

BCS Member Group Chair's Report

Report submissions must be sent to groups@bcs.uk or your Community Coordinator.

Member Group Name:	Birmingham
Year:	2025
Report Completed By:	Jake Foster

Group Chair:	Jake Foster
Group Treasurer:	Jake Foster
Group Secretary:	Babajide Ogunjobi
Group Inclusion Officer:	Drew Connor
Other Committee Members:	Alan Ma, Norman King, Terry Bounds, Emmanuel Badger, Ian Dean, Osikpemi Otsemeuno, Tom Goodman

The Chair's Report is a vital communication tool for the BCS Community Team to understand and support your activity as a group. The Community Support Committee (CSC) 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, completing this report supports not only your group but the 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. First independently hosted in-person event in a while	Due to difficulties securing a venue and finding speakers, we have not hosted an independent BCS talk in Birmingham in the past year. In April, we hosted a 'Data quality in AI training' talk at Baskerville House, achieving an attendance of 34.
2. Successful sponsorship of TechMids conference	The conference had engagement from over 190 IT professionals. The BCS presentation was received well, with over a dozen people directly chatting to me about the BCS. I was also able to interact with numerous speakers in the Birmingham area who would be willing to present a talk in the future.
3. Engagement with BCU	We have supported BCU by hosting joint events. This has raised awareness of the BCS amongst the students at the University.

Plans

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

Planned Activity	Additional Comments
1. Increase the number of in-person talks we can run within the bounds of our allocated	With the connections from the conference and increased support in the Birmingham tech

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budget.	community, I believe we can expand the number of events we can host for the Birmingham tech community.
2. Increase engagement with the Universities in Birmingham, through events and the student award	Get BCS events that would benefit students advertised at the BCS universities. Repair ties with the student bodies that have deteriorated since COVID.
3. Increase awareness of BCS in the Birmingham tech community	This can be achieved by having a presence at the other tech groups in Birmingham.

Impediments

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

Impediment	Description
1. Difficulty in finding speakers.	We have struggled to find speakers who can host a talk on behalf of the BCS. I plan to put a call for speakers out amongst our BCS members to see if we can get more volunteers in the future.
2. Lack of funding	Due to a lack of funding, we are restricted to hosting events at locations that will volunteer the space free of charge.
3. Committee availability	As this is a voluntary role, people are restricted in the amount of time they can contribute to their role as a member of the BCS.

Additional Facts and Figures

Please provide any facts and figures that would be helpful to the Community Team and the CSC for further analysis and future activity planning.

Further Comments

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

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Nominations for Awards and Recognition

The BCS recognises deserving voluntary service. If you know someone who warrants one of these awards, please nominate them. It is easy to nominate someone, but, if you need clarification on completing the form, the Community team can help. Please email groups@bcs.uk.

There are three levels to the 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 annually.

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

Volunteer Recognition

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

Group/Branch Member	Years of BCS Volunteering	Nomination

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.