

BCS Member Group Chair's Report

Report submissions must be sent to groups@bcs.uk or your Community Coordinator.

Member Group Name:	Leicester Branch
Year:	2023-2024
Report Completed By:	Kay Owa and John Rendall

Group Chair:	Kay Owa
Group Treasurer:	Glynn Beeken
Group Secretary:	John Rendall
Group Inclusion Officer:	Kay Owa
Other Committee Members:	Andy Curruthers – ECA Isibor Ihianle Pedro Machado Richard Otuka Colin Price Paul Stevens – ELO & ILO

The Chair's Report is a vital communication tool for the BCS Community Team to understand and support your activity as a group. The Programme, Practice, and Policy (PPP) Committee will review your submitted report and suitable action points fed into the Community Board for strategic planning. As one of the critical communication points with our members, your completion of this report supports not only your group but ongoing support and development of other member groups and the BCS itself

Successes

Please list the top three successes the group has achieved in the past year.

Success	Additional Comments
1. Branch ran 6 successful open meetings in its own right via webinar (including our AGM in January 2023)	
2. Joint Events. We shared 6 meetings with Coventry Branch	Further joint events with Nottingham-Derby and Coventry branches should be sought.
3. Student Awards.	

Plans

Please list the top three activities the group is planning for next year.

Planned Activity	Additional Comments
1. Provide 5-6 branch open meetings plus an Inter-Varsity competition.	Seminar topics will be selected to cater for a diverse range (levels of experience, ages, etc.) of members and public. No speakers forthcoming so far, one idea has been mooted.

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2.Retain committee members	Thanks to the work previously done by Glynn and Kay we have representative from all three regional Universities on the committee, plus other regional members. We need to work to retain these members and strive to grow the committee if we can.
3. Ensure student award budget is utilised	As above, connections have been made with Leicester, Loughborough and De Montfort Universities. More interaction is required. Ideas have been mooted for an Inter-Varsity competition to both promote the Universities, the BCS, and to highlight the availability of the Branch Prizes

Impediments

Please list and describe the top three impediments stopping you from succeeding in your group's ambition to support the BCS vision of "Making IT Good for Society."

Impediment	Description
1. Branch has only recently been resurrected	As the committee was freshly elected in January 2023, following the branch being resurrected, we missed the boat for budget submissions for 2023-2024 and 2024-2025, hence Branch is working with minimum budget.
2.Although the Inter-Varsity competition was suggested early in 2023, the workloads on the respective academic members of the committee meant it did not go ahead,	It was generally felt that the idea was not very well defined. Suggestions have subsequently been made and discussion points advanced.
3. Lack of Relevance or Appeal: Many members may not see the immediate value or relevance of the events to their personal or professional goals.	To get them excited, the content of these events needs to be more closely aligned with their interests, such as hands-on workshops, career development opportunities, or trending topics like AI, cybersecurity, or sustainability in IT.
4. Overloaded Schedules: Students and professionals often have busy lives, juggling academic and work commitments.	This leaves them with little time or energy to participate in additional activities, especially if they perceive the events as not directly contributing to their career growth.

Additional Facts and Figures

Please provide any facts and figures you think would be useful to the Community Team for further analysis and future activity planning.

We ran 5 open meetings in our own stead. As these were all online, although we have figures for how many members registered to participate, we do not have hard figures for how many actually joined in on the nights.

In January 2023, we had a successful AGM in which several academics were accepted onto the committee to act as the respective ELOs to their respective universities. Our Chair and Treasurer switched roles, and we retained our Secretary, who we share with Coventry Branch, promoting closer sharing of Branch open meetings.

Further Comments

If you have any further comments you wish to provide the Community Team; please give them below.

Nominations for Awards and Recognition

It is important that the BCS recognise deserving voluntary service. If you are aware of someone who warrants one of these awards, then please nominate them. It is easy to nominate someone, but, if you are unsure about completing the form, the Community team and your liaison in the Programme, Practice and Policy Committee can help. Please email groups@bcs.uk.

There are three levels of Recognition of Appreciation award:

- Certificate of Appreciation – going beyond the normal expectations of a single voluntary role by directly contributing to significant involvements, achievements or benefits to BCS.
- Meritorious Certificate – going beyond the normal expectations of two or more voluntary roles in different areas of BCS by directly contributing to tangible involvements, achievements or benefits to BCS.
- John Ivinson Award – significantly furthering the BCS's strategic aims and mission on a wide scope of BCS's areas of endeavour by directly contributing significant achievements and benefits to BCS. Typically, the BCS will present this prestigious award to 1-3 volunteers per year.

There are long-service awards for 5, 10, 25, and 30 years of contribution to the BCS.

Volunteer Recognition

Please complete the table below and indicate if you wish to nominate a member of your team for an award of recognition. A member of the Community Team will get in touch to help you complete the process.

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Group/Branch Member	Years of BCS Volunteering	Nomination

Honorary Fellowship

Nominees will have made an outstanding contribution to the charitable objectives of the BCS over an extended period.

The BCS award Honorary Fellowship under Byelaw 8 of the BCS's Royal Charter and Trustee Board Regulation 1.3 specifies that the BCS award may also make the award to non-members who may not be eligible for any other class of membership.

Community Board and Trustee Board will consider a candidate for Honorary Fellowship against the following criteria:

- At any time, both the contribution to BCS's work and the stature of the individual nominated should be commensurate with the standards set by previous recipients. There is no overall limit to the number of Honorary Fellows although it is unlikely that there will be more than two Honorary Fellows elected in any one year.
- To be elected, the nomination must be on the Trustee Board Agenda, and at least 3/4 of those present must resolve in favour.

If you are aware of a nominee for Honorary Fellowship; please add their details below and a member of the Community Team will raise this at the next appropriate meeting of the Community Board.