London Central Branch

The Chartered Institute for IT

Contents

AGM 2023

London Central Branch

bcs
The Chartered Institute for IT

Agenda AGM 2023

4th December 2023 at 6.30pm

Location: Webinar - Online Zoom Meeting

1. Apologies for absence

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 8th December 2022

3. Chair's Report for 2022/23

4. Hon. Secretary's Report 2022/23

5. Hon. Treasurer's Report 2022/23

6. Event Success / Feedback Report 2022/23

7. Elections

   7.1. Election of Chair 2023/24

      Mr Dalim Basu

   7.2. Election of Officers 2023/24

      Nominees for re-election
      Honorary Secretary- Mr David Grundy

      Honorary Treasurer- Mr David Lewis

   7.3. Election of Committee Members 2023/24

      Nominees for re-election (flexible roles)
      Ms Kitty Hung
      Ms Diana Cojocaru
      Ms Aashi Sahu

      Nominees for committee helpers (3 month initial period)
      Verónica Romero Cores
      Mustafa Harun Sendur
      Joe Woodhouse

   7.4. Assignment of specific roles
      Inclusion Officer – David Grundy

8. Any Other Business

Previous Annual General Meeting Minutes

The British Computer Society – London Central Branch

8th December 2022 at 6.30pm

Location: Hybrid – BCS London Office & Zoom

Committee Members present: Mr D Basu (Chair), Mr D Grundy (Secretary), Mr D Lewis (Treasurer), Ms K Hung, Mr Michal Michnowski

It was noted that there were 19 members in attendance.

1.   Apologies for absence

     Mr I Idafar, Mr M Lloyd, Mr J Carlos, Mr K Khanna

2.   Minutes of the AGM held on 11th November 2021

     The minutes were approved.

3.   Chair's Report

     Mr Basu presented the Chair's report. It was noted that we had several event initiatives in the past year, all with the goal of supporting BCS' objectives of making IT good for society.

     Mr Basu outlined the increased collaboration between other branches and specialist groups across BCS. Wherever possible we like to collaborate with other groups to increase the number of attendees and expose our events to a wider audience.

     Mr Basu advised that he has taken on the role of Chair for the London South Branch in addition to Central & North and that going forwards we will be closely co-ordinating the activities of 3 of the 4 London branches.

     The Chair's report was accepted.

4.   Hon. Secretary's Report

     Mr Grundy presented the Secretary's report. It was noted that we had an increase to 37 events in the past year and resumed hybrid and in-person events. Our most successful event was "Business Analysis in the Brave New World" which was a presentation by committee member Kitty Hung. Several other events had more than 100 participants as well.

     The Secretary's report was accepted.

5. Hon. Treasurer's Report

    Mr Lewis presented the Treasurer's report. It was noted that we began spending money again now that in-person events have resumed and most of the expenditure was on event catering.

    Mr Lewis presented our approved budget for the coming year, which has been significantly reduced to £1,554. This is because BCS have changed their policies to try to reduce underspending of the allocated budgets. Mr Lewis noted that we have the option of submitting a Supplementary Expenditure Request should it be required, and that BCS will be redistributing funds between groups to the groups that will actively use the funds.

    The Treasurer's report was accepted.

6. Elections

    All elected Branch officers and committee members were nominated in conformity with the Member Group Rules.

6.1. Election of Chair 2022/2023

    Mr Dalim Basu was re-elected Chair for the forthcoming session.

6.2. Election of Officers 2022/2023

    The following Officers were re-elected:
    Honorary Treasurer: Mr David Lewis
    Honorary Secretary: Mr David Grundy

6.3. Election of Committee Members 2022/2023

    The following members were re-elected to the committee:
    Ms Kitty Hung
    Mr Mike Lloyd
    Mr Kamesh Khanna
    Mr Jean Carlos
    Mr Michal Michnowksi

    The following members were newly elected to the committee for a 3 month initial period:
    Ms Diana Cojocaru

6.4. Assignment of specific roles

    The following committee roles were assigned:
    Inclusion Officer – David Grundy

7. Any Other Business

    A member queried the attendance rate for the AGM. We advised that the numbers were smaller than regular events because we didn't have an event on the same date subsequent to the AGM. We advised the member to attend our live events, for which we have large numbers of attendees both in-person and online.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 7.00pm

London Central Branch

Chair's Report for the Year 2022/23

Whoosh!

