BCS - The Chartered Institute for IT
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the 2020/21 Session
of the South Wales Branch
18:00 Tuesday, 28 October 2021
Online Webinar
DRAFT

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Andy Bellamy welcomed everyone to the meeting.

[xx] committee members and [xx] members joined the webinar.

Apologies had been received from Iain King and Phil Hopkins.

2. Minutes of the Previous AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM (September 2020) 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. Eleven formal Committee meetings had been held online and one social meeting had been held in person during the past year. Committee minutes are posted on the branch web page.

He expressed his thanks for the work of the three retiring committee members (Carl Allen, Phil Hopkins, and Iain King).

The branch had used eight online webinars 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. Details are held in the past events section of our web pages (including video recordings).

We had worked closely with the IET's two branches in South Wales in taking turns to run joint events.

As part of our input to STEM in South Wales, the LEGO MindStorms working group (which had been running for three years) had run several online events for the public and for schools. The group had begun to expand its membership until COVD came along. It had developed video resources with learning plans for schools. The group, led by Paul Bulmer, intended to continue updating videos and launch new ones 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 later in 2021 (note that this was subsequently run as an online event).

3.3. Branch Social Media and Website

Andy explained that our web pages remain a key way of communicating what we do. Our events pages contain details of future event and the recordings ad slide sets for previous meetings. BCS had launched a discussion forum for members alongside the more static, Branch-driven web pages.

Together with BCS Mid-Wales and BCS Chester and North Wales, three branches make up "BCS in Wales".

The Branch runs a Twitter account as well as using the more traditional eMail newsletters.

3.4. Membership

Andy explained that there had been a slight drop in membership, but size for size our branch is quite large. BCS HQ was working on increasing membership across the whole Institute, especially amongst student members.

The majority of our members are professional members, mid-career and male.

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

Andy went through the budget figures for running costs, catering, special prizes etc. In fact, most of our budget went unspent, because of the shift of events form in-person to online. He anticipated that events would continue to be online.

5.   Future Events

The chair then went through the outline programme of events for the forthcoming year. He asked for offers of help in arranging or in presenting talks for our member (and, with online talks, a worldwide audience).

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:

- Establishing a BCS in Wales higher education conference with a view to showcasing IT related HE courses in Wales

- Working with BCS HQ staff and Higher Education Institutions in South Wales to promote and develop student chapters
- Following BCS HQ's lead on four broadly based themes (digital lives in the hands or professionals, greater diversity and inclusion, developing and delivering events, achieving net zero)

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 was chair
- Mike Warman was elected as secretary
- Jonathan Fish was 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
Lauren Watts-Keane	Diversity and Inclusion Officer
Neil Sidnell	

8. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

Andy thanked all those who attended and closed the AGM.

The meeting finished with a talk by Professor Tom Crick   : *Rethinking Digital Wales: Future of education, infrastructure and the economy*

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/

For last year's AGM: https://www.bcs.org/events-calendar/2021/october/webinar-rethinking-digital-wales-future-of-education-infrastructure-and-the-economy/