremy Hall	Martin Vickery
Mike Hall	Allan Wenzslaus
James Hamon	Nigel Whittingham

## **2. BCS IT Leaders Forum Chairs report 2020**

### **Committee roles during 2020**

Chair – Phil Crewe

Immediate Past Chair, and Inclusion Officer – Jacqui Hogan

Secretary – Ian Golding

Treasurer – Chris Pinnock

Events Coordinator and Communications Lead – Shakeeb Niazi

White Paper Coordinator – Dr John McCarthy

The other committee members were Jeremy Acklam, Stephen Allott, Dalim Basu, Ibukun Emmanuel, Dr Jon Hall, Dr David Miller, Algirdas Pakstas, Emmanuel Ojo Ademola, and Haiyan Wu.

### **Election report**

During the year Stephen Allott stood down.

This month we had five vacancies due to people coming to the end of their term, and four nominations to join the committee. Therefore, no formal election was needed.

I'm pleased to confirm the following people were elected for a three-year term: Ian Golding (re-elected), John McCarthy (re-elected), Algirdas Pakstas (re-elected), and Jonathan Leeson. Additionally, one member of the group has expressed an interest in helping without being formally on the committee at this time.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Chris Pinnock and Emmanuel Ojo Ademola for their work over the past years on the committee, and I hope to continue working closely with them in the future.

We will confirm specific committee roles at the next committee meeting in January.

I have pleasure in letting you know that I have asked Dr. David Miller to be my Vice Chair for the coming year, and David has accepted. Please join me in congratulating him.

### **The year in review**

This year has been different in many ways for our group. Not least of which because I am starting off by calling it "our group". Three major things happened this year. As they say on "I'm a Celebrity ...", in no particular order ...

We changed our name. We entered the year as "BCS ELITE" and closed the year as "BCS IT Leaders Forum". I'll not revisit the debate but suffice to say there was a considerable amount of comment and opinion. However, I, supported by the committee, wanted to move away from a consistent question often phrased as "is BCS ELITE an elitist group". We are a group that is proud of our heritage, and with a vision of providing relevant and useful meetings, documents, and discussion area for our members. Thank you to all the members for the supportive messages we received during that name change process. It confirmed to us that we were on the right path.

We have been considering for some time now about how we organise a major industry event, and part way through this year we started talking about this to BCS HQ. They have been very supportive, and between us we are aiming for an event early next year that is geared specifically to IT Leaders and

our membership. Therefore, the time seemed right to consider our brand message and use the event as a re-launch of the group. It was therefore the right time for a name change aligned with this. The planning for that event is well underway and I would expect marketing to be released imminently. I am not going to announce anything in detail now, as one or two elements are still being aligned, but watch this space!

And then, the third element, the one that affected us all. We could not have predicted how Covid-19 would impact in 2020 – indeed as a popular meme has already stated, no-one asked in 2015 “where do you see yourself in 5 years” will have got that answer correct. It certainly impacted the events we had planned in the early part of the year, however with some initial help from Open University (thank you to them) we organised a large mid-year virtual event, and thanks to my committee colleagues we have been having regular virtual events since then. Our partners in Leeds have also been able to move events virtually, so the second half of the year has seen service back close to normal.

Finally, from me a huge thank you to the committee that supports us as a group. We could not do what we do without the willingness of volunteers to spend their time helping to organise events, documents and discussions. To those stepping down – thank you for all you have done, and I hope to see you back on the committee soon. To the new joiners – welcome and we look forward to getting to know you more. To those continuing the journey with the committee – here’s to another year of making stuff happen.

And to all our members, please don’t be worried about getting involved. We rely on you for ideas that you would like to see pursued, and if you have the time, help in pursuing them. Please contact me if you want to help us in some way.

After we close this AGM, we want to use the time to discuss potential events to run next year, so that our team can start planning for them. You are all welcome to join.

Thank you all  
Phil Crewe  
(Chair, BCS IT Leaders Forum)

### **Follow up from Chairs Report**

David Miller spent some time outlining plans for the major IT leadership event we are planning alongside BCS HQ in February 2021. Because of the pandemic this first event will be virtual, but it is hoped that it will be an annual event alongside the Turing Lecture (joint with the IET) and the academic events (the Lovelace, Karen Spärk Jones, and Roger Needham lectures) and fills a gap for the BCS being the first annual event to be aimed at IT in business.

### 3. Treasurers report

Chris Pinnock, the treasurer, outlined the position at 8 December which is as shown below. Because of pandemic there was little spend.

## Budget 2020-2021

We have successfully secured a budget requested on the basis of a programme of suggested Events and White Papers

Lines relating to holding events (catering, expenses) were reduced from our request but are inline with correct thinking on the pandemic situation.

