BCS Member Group Chair's Report

Member Group Name:	BIRMINGHAM BRANCH
Year:	2021/2020
Report Completed By:	David Hazelwood

Group Chair:	Tom Goodman & David Hazelwood (Retiring)
Group Treasurer:	Dr. Peter Crouch
Group Vice Chair	Terry Bounds
Group Secretary:	Jacob Wilson
Group Inclusion Officer:	Tom Goodman / Sophie Cooknell
Other Committee Members:	Mohammed Mohiuddin; Jake Foster; Peter Gale; Drew Connor; Herman Fung; Dr. Alan Ma; Sophie Cooknell, Fraser Wade, Ryan Arrowsmith

The Chair's Report is a vital communication tool for the BCS Community Team to understand and support your activity as a group. The Programme, Practice, and Policy (PPP) Committee will review your submitted report, and suitable action points fed into the Community Board for strategic planning. As one of the critical communication points with our members, your completion of this report supports not only your group but ongoing support and development of other member groups and the BCS itself

Successes

Please list the top three successes the group has achieved in the past year.

Success	Additional Comments
1. The launch of Real IT Bites, Early Career Professional Series in January 2021	With our events being held online we have had the benefit that they have also been recorded and made available via the Branch's YouTube Channel Playlist: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QGqRDFMVYO0&list=PLKBhokJ0qd3-gAo0WmjFgMp2XrZJbgYc7 An additional 435 people have now viewed these events.
2. The Use of emerging technology in the legal sector webinar held 13 April 2021	Attended by about 50 delegates on the evening, this event is also available on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oak4XyUp6kw&t=2s
3. Our December Event "Bring your own Mince Pies" 15 December 2020.	Continuing our newly established tradition of holding a Seasonal Event in December as a closing event to the year.
4. HackTheMidlands 5.0 ran from 22nd to 25th October 2020	In the height of the pandemic - as an online event to huge success. With over 700 attendees, and towards 50 submissions, we were delighted to have such a good turnout, and the ability to work to emulate our positive in-person environment online using Discord and Twitch. Feedback was very positive on the whole, and we've learned some important lessons that we'll be putting to use at this year's event.

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Plans

Please list the top three activities the group is planning for next year.

Planned Activity	Additional Comments
1.The launch of Real IT Bites, Early Career Professional Series in January 2022	Continuation of the series started in January 2021
2.HackTheMidlands, from 28th to 31st October 2021.	The BCS Birmingham Branch is proudly supporting the event in its 6th iteration this year, and encourages BCS members of all ages, backgrounds, and skill levels to take part Tickets are available at the HackTheMidlands website, at https://hackthemidlands.com
3.Branch support of local universities	Pursuing links with local universities

Impediments

Please list and describe the top three impediments stopping you from succeeding in your group's ambition and support the BCS vision of "Making IT Good for Society."

Impediment	Description
1. Uncertainty arising from the continuing Covid 19 restrictions on face to face meetings	Although this has been a challenge, we have become well versed in running our meetings and events online.
2. Continuing difficulty in engaging the wider branch membership.	Online meetings has definitely changed the dynamics of our engagement, but at the same time means that we can record events that can be viewed "On Demand" via the BCS YouTube Channel. The difficulty in engaging our subscribed members though continues to be a challenge. Although we have access to our member email lists to send out notices, we are fairly limited in the format of these messages and this is becoming a problem in getting the message out effectively.
3. Work with other Industry groups in the area was impacted with our ability to work with PIMWM being interrupted over the year.	This was mainly due to Covid and some changes in the PINWM management. These have now been resolved and PINWM are once again planning for the 2021/22 year with activity due to resume from September 2021.

Additional Facts and Figures

Please provide any facts and figures you think would be useful to the Community Team for further analysis and future activity planning.

With 8 sessions planned for the Real IT Bites Early Career Professional Series, there are still 3 sessions left to run which are ready to be planned in from October.

Further Comments

If you have any further comments you wish to provide the Community Team; please give them below.

It is with regret that due to other work commitments, I will not be standing for Chair this year and that I must also stand down my responsibilities with the Branch Committee this year. However, I wish the Branch and Committee a successful new year in this an exciting year where Birmingham holds the Commonwealth Games and hopefully Covid will gradually allow us to return to somewhat more of a normality. David Hazelwood (Co-Chair 2020/21)

Nominations for Awards and Recognition

It is important that the BCS recognise deserving voluntary service. If you are aware of someone who warrants one of these awards, then please nominate them. It is easy to nominate someone, but, if you are unsure about completing the form, the Community team and your liaison in the Programme, Practice and Policy Committee can help. Please email groups@bcs.uk.

There are three levels of Recognition of Appreciation award:
- Certificate of Appreciation – going beyond the normal expectations of a single voluntary role by directly contributing to significant involvements, achievements or benefits to BCS.
- Meritorious Certificate – going beyond the normal expectations of two or more voluntary roles in different areas of BCS by directly contributing to tangible involvements, achievements or benefits to BCS.
- John Ivinson Award – significantly furthering the BCS's strategic aims and mission on a wide scope of BCS's areas of endeavour by directly contributing significant achievements and benefits to BCS. Typically, the BCS will present this prestigious award to 1-3 volunteers per year.

There are long-service awards for 5, 10, 25, and 30 years of contribution to the BCS.

Volunteer Recognition

Please complete the table below and indicate if you wish to nominate a member of your team for an award of recognition. A member of the Community Team will get in touch to help you complete the process.

Group/Branch Member	Years of BCS Volunteering	Nomination
Terry Bounds	Over 40 Years with the Birmingham Branch including serving as Chair since 2002.	Certificate of Appreciation Awarded

Honorary Fellowship

Nominees will have made an outstanding contribution to the charitable objectives of the BCS over an extended period.

The BCS award Honorary Fellowship under Byelaw 8 of the BCS's Royal Charter and Trustee Board Regulation 1.3 specifies that the BCS award may also make the award to non-members who may not be eligible for any other class of membership.

Community Board and Trustee Board will consider a candidate for Honorary Fellowship against the following criteria:

- At any time, both the contribution to BCS's work and the stature of the individual nominated should be commensurate with the standards set by previous recipients. There is no overall limit to the number of Honorary Fellows although it is unlikely that there will be more than two Honorary Fellows elected in any one year.
- To be elected, the nomination must be on the Trustee Board Agenda, and at least 3/4 of those present must resolve in favour.

If you are aware of a nominee for Honorary Fellowship; please add their details below and a member of the Community Team will raise this at the next appropriate meeting of the Community Board.