

BCS London (South) Branch AGM

18:30 GMT on 5 February 2024 – Zoom

Present

13 branch members were present online. Two guests were present. Apologies were not received.

1. Welcome – Dalim Basu, Chair

Dalim welcomed those present to the meeting and outlined his approach to running an event programme with the assistance of committee volunteers.

2. Minutes of last Annual General Meeting (18 October 2022)

The minutes were accepted unopposed.

3. Matters Arising

There were none.

4. Chair's Report

Dalim read selected sections of his report, distributed prior to the meeting by e-mail and attached.

There were no questions. The Chairman's report was adopted unopposed.

5. Treasurer's Report

Jim McLean said that he did not have figures to hand. He had submitted a budget proposal for the current year, which had been accepted.

6. Elections of Officers

There were no last-minute volunteers or nominations. Immo Hüneke proposed that, as the number of candidates was equal to the number of posts, the candidates be elected en bloc on a show of hands. This proposal was accepted on a show of hands. Elected unopposed.

The following were duly elected by a show of hands and an online poll:

- Chair: Dalim Basu (proposed Jim McLean, Immo Hüneke)
- Treasurer: Jim McLean (proposed Sam Ofori-Sey, Immo Hüneke)
- Secretary: Immo Hüneke (proposed Jim McLean, Dalim Basu)

7. Elections of Other Committee Members

The membership agreed by a show of hands and an on-line poll to appoint the committee members and volunteers through an en-bloc voting procedure.

The following existing committee members were duly re-elected unanimously on a show of hands and an online poll:

- Jalal UI Deen
- Sam Ofori-Sey
- Samira da Ali (supported by Immo Huneke)

7 in favour, none against

8. Any Other Business

Frequency of Communication

Sam raised the question of how frequently the branch should contact members.

One email per week (with a digest for weeks with more than one event) would work for most people. Immo suggested a weekly newsletter outlining all the London branches together. Dalim suggested that Sam, David and others interested in working on PR get together to agree how to promote events.

The meeting closed at 19:05.

Appendix: Chairman's Report

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 44 events in the year from January to December 2023. 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. Examples of our initiatives are shown in the attached pdfs. 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 growing number of other branches and Specialist Groups such as BCSWomen, Business Change, Consultancy, Digital Divide, F-TAG, Green IT, IRMA, NeurodiverseIT and of course SPA.

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 BSc(Hons), FBCS, CITP, CISA CRISC

Chairman, BCS London Branches Community (South, Central & North London Branches)

[Appendix: Financial Report](#)