

Election to BCS Council (2019-2022) – Nomination Statement



Richard Gunstone MBCS CITP

Supporters: Anthony Ford MBCS
Paul Albinson MBCS

Statement:

I graduated from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth (UWA) with a first-class honours degree in Computer Science (BSc, 2001) and doctorate (PhD, 2005). I am a CESG Certified Professional - Senior Security and Information Risk Advisor, Chartered IT Professional, and Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce.

I started my career as a Research Associate at UWA, later joining the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory in Malvern. I then took up a university lecturership, which included two years elected to Senate representing an academic constituency.

Recently I have focused on consulting work, including information assurance at BAE Systems, and recently as an Information Security Consultant at LV=. Over the years I've worked on a wide range of projects at both national and international level. I have served for over four years on the BCS Dorset Branch committee and am presently Chair.

BCS is an established and volunteer-driven institute, with a solid financial footing. The growth in BCS over recent years has been good for the profession, and every year many hundreds of professionals join BCS, achieve chartership and certifications. BCS like any large organisation has challenges, and chief among these is the need to remain relevant and connected to the membership that ultimately sustains the institute.

My priorities are focused on ensuring BCS has a more prominent role in national debate, addressing talent shortages, embedding strong financial controls in the institute, promoting the role of IT contractors, and advancing diversity goals. I am aware that membership of BCS has to offer value-for-money through-career, and I will be focused on ensuring member benefits are optimised, including digital experience.

Finally, it is important that BCS has a supportive platform that supports the growth of Branch activities. With your support, we can make a difference!

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David Grundy AMBCS

Supporters: Simon Jewell MBCS CITP
Peter Bell MBCS

Statement:

I'm Secretary of the London Central branch and was first introduced to BCS through the Business Analysis diploma. I've nearly completed the full diploma with just the oral exam remaining. I was impressed by the clear and concise books and materials that BCS publishes.

As a learner I've experienced combinations of blended, classroom and online learning. I am very interested in non-linear learning pathways and platforms such as edX and Coursera. Even large organisations such as Microsoft are now using these platforms for their official qualifications.

BCS is in a unique position to leverage its brand and collective knowledge in this new environment. The BCS name carries a strong reputation and gives employers confidence and certainty in people's skills. The wealth of materials available for CPD gives BCS a unique edge.

My role as Secretary has given me an insight into the essential behind-the-scenes work that goes into arranging member events. So many staff and volunteers work together to create a welcoming environment where knowledge and industry expertise can be shared. Our members are a rich source of ideas and feedback and I would listen and make myself accessible to all.

I would seek to fully participate in BCS's mission to make IT good for society. I currently work with charities to help improve their data and reports. The charitable sector offers a rich melting pot of opportunities for process improvement and impact because there is often a fixed budget with no core IT expertise. I'm also LGBT (not that a computer cares!) so can work towards ensuring that minority groups are represented.

I have the time available to fully participate in council business. I would particularly look forward to reviewing BCS strategy and working with member groups to ensure that the practical implementation is a success.

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Gary Lefman CEng FBCS

Supporters: Peter Eldridge (MBCS CITP)
David Miller (CEng FBCS CITP)

Statement:

There is a lack of modern IT cohesion and continuity within and between Member Groups. It astonishes me that, as a chartered IT institute, we don't use enough modern information technology inside the organisation. How can we possibly make IT good for society if we can't even make it good for our volunteers?

As a member of BCS Council, I will work with the Best Practice Committee and Member Groups to create a unified communication and collaboration plan. I want us to create a smart environment that inspires young professionals to join and enhance Member Groups.

I am an Internationalisation Architect at Cisco. It's my job to make sure global software looks and feels like it was created by someone local. I collaborate effectively with a large cross-functional international community, where good communication is essential. I'm also a member of Think Global, the localisation industry's technology think tank.

As the Chair of Nottingham and Derby branch, my personal goal is to nurture committee engagement while creating opportunities for greater inclusion and diversity. Now that I'm in my second term I want to do more for the BCS. I want to help create synergy within and between the Member Groups that serve our expanding membership and the public.

I have been a voice network and software engineer for 21 years and have been a member of the BCS for the same time. As a technical leader, I have developed a reputation for being a big-picture forward-thinking problem solver, and my teams know I have their back in times of need. IT has awarded me with enormous social mobility, and it gives me great satisfaction to give back to the community as an active STEM Ambassador and Code Club leader in the East Midlands region.

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Ian Sunley CEng FBCS CITP

Supporters: Charlie Houston-Brown MBCS
Helen Fletcher CEng MBCS CITP

Statement:

MRes Computer Science, FBCS, C.Eng, CITP, FHEA. I graduated back in 1971 and spent 28 years in Real Time software design, development and management followed by 13 years as an academic at Staffordshire University. I served as Chairman or Treasurer on North Staffordshire Branch from 1999 to 2013. I was a member of Branches Board, Branches Management Committee and I am currently Chair of Community Board Finance Committee which will terminate in when my second term ends in March 2019. I have a strong understanding of member group issues both from the academic and the commercial sides.

I have been on council in the past and am a strong advocate of the members voices being heard. In the current difficult financial times I am determined to make sure that members and member groups maintain their funding and influence, after all member groups are the grass roots contact within the profession. As our president said recently the strength of the institute is its 70000 members. They give the strength to the views put to government and other organisations when looking at computing issues. I have in the past been an active member of council who was not afraid to make his opinion known. If elected I will not be sitting quietly.