How are you coping with the rollercoaster ride of IT advances in the 2020s? As we race away from the nightmares of the pandemic and lockdown, we no longer have the SPEED of tech change – it's now an 'ACCELERATION of change'.

Huge challenges and changes in so many tech fields – Eco/Climate tech, Health IT, autonomous fighting drones, energy, GPS, photographic advances..

Post-pandemic political instability, shockwaves from war in Ukraine compounded by war in Palestine, economic downturn, starvation in Africa, spiralling food and energy prices, and other challenges to society as we know it. Changing work patterns and financial rewards and personal priorities, increasing mental issues. And of course the huge tsunami of AI, its uses and implications. What about Ethics? Where's the 'Pause & Think' button?

How are YOU coping?

For our BCS London Branches, in our key role in The Chartered Institute for IT and our shared aim of "making IT good for Society", it's been a very busy year. I hope that you have helped and learnt from our initiatives examining key issues and choices.

We increased our reach, planning and delivery of IT-related topics for the benefit of BCS members and others. Our product and service delivery activities have included more topics, speakers, deliverables, use of BCS facilities and products (including communications, AV, venue, books and publications).

We increased focus on events involving great speakers from large/medium/small organisations, many of whom have become great supporters of BCS.

We ran over 40 events in the past year. Events are listed in our Honorary Secretary's Report. Events were delivered in up to three formats – 'in-person', 'hybrid' and especially by live webinar. Video recordings of events were edited and made available faster to wider audiences via YouTube and Branch channels.

We increased our range of initiatives involving our great committees of enthusiastic volunteers and showcasing their skills and interests.

We also grew our own communities. Until October 2022 we comprised two Branches – Central and North London Branches (the CeNLB community). In October we welcomed the active collaboration of the London South Branch, and are working together as the 'London Branches 3' community, with the ability to reach over 10,000 BCS members, as well as other groups and external organisations. A huge range of IT-related experience, capabilities, innovation and entrepreneurship.

Then with BCS encouragement we rebranded again, and are now the BCS London Branches community, serving the above three London Branches and associated with a small but growing number of Specialist Groups.

Want to know more? Come and meet us!

Get involved. Share your inspiration and skills.

Collaborate to benefit. Let's help make IT good for Society!

Dalim Basu
Chair
26th November 2023

Honorary Secretary and Inclusion Officer's Report for the Year 2022/23

I am pleased to present this report for the past year, in which we held 41 events.

Event Attendance

Annual event participation was 2,834 and the largest event had 174 participants.

2022				
Oct	Webinar	Proptech: What is it and what's the challenge?		58
Oct	Webinar	Cloud Webinar Series Part 1 - What is cloud anyway?		52
Oct	Webinar	Is Trust The New World Currency?		39
Oct	Webinar	11 pragmatic tips for implementing new emerging technology		46
Nov	Hybrid	Humanising Technology - Regaining trust in Information Technology		56
Nov	Webinar	Digital Divide - growing or shrinking?		56
Nov	Webinar	Cloud Webinar Series Part 2 - How can you navigate a career in cloud?		42
Nov	Webinar	Quantifying Quality		75
Dec	Webinar	Cloud Webinar Series Part 3 - What is the future of cloud?		40
Dec	Hybrid	London Central AGM		19
2023				
Jan	Hybrid	NLB AGM		21
Jan	Webinar	AI-Powered Automation - Mayflower Autonomous Ship		89
Jan	In-person	Warm tea, coffee & chat at BCS		19
Jan	Hybrid	Cyber Attacks today – an overview		153
Jan	Hybrid	Cyber Wars, Advanced Persistent Threats & Malware Analysis		134
Jan	Webinar	If human behaviour is badly affecting our work, can we do something about it?		77
Feb	Webinar	Automation of digital crime investigation using Reinforcement Learning (RL)		80
Feb	Webinar	The Human's Guide to Managing Change		78
Feb	Webinar	Wominspiration - Microsoft Chief Security Advisor Sarah Armstrong-Smith		114
Mar	Hybrid	Challenges to Business Analysts in 2023		97
Mar	In-person	Age UK 2-4pm Tea & Talk 1		6
Mar	Hybrid	What is Lateral Thinking and How Can You Use it?		89
Mar	Webinar	The Impact Estimation Tool (IET)		42
Mar	Webinar	Global Recycling Day 2023: E-waste - challenges, opportunities and future trends		45
Mar	In-person	Age UK 2-4pm Tea & Talk 2		6
Apr	In-person	Sarah Armstrong-Smith book event		31
Apr	Webinar	No DevSecOps? Plan B: Risk-Driven Application Testing		42
Apr	In-person	Visit to Mazars London office		57
May	Webinar	Cyber - Critical Network Infrastructure Attacks		100
May	Hybrid	What is Quantum Computing?		131
May	Hybrid	Microservices - Hybrid Cloud Applications		66
Jun	Webinar	Wominspiration - Shazmin Majid of EPAM		38
Jul	Hybrid	Wominspiration - Sarah Rench of Avanade		65
Jul	Webinar	Combating insurance fraud and deception with Conversational AI		45
Jul	Webinar	What does it mean to be Quantum Safe?		86
Jul	Hybrid	Generative AI Vs. Generative IP		113
Aug	Hybrid	AI: Using Generative Pre-trained Transformers (GPT) Without Hallucinations		96
Aug	Hybrid	What is all the hype with AI, and why now?		174
Aug	Webinar	Early Careers - How to get started in Cybersecurity		135
Aug	Hybrid	Wominspiration - Lydia Monnington of Stuart		58
Aug	Hybrid	Wominspiration - Dr Pearl Jarrett		64
		Grand Total		**2834**

