

Annual General Meeting of the Hereford & Worcester Branch of the BCS
The Hive, Sawmill Walk, The Butts, Worcester, WR1 3PD
14th November 2023, 6:00pm to 6:35pm

Present: David Workman (Chair), Andrew Leeming (Treasurer), Grace Ashmore (Inclusion and Diversity Officer), Chris Farnath, Phil Libell, Connor Hay, Luke Marshall-Watkin, Lauren Franklin, Josh Mizzi Martin Farkas (Secretary) and one member.

1. **Welcome:** David Workman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Apologies:** Keith Buncle (Educational Liaison Officer), Dr Derek Barnes
3. **Minutes of 2023 AGM:** Available on the website and copy available during the meeting: <https://www.bcs.org/media/i0lihn04/hw-agm-minutes-2023.pdf>

The secretary noted and apologised that the date on the AGM 2023 minutes needs to be corrected from 10th to 9th November 2023. Aside from this, the minutes have been reviewed and accepted as accurate.

4. Chairman's Report:

Monthly presentations during the previous financial year:

05/10/2023 [Your Future with the British Computer Society](#)
09/11/2023 Nominet [Its always DNS! The internet domain names](#)
07/12/2023 [From Bytes to Insights and Physical Data Security](#)
11/01/2024 [Blockchains, cryptocurrencies and NFTs - the promise of Web 3.0](#)
08/02/2024 [What is ChatGPT and how can it help your business?](#)
21/03/2024 [Artificial Intelligence and Quantum Technologies](#)
11/04/2024 Event cancelled
23/05/2024 [AI is a smart technology but why does it matter?](#)
11/07/2024 Event cancelled
11 Jul 2024 [Modern train control systems & security](#)
15/08/2024 [Learnings from telecom deployment of AI and automation](#)
19/09/2024 [Raspberry PI, History, Current Uses and Future Development](#)

With 12 events planned during the year and two cancellations, the branch successfully held ten presentations in total.

The branch chair represented the branch at a total of nine **other events**:

09/09/2023 Malvern Festival of Innovation.
19/10/2023 University Careers Fair.
06/01/2024 STEAMfest at The Hive.
22/02/2024 University Presentation to Students.
26/02/2024 University Presentation to Students.
27/02/2024 University Presentation to Students.
29/02/2024 RGS Careers fair.
06/03/2024 Worcester University Hackathon.

Challenges going forward:

- Securing presenters on suitable subjects.
Please email the chair at chair.herefordandworcester@bcs.org if you have suggestions or would like to make yourself available.
- Pressure to reduce spending on refreshments.
- The venue does not allow external catering.
- Excess administration caused by budget refusals.

The aim to increase the number of [BCS Organisational membership](#) in the two counties from the current number of zero was not met.

A general lack of support from BCS Head Office was encountered.

The chair has secured a Teams meeting tomorrow at 2pm with Alastair Revell, BCS President, to discuss the challenges the branch faces, including better funding, clearer support, organisational membership, and the pivotal role of local branches and their members for the BCS.

Confirmed event dates for the current financial year:

10/10/2024 [Cyber Essentials and ISO 27001](#)

14/11/2024 [The Power of Low Code Software Development | BCS](#)

12/12/2024 Speaker and topic TBC

09/01/2025 Speaker and topic TBC

13/02/2025 Speaker and topic TBC

13/03/2025 Speaker and topic TBC

10/04/2025 Speaker and topic TBC

08/05/2025 Speaker and topic TBC

5. Treasurer's Report

Ram Kundnani, chairman of the BCS Finance Committee, conducted an hour of training on 30/10/2024 for the Branch treasurers.

Ram can approve up to £1,500 at short notice, although some requests go through a digital vote rather than a full Finance Committee meeting. SFRs require a feedback form to be completed to show how effectively the funds achieved their purpose. Over 95% of SFRs are approved.

The treasurer must present past and future overspending at the AGM and report to the Member Group Team on the circumstances that led to overspending, along with actions to correct it.

The budget for refreshments is £5 per person.

The Shropshire Branch is trying to revive itself after virtually disbanding.

