

BCS - The Chartered Institute for IT
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the 2021/22 Session
of the South Wales Branch
18:30 Thursday, 28 September 2023
Online Webinar
DRAFT

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Andy Bellamy, the branch Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting, then outlined the approach to this recorded Annual General Meeting (AGM).

No apologies had been received.

2. Minutes of the Previous AGM

All those present accepted the minutes for last year's AGM. All our previous AGM minutes are available on our BCS branch [web page](#).

3. Chair's report

The branch committee meets online, on the first Wednesday of each month. These meetings are often themed along special projects or activities. Since the last AGM we have met 11 times. All Members of the BCS are welcome to attend. If you are interested in attending a future meeting, please contact either the Branch Chair or Secretary. (details are available at the end of this document).

The current committee members were introduced, in preparation for the election for committee members later at the AGM.

The past 8 online events for 2022-2023 were reviewed, along with our plans for future hybrid events. These include 2 joint events with the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET), east and west. If any branch members had any suggestion for a future event or to present on a topic, please get in contact.

3.1. Special Projects

In addition to the normal activities of a local BCS branch, since the last AGM we have had the opportunity to pilot with BCS HQ.

This includes the new **MyDigitalFuture** project to support and coach young people who are interested in a career in technology. Both the Chair and Secretary are coaching a local Sixth Form student. Sharing knowledge and coaching.

Another BCS HQ lead project we contribute to is the development of regional hubs, the **BCS in Wales hub** is continuing to gain momentum and is expected to be launched in a few months' time. Building on both our geographic size and as the second largest branch. We continue to

work with the BCS Head of Community, John Jefferies, to deliver this. The branch would be happy to hear from all interested parties.

4. Vice Chairs Report– STEM Project

Paul provided a how the branch support STEM education using Lego Mindstorm kits to develop coding skills in schools across Wales since 2015. The multiskilled working group have created free online resources such as lessons plans, activities and multimedia. We also work closely with the STEM Learning charity to promote IT skills in Wales.

Activities include:

- The annual DVLA code challenge.
- Attended the In It Together festival, Margam.
- Wrexham Science Fair.
- Working closely with a local company, TWI, to host local schools.

In the future we plan to increase our engagements, expand the team, revise and updated our approach & content, as well as developing new demonstrations to increase STEM education across Wales. We have Lego Mindstorm kits available for anyone with an interest in support STEM.

5. Heritage Computing Co-ordinator's report

In John T's absence, the Chair introduce another project supported by the branch. The **History of Computing Collection** and Swansea University. The project is named 'The computer revolution and Us: People and places'. With the aim to explore the history of computing and its impact in south Wales based on memories and experiences of the members of the BCS, present and past. A small number of members have been involved gathering vital information in preserving our IT history. Please contact the branch if you'd be interested in being involved.

6. Social Media Officer's Report

Jon A, present the recent relaunched our and increased our activities on Social Media to increase our members engagement, promote local networks and promote our events.

7. Early Career Advocate's report

Jon A, also presented the results of our recent Early Careers survey highlighted the following from our members:

- The number our member in each type of education: post graduate, under gradate, recently graduated.
- The reason for joining the BCS were professional Development, Networking, Education in IT, and access to industry.
- The challenges of: Lack of work experience, limited access oi industry networks, difficulties in finding local employment and continued professional development.
- The most popular areas for interest are: Software development, AI & machine learning, and cyber security.
- A lack of knowledge of the BCS specialist groups or how to join them.

- Issues with survey distribution which have now been resolved by BCS HQ.

A new survey will be sent soon, to only a subset of our members.

8. Education Liaison's report

Elaine is re-establishing the branches relationship with Cardiff University, University of South Wales, Cardiff Metropolitan, Swansea University and St Davids University. With a focus on engagement on what we and the BCS can offer. Promote what we can provide to students. Joint hybrid events, and supporting the creation for student chapters, working with key stakeholders.

9. Secretaries' Report

Michael outlined the recent changes to our branch website, and our MyBCS page as the Webmaster. Including:

- All page content has been reviewed and updated.
- A link to our new YouTube channel so you can view our past events.
- New pages for STEM in Wales and the History of Computing
- Improved navigation
- A new LinkTree page to reduce the length of our URLs and to aid navigation.

They continue to volunteer for the IT Leaders Forum and Enterprise Architect Specialist Groups, to raise the profile of our branch.

Recently joined the BCS Community Support Committee to enhance how the BCS can improve all the community groups so they can better support to all BCS members.

A volunteer coach as part of the **MyDigitalFuture** project mentioned above to a local A level student.

Finally takes an active part in developing and delivering the BCS in Wales Hub.

Michael, as the members secretary, provide an overview of our branch members, including by grade, age, and gender. Also a comparison of any movement since our last AGM.

10. Treasurer's Budget Report

John F provided and summary of the budgets from the last and next period. The reduction in face-to-face or hybrid events have led to a reduction in our expenses.

Also changes in how costs are requested and reported. Our budget for 2023-2024 has been increased.

11. Upcoming Events

Andy displayed our events programme for the next few months and asked if anyone had any suggestion for a topic or an interested in presenting on something they have a passion for.

Please get in contact if you can support the hosting an event.

12. Election of Committed for 2023-2024

Michael explained the approach to online voting for the nominated members of the committee. They would lead the voting for chair and treasurer then a separate bloc vote of the other members. Andy would ask for the vote for branch secretary.

- Andy Bellamy was re-elected as chair with 7 votes.
- Jonathan Fish was re-elected as treasurer with 5 votes.
- Mike Warman was re-elected as branch & membership secretary and Webmaster 7 votes.

The remainder of the committee was elected on bloc with a vote of those present.

Paul Bulmer	Vice chair
Fred Long	Chair, mid-Wales Branch
Rob Ludman	Member
John Tucker	Computer Heritage Coordinator
Jonathan Ayodele	Early Careers and Social Media Officer
Elaine Haigh	Inclusion, Diversity and Education Liaison Officer
Rob Ludman	Co-opted Member

NB There were no objections received for the above elections.

13. Any Other Business

There were no other topics suggested by our member or those present.

Andy thanked all those that attended, provided our contact details. Then closed the AGM.

For more information contact our Branch contacts:

Chairs email swales-chair@bcs.org.uk

Branch web page <http://southwales.bcs.org>

Social Media: https://twitter.com/bcs_south_wales

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8843006/>

LinkTree: <https://linktr.ee/SouthWalesBCS>

The recording for this year's AGM can be viewed [here](#).

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