Catering

We continue to provide food and drink at our events to facilitate networking. This year we moved away from sandwiches and changed to ordering pizza, which has been well received by guests and provides better value for the charity thus allowing us to run more events within our budget. The catering expenditure is our primary expenditure. We have been catering to vegan and vegetarian options. So far we haven't catered for gluten free but this is something we have recently started being asked about, so we are considering the best options.

Social Media

We continue to upload recordings of the majority of our events to YouTube.

Number of new videos: 33
Number of views: 3,600+

Our most watched video was "The Cloud Series - part 1: What is cloud anyway?" which has more than 420 views. The event was in collaboration with the BCS Fellows Technical Advisory Group (F-TAG).

We've been maintaining a social media presence on LinkedIn and X but the impact remains somewhat flat. Our LinkedIn group now has 281 members and we regularly post event flyers there. Most of our event attendance continues to be driven by our BCS mailing list, BCS events website and Eventbrite with social media only making a very small contribution.

Diversity and Inclusion

I am also the branch's Inclusion Officer. We have a diverse committee with members having various backgrounds and interests so our events naturally reflect that diversity. In the last year we had 3 specific diversity and inclusion related streams which stood out:

- Seniors
  We hosted seniors at the BCS London office to have tea and discuss tech and some of these sessions were in collaboration with Age UK.

- Wominspiration
  This is a particularly large stream of events in which we interview inspiring women and find out about their career journey, benefiting from their useful insights and advice.

- Passport to Success
  This is a new series where we interview guests who have had remarkable journeys in international migration and who have gone on to achieve success in the technological world.

We have also collaborated on diversity and inclusion related events with several BCS specialist groups and benefit from their expertise.

In May we attended a Diverse CXO event where CXOs gave mentorship and advice to people early in their career. In August we were invited to attend Black Tech Day by the organisers. We made some new contacts there and one of them became a speaker.

David Grundy
Honorary Secretary
29th November 2023

London Central Branch

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Honorary Treasurer's Report Financial Year 2022/23

I am pleased to present the Honorary Treasurer's Report for the London Central Branch for the financial year 2022-23, this being September 2022 through August 2023. This report is presented at the Branch's Annual General Meeting on Monday 4th December 2023 and it contains information correct as at Monday 20th November 2023.

