

British Computer Society
Leicester Branch
2023 AGM



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on Thursday 26th January 2023, at 7:00pm, by webinar.

Present:

David Adama	Dr. Nemitari Ajenka (Tari)	Daniele Amato
Glynn Beeken (Chair)	Rich Bishop (Coventry Branch ECA)	Andy Carruthers
Farhad Fassihi	Isibor Kennedy Ihianle	Owa Kayode Olayemi (Kay) (Treasurer)
Pedro Machado	Richard Otuka	Colin Price
John Rendall (Secretary)	Paul Stevens (Notts&Derby O/G Chair)	Salisu Yahaya

1. Welcome and Introductions

Glynn introduced himself and thanked everyone for attending.

2. Apologies

No apologies were formally received; as the full elected committee was attending there were no apologies from the committee.

3. The 2021 EGM

3.1. Minutes of previous AGM

No Leicester Branch AGM minutes were available.

3.2. Matters Arising from EGM

Glynn explained that there was no AGM for 2020-2021 as the branch had been put in deep freeze as there was no committee; in 2021 we had an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) where the current committee was established:

Chair: Glynn Beeken

Treasurer: Kayode Owa (Kay)

Secretary: John Rendall

Early Careers Advocate: Notts & Derby branch to support

Diversity and Inclusion Officer : Not filled (mandatory role)

Events Coordinator: Not filled

Social Media Officer: Not filled

General Committee Members: Paul Stevens, Ezekiel Komolafe

The original plans for 2021 were presented, as were the impediments (please see attached slides).

4. Chairman's Report

4.1. Report

As a summary slide of the Chair's report was presented, no motion to accept the Chairman's report was moved.

4.2. Matters Arising

Most events were hybrid, despite the pandemic branch offered a small meeting programme to the members and wider community. One meeting was obtained following contact via Basecamp. It was noted that we of the many people registering for the events we did run, very few joined on the night. As all meeting recordings are available on YouTube it may be that more people have subsequently viewed the event, however Chair did not have access to any confirmatory figures at the time.

Due to other commitments, active participation by the (unfortunately small) committee has decreased.

All universities in our geographic area have been contacted, however minimal interaction achieved, although De Mountford University offered free use of their facilities in Leicester. Glynn reported that University of Leicester were initially very interested in contact with Branch, they were particularly keen for us to offer some sponsorship and help them out more, unfortunately due to budget constraints this year we have not been able to help them in this way.

The Branch Membership figures show a bias towards more established/experienced membership, we need to encourage our student members to transition to professional membership, and also to actively recruit younger members.

With regards to the gender balance, we need to encourage more female members to join branch.

A big success was that Branch awarded prizes to 8 students at University of Leicester, however we need to get the other Universities to nominate people.

5. Treasurer's Report

5.1. Report

As we had no budget, and spent no money, no motion to accept the Treasurer's report was moved.

5.2. Matters Arising

The Budget was zero, and we spent £0.

For this year we discussed our budget and requested £2,090.00, however HQ allocated us only £459.70.

It was noted that HQ have offered us a number of suggestions for "tightening our belt", however this has meant that we could not sponsor one of the prime events we hoped to, which would have given branch good publicity: a School Outreach programme for disadvantaged children being run by University of Leicester. The plan was to provide BBC Microbits (or equivalent) and give them some coaching/training to get them into coding.

Secretary's Note: The BCS is offering a "Level 1 Robotics Award" as part of the ICDL (International Computer Driving Licence). The BCS Level 1 Robotics Award is Ofqual regulated and has been developed to engage and introduce young people to tech at an earlier stage of education. The first phase of this qualification can be delivered within collaborative working groups or individually. It has been re-written to use BBC microbits and any wheeled chassis the student wishes to use. – please see:
<https://www.bcs.org/deliver-and-teach-qualifications/teachers-schools-and-colleges/teach-our-digital-literacy-robotics-and-coding-qualifications/teach-bcs-level-1-robotics-award/>

The lack of a serious budget does not help us to be actively promoting branch. However we do need to use the budget before the end of July as otherwise we will lose it; we therefore plan to have a physical event in September and April.

It was agreed that in order to offer anything we will have to collaborate with other branches.

Colin noted that branch membership is some 600 people, each paying their subscriptions, and asked why they are telling the Leicester branch that it can't do any catering. While Glynn confirmed that we had submitted quite a detailed proposal, Colin suggested that the reason people don't want to join up, sign up and turn up may be because no catering is provided, and the BCS does not seem like a membership organisation and more like a central bureaucracy.