We have assumed no monetary sponsorship this year – we do receive it in other ways

We have two Whitepapers in process with funding available by Special Request if we need it

There is a large budget line for a significantly large CIO/IT Leadership event being organised with HQ

	Code	Line Item	We asked for	Budget	Income	Outgoing/Spent	Left
Spend	3010	Travel/Subsistence	400	274		0	274
	4110	Room Hire	1,100	825		0	825
	4130	Speakers expenses	800	600		0	600
	4150	Catering	2,100	1,396		0	1,396
	4212	Publicity	1,000	1,000		0	1,000
	4931	EventBrite		0		0	0
	4210	Seminars and Conferences		0		0	0
	4900	Other		80	80		0
Income	1704	Sponsorship		0	0		0
	1708	Events Registration Fees	(380)	(380)	0		(380)
<b>Total Expenses Budget</b>							4197
<b>Total Income Budget</b>							(380)
<b>Balancing</b>							3817
SR		Whitepapers		1,000			1,000
		Event		8,000			8,000
<b>Total</b>				12,817	0	0	12817

## End of year position 2019-2020

- Some minimal speakers expenses and travel to support events
- Due to lack of ability of travel and hold events post Feb 2020, very little spend indeed
- No Whitepaper money was needed, although one whitepaper was started

	Code	Line Item	Budget	Income	Outgoing/Spent	Left	
Spend	3010	Travel/Subsistence	500		0	500	
	4110	Room Hire	1,500		0	1,500	
	4130	Speakers expenses	1,200		29	1,171	
	4150	Catering	2,400		365	2,035	
	4931	EventBrite	0		36	(36)	
	4210	Seminars and Conferences	0		0	0	
	4900	Other	0		0	0	
Income	1704	Sponsorship	(1,500)	0		(1,500)	
	1708	Events Registration Fees	(450)	261		(189)	
<b>Total Expenses Budget</b>							5171
<b>Total Income Budget</b>							(1689)
<b>Balancing</b>							3481
SR		Whitepapers	1,600			1,600	
<b>Total</b>							5081

### 4. Membership report

Since the adoption of GDPR we have not had a membership secretary but the group receives a report every month from HQ which shows the number of members. David Miller presented this feedback at the AGM.

At 3<sup>rd</sup> December the membership of the group stood at 2487. As recently as November 2019 the membership was 3291. It is thought that the reduction in membership is the result of transferring data from the Catalyst system to Salesforce. This process is almost complete with 469 members remaining

to be transferred. It is understood that we are not the only group to experience this reduction in membership during this transfer.

The number of members of the BCS IT Leaders LinkedIn group now stands at 1650. Members are encouraged to join the LinkedIn Group because under GDPR rules this is the only way that we can have any dialogue with individuals unless they contact us first.

## **5. Events and Communications Report**

This report was presented by Shakeeb Niazi who has been the Events Coordinator and Communications Lead since the Autumn of 2020. It shows our events following a re-start at that time.

Our event programme was impacted by the pandemic. That said in we did establish a programme using GoToWebinar and MS Teams as soon as the first lockdown was lifted.

Webinar - 1 July in partnership with Open University  
**Business as Unusual – Business Continuity Management in the new world**

Webinar - 11 August: Booked: 140, Attended: 46  
**Overcoming the challenges of a Dispersed Workforce Apps, Data and Security**

Webinar - 15 September: Booked: 94, Attended:46  
**Re-imagining corporate security and resilience: leadership, people and growth**

Webinar - 7 October: Booked: 79, Attended: 31  
**Climate change, energy and data centres - Reaching net zero**

Webinar - 20 October: Booked: 50, Attended: 14  
**Understanding the role of how Augmented Reality will change your business -**

Webinar - 10 November: Booked: 156 Attended: 77  
**Shaping the World of Tomorrow**

For our 2021 event programme, we are looking for subjects that you would like to see so please let us know [shakeeb.niazi@bcs.org](mailto:shakeeb.niazi@bcs.org). We are also keen, to have authors as speakers so any introductions would be appreciated.

We are also looking for volunteers to help with the copywriting for events and social media as well as those who wish to post and promote our events on LinkedIn, Twitter and other social media platforms.

## **6. Any Other Business**

There was subsequently a lively discussion with members attending the meeting. The following points were noted:

Carol Long (Chair of Quality Group) asked if we could elaborate on the topics planned for white papers. John McCarthy replied, Remote Working, Digital Transformation, and DNN.

Desmond Alvarez called in from Canada to say Thank You for acknowledging our international members.

Stephen Castell also said he was interested in contributing ideas for white papers though what was said was very unclear because the internet connection was poor. Stephen, please contact us for a further discussion.

Jonathan Leeson suggested topics for 2021 trends: Virtual Market Places, Contactless Technology, "Generation Z" trends (social media development ideas).

Tim Matson suggested machine learning/AI in manufacturing as a white paper topic. Chris P. responded that we were working on an Ethics in AI topic with Paul Morrissey. Phil C. suggested perhaps developing this into a paper plus spin-off event or the other way around. This was agreed to be an interesting way forward for this topic. Carol Long said that the Quality Group had also been looking at Ethics and AI and would be happy to collaborate. Phil C. replied that the IT Leaders Forum often collaborated on events and would be happy to work with the Quality Group on either papers or events or both.

Tim Matson also observed that business had adjusted very well to the pandemic and it would be worth looking at the longer-term social impact of this. For example, the future need for large HQ buildings, the impact of home delivery, the growth of the "On Demand" culture. This could form the basis of an event or paper.

Jeremy A. said that 'Transport for the North' (TfN), which underpins the governments economic recovery plan for the North of England, had undertaken related research on the impact of the pandemic on public transport. Their findings suggested that 67% of people no longer wish to commute to work. There is also a growing trend to have more than one job where national boundaries are not a restriction. The observation was one of "energetic start-ups" that were not office-based. Another was that there was a need to consider the impact of IT on services.

The meeting closed at 1800 hrs.