2023-2024 Budget vs actual spend (details attached):

Requested £2,043, Allocated £1,343, Spent £2,366, Overspend £1,023.

2024-2025 Budget submission vs allocated (details attached):

Requested £8,160, Allocated £1,662.

2024-2025 Budget vs actuals YTD attached.

6. Election of Committee Officers:

The new committee was unanimously agreed as:

- **Chair:** David Workman
(proposed Phil Libell, seconded Chris Farnath)
- **Treasurer:** Andrew Leeming
(proposed David Workman, seconded Phil Libell)
- **Secretary:** Martin Farkas
(proposed David Workman, seconded Phil Libell)
- **Early Careers Advocates:** Connor Hay & Luke Marshall-Watkin
(proposed David Workman, seconded Phil Libell)
- **Inclusion and Diversity Officer:** Grace Ashmore
(proposed David Workman, seconded Phil Libell)
- **Student Liaison Officer:** Lauren Franklin
(proposed David Workman, seconded Phil Libell)
- **Education Liaison Officer:** Vacant
- **Committee members** without portfolio:
Chris Farnath, (proposed David Workman, seconded Martin Farkas)
Phil Libell, (proposed David Workman, seconded Martin Farkas)
Josh Mizzi, (proposed Andrew Leeming, seconded Grace Ashmore)

7. AOB

- **Student Prize**
University of Worcester student Luke Boyd has been awarded the British Computing Society Award for the Best Computing Student for the 2023-24 academic year by our branch. He received a cash prize of £150 and one year's BCS membership.
- **BCS Council from Member Groups' constituencies**
Chris Farnath was proposed by Phil Libell and seconded by David Workman to be put forward as nominee to the BCS Council. All present agreed.
- **David Workman**
The committee recognises and commends past and present branch chair, David Workman, for his dedicated efforts in Making IT Good For Society. The frequency of branch events organised and attended, as well as the quality of speakers across a wide range of topics, have been outstanding. Thank you, David.

Presentation following the AGM

Paul Dale, Consultant and Software Developer at AuraQ Ltd, Malvern delivered a presentation and live demo on: [The Power of Low Code Software Development](#).

British Computer Society

Hereford and Worcester Branch AGM

14th November 2024

Treasurer's Report - Andrew Leeming

British Computer Society Hereford and Worcester Branch

Budget vs actual spend - September 2023 to August 2024

		Actual
Budget by cost centre 2023/2024		
3010 Travel/Subsistence	208	
4110 Room Hire	400	
4130 Speakers expenses	260	
4150 Catering	400	1933
4900 Other Costs General	75	433 #
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Expenditure	1343	2366
	Overspend	1023

printing £171; Chamber of Commerce membership £262

BC47:Hereford and Worcs
2024_2025_budgetsubmission vs allocated

Budgetsubmitted	<u>Total</u>	Budget allocated
Travel Costs	400	
Printing	360	142
Room Hire		
Speakers expenses		380
Catering	3600	1140
Publicity & Membership Promotion		
Sponsorship Expense	2300	
Other Expenditure	1500	
Student Prizes & Membership Equipment		
Total	<u>8160</u>	<u>1662</u>

British Computer Society Hereford and Worcester Branch- budget vs actuals 2024 to 2025

	Stationery	Speakers	Catering	Total
Budget	142.50	380.00	1140.00	1662.50
Expenditure (actual)				
23/09/2024	0.00	0.00	£334.80	334.80
08/10/2024	0.00	0.00	£298.20	298.20
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	0.00	0.00	633.00	633.00
(Overspend) budget remaining	142.50	380.00	507.00	1029.50

Budget Full Year	
4000 Stationery	142.50
4130 Speakers expenses	380.00
4150 Catering	1140.00
Total Expenditure	1662.50

Invoices received		
Bellrock/Hive catering	23/09/2024	£334.80
Bellrock/Hive catering	08/10/2024	£298.20
		£633.00

SFRs requested	Supplementary Funding Request - SFR		
27 October 2024	SFR	Hackathon	920.00
04 October 2024	SFR	Advertising banners	300.00
05 October 2024	SFR	Malvern Festival of Innovation	350.00
			<u>1570.00</u>