Both Paul and John advised the meeting that if we do need additional budget, there is an SFR (Special Finance Request) route available to obtain more funding, John further indicated that traditionally Coventry Branch has been quite adept at securing extra funding using that route.

6. Election of Officials

Glynn formally stood down as Branch Chair, due to increases in the pressure of his workload. He was formally thanked for all his hard work on behalf of Branch

6.1. Elected Officials

Post	Nominee	Proposer	Secunder	Result
Chair	: Owa Kayode Olayemi	Glynn Beeken	Paul Stevens	Nem. Con.
Treasurer	: Glynn Beeken	Kay	Pedro Machado	Nem. Con.
ECA	: Andy Curruthers	Glynn Beeken	Kay	Nem. Con.
DIO	: Kay	Glynn Beeken	Paul Stevens	Nem. Con.
Secretary	: John Rendall	Kay	Glynn Beeken	Nem. Con.

Kay, as the new Chair thanked everyone for attending the AGM. Chair asked everyone to promote not just Leicester Branch and our events, but in general within the UK to draw more awareness to the BCS as a whole because there are so many advantages and areas where we can create awareness and foster collaboration and communication within the community, with practitioners and students, not just within the UK but around the world. Chair further advised that we need to promote these and encourage more students; so although many of us [in the AGM meeting] also work with other branches, it is very important for us to ensure that within the partnership we really encourage the BCS community to grow. Chair drew reference to the statistics and that the current percentage of students needs to increase accordingly a lot of us will have a role to play, the chair therefore encouraged us all to do more than we have at the moment. Accordingly, there will be some emails sent from time-to-time to other branches and the universities in Leicester to create awareness and to encourage them to do more.

6.2. Committee

Paul Stevens - Education Liaison Officer
Paul Stevens – Industrial Liaison Officer

General Committee Members:

Pedro Machado
Isibor Ihianle
Richard Otuka
Colin Price

The following posts are unfilled:

Events Co-ordinator
Publicity & Social Media Officer
Membership Secretary

7. Any Other Business

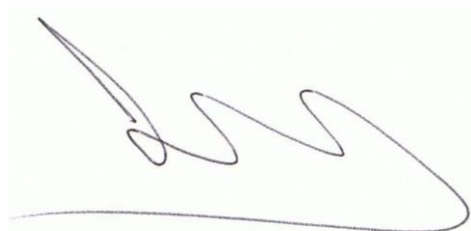
Chair drew reference to the registration process for Branch open meetings using Eventbrite, and suggested that this may discourage some people from attending meetings, and this may form a bottle neck. Chair accordingly suggested just sharing a link to the meeting for people to join on an ad-hoc basis.

Secretary highlighted that the BCS use Eventbrite as this captures all people who have registered for an event, allowing us to warn them if there are any changes or cancellations. This captures their email address in a GDPR compliant way.

Paul highlighted that Nottingham & Derby branch are trying to arrange an Enterprise Architecture event in the Midlands (not in London), however they are looking for speakers for the event (which may be held at the Nottingham Trent University); it would be good to ask the Leicester region if they have potential speakers who may like to speak at this event (or members who may like to attend the event.) The event may be couched at both students and speakers (do be decided). Chair agreed that it would be an idea to combine together to make this event a reality and to include other near-by branches.

Next committee meeting to plan how to take branch forward, to address the pitfalls identified and to plan ahead, to be scheduled outside this meeting.

Formal Meeting closed 20:09 with thanks to the attendees.



John Rendall, CEng. MBCS CITP MIET
Leicester Branch Secretary
31st January 2023

2021 EGM: Plans for the Year Ahead

Planned Activity	Additional Comments
1. Program of Events. Produce a monthly event except July, August and December.	Joint events planned with Nottingham and Derby branch
2. Contact Universities to advise on Student Prizes	Nottingham and Derby branch have offered assistance. Lack of Early Careers Advocate places greater burden on other committee members., if the individual concerned also covers Education Liaison
3. Return to some physical events but maintain a virtual channel.	The hybrid format needs to be developed.



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2021 EGM: Impediments

Impediment	Description
1. The Covid-19 pandemic which has restricted physical meetings, has reduced the opportunities to network.	Key impacts are the recruitment of new members to the committee, and the encouragement of event attendees to join the BCS
2. Small committee and lack of recent membership interactions reduces the opportunities to identify speakers	The number of events could be limited by the lack of available committee bandwidth and personal networks.



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