Financial Year 2022/23

To fund our operations during this period, we submitted a budget request which was reduced to £1554 which included no provision for student prizes. It represented a further major cut with no explanation from head office' During this further hybrid financial year, the branch spent just £1200, despite running an extensive programme of webinars and events that kept the membership engaged, active and entertained. We had no speaker expense claims (mainly thanks to the generosity of our speakers and continued use of Zoom etc.),

	Actual Aug 2023	Budget Aug 2023	Budget Variance Over/Under	% of Budget	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Budget Variance Over/Under	% of Budget	Actual Full Year	Budget Full Year	Budget Variance Over/Under	% of Budget
Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	2.25	0.00	2.25	0.00%	2.25	0.00	2.25	0.00%
Expenditure	267.56	0.00	(267.56)	0.00%	1,200.34	1,554.17	353.83	77.23%	1,200.34	1,554.17	353.83	77.23%
Net Profit/(Loss)	(267.56)	0.00	(267.56)	0.00%	(1,198.09)	(1,554.17)	356.08	77.09%	(1,198.09)	(1,554.17)	356.08	77.09%

Income Account	Actual Aug 2023	Budget Aug 2023	Budget Variance Over/Under	% of Budget	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Budget Variance Over/Under	% of Budget	Actual Full Year	Budget Full Year	Budget Variance Over/Under	% of Budget
1708 Events Registration Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	2.25	0.00	2.25	0.00%	2.25	0.00	2.25	0.00%
Total Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	2.25	0.00	2.25	0.00%	2.25	0.00	2.25	0.00%

Expenditure Account Number Account Name												
3010 Travel/Subsistence (Other)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	97.74	286.00	188.26	34.17%	97.74	286.00	188.26	34.17%
4130 Speakers expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	457.47	457.47	0.00%	0.00	457.47	457.47	0.00%
4150 Catering	267.56	0.00	(267.56)	0.00%	1,100.94	810.70	(290.24)	135.80%	1,100.94	810.70	(290.24)	135.80%
4931 Eventbrite Charges	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	1.46	0.00	(1.46)	0.00%	1.46	0.00	(1.46)	0.00%
4935 Irrecoverable VAT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.20	0.00	(0.20)	0.00%	0.20	0.00	(0.20)	0.00%
Total Expenditure	267.56	0.00	(267.56)	0.00%	1,200.34	1,554.17	353.83	77.23%	1,200.34	1,554.17	353.83	77.23%

Net Profit/(Loss)	(267.56)	0.00	(267.56)	0.00%	(1,198.09)	(1,554.17)	356.08	77.09%	(1,198.09)	(1,554.17)	356.08	77.09%

Financial Year 2023/24

For the forthcoming financial year 2023/24, being September 2023 through August 2024 we were not asked to budget but instead received an allocation from head office based on the previous year expenditure. We were awarded a total of £1,600 against last year's £1554, which envisages meeting and catering costs for live events but no Student awards. As described in the secretary report, we have seen a return to face to face as well as hybrid events. It is unlikely that the allocated budget will cover the number of events planned if we replicate last years volume.

	Actual Oct 2023	Budget Oct 2023	Budget Variance Over/Under	% of Budget	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Budget Variance Over/Under	% of Budget	Actual Full Year	Budget Full Year	Budget Variance Over/Under	% of Budget
Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Expenditure	142.52	0.00	(142.52)	0.00%	702.83	0.00	(702.83)	0.00%	702.83	1,600.00	897.17	43.93%
Net Profit/(Loss)	(142.52)	0.00	(142.52)	0.00%	(702.83)	0.00	(702.83)	0.00%	(702.83)	(1,600.00)	897.17	43.93%

Income Account	Actual Oct 2023	Budget Oct 2023	Budget Variance Over/Under	% of Budget	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Budget Variance Over/Under	% of Budget	Actual Full Year	Budget Full Year	Budget Variance Over/Under	% of Budget
Total Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%

Expenditure Account Number Account Name												
3010 Travel/Subsistence (Other)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00%
4130 Speakers expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00%
4150 Catering	142.52	0.00	(142.52)	0.00%	649.60	0.00	(649.60)	0.00%	649.60	1,000.00	350.40	64.96%
4900 Other Costs General	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	53.23	0.00	(53.23)	0.00%	53.23	0.00	(53.23)	0.00%
Total Expenditure	142.52	0.00	(142.52)	0.00%	702.83	0.00	(702.83)	0.00%	702.83	1,600.00	897.17	43.93%

Net Profit/(Loss)	(142.52)	0.00	(142.52)	0.00%	(702.83)	0.00	-702.83	0.00%	(702.83)	(1,600.00)	897.17	43.93%

This report is presented for the consideration of the meeting, supported by a summary of the Branch's expenditure as at the end of August 2023 and the budget for 2023/24.

David J W Lewis Honorary Treasurer 20th November 2023