

**BCS Kingston & Croydon Branch**  
Chairman's Report May 2004

Dear Colleagues,

This has been a momentous year for the BCS and our Branch. The changes debated over a number of years by your Council have finally been implemented; and after the Branch AGM on the 18<sup>th</sup> May, David Clarke, BCS Chief Executive, will describe how some of the benefits are being realised. During this period I have had the privilege to serve on Council and many of its Boards and Committees. This provided the opportunity to put forward some of your views and concerns; and help to actively promote many of the reforms that are now being implemented. These included the provision of facilities to enable active engagement with members and as you know our Branch was first to obtain the use of the broadcast list service, the forum discussion tool and member directory listing. Now it is up to us to make good use of these tools and others that are coming on stream and reap the potential benefits

**Branch Programme 2003/2004**

Thank you very much for all your suggestions, which enabled a full programme of 11 interesting and informative events to be arranged. Most of the speakers were Members or Fellows of the BCS and for the first time included a high proportion of successful women in IT. Many of the events attracted a significant proportion of guests, who also contributed to the discussions at the events, in the Branch website Forum and also with articles in their own Institution's Newsletters. This helped to raise the profile of the Branch and the BCS within a wider community. You will have noticed that an increasing number of events were held at Croydon; and I should like to thank Jude Ike and the generous support of BT for continuing to host these events. This enabled the Branch to save around £800 in accommodation and refreshment fees. We are also very grateful to Kingston University for continuing to host the prestigious annual lecture series in October and for hosting the forthcoming branch AGM and Regional event

**Engagement with Schools**

The Schools Liaison group led by Chris Lawrence with support from Jude Ike continued to increase their engagement with schools through attendance at careers evenings and presentations on IT. I should also like to thank those volunteers who answered the call for ideas and help with useful projects. This resulted in our significant involvement in the special project led by Immo Huneke at Wilson's school last July. It was a great success and we have been invited to participate again this year.

**Awards for Excellence**

We have continued the practice of encouraging excellence through individual and group awards to students in Kingston University, Nescot and Croydon College. Award winners were presented with BCS certificates and cheques at their respective Graduation ceremonies and some of the celebratory photographs are up on the website.

**The Future**

Some of you will know that, at the AGM, after a period of three years I shall be stepping down as Branch Chairman; and, I should like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support and in particular those who actively participated in Branch activities. I hope to continue to serve on the Committee. The new governance structure, changes to the membership, the re-organisation of the HQ organisation and the new tools at our disposal should provide a strong platform for our future growth and success

With very best wishes  
Devarajan (Rajan) Anketell CEng, FBCS, CITP  
Branch Chairman, Member of BCS Council and Trustee Board