

**BCS - The Chartered Institute for IT**  
**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the 2021/22 Session**  
**of the South Wales Branch**  
**18:15 Wednesday, 9 October 2024**  
**Abacws Building Cardiff University**  
**DRAFT**

## 1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

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

John Tucker and Jonathan Ayodele had sent their apologies.

## 2. Minutes of the Previous AGM

The committee accepted the minutes for last year's AGM, owing to an issue with the QR code. 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 BCS members 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 2023-2024 were reviewed, along with our plans for future hybrid events. These included a joint event with the 'Institution of Engineering and Technology' (IET, east and west). We also discussed the events we have planned for the coming months. If anyone has any suggestion for a future event or wish to present on a topic, please get in contact our details available at the end of this document.

### 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 support BCS HQ in piloting new approaches to 'Making IT good for Society'. These are:

**MyDigitalFuture** project to support and coach young people who are interested in a career in technology. Following the success of this project, supported by the Chair and Secretary, this has become a national scheme. Coaching a local Six form student. Sharing knowledge and coaching. If anyone is interested in being involved, please contact the chair via the details below.

**BCS in Wales Hub:** Following the launch event mentioned earlier, BCS HQ continue to refine the roles need to support this. Recruitment has identified the need to spilt the original leaders role into the role of a chair and ambassador role for the hub's advocacy and enablement.

As soon as these have been finalised the BCS and the branch will be in contact.

### 3.2. Branch Website and Social Media

We have revamped our branch pages and have committed to support the BCS in their refresh of the full website with the Community Support Committee. If any members has any suggested, we'd love to hear from you.

We continue to be active on LinkedIn and X. Recently our current Social Media officer, owing secure a job abroad has to step back from the committee. We'd be interested in speaking to someone more familiar with social media to support us in reaching a wider audience, to increase our members engagement, promote local networks and promote our events.

## 4. Vice Chairs Report– STEM Project

Paul provided an overview of how the branch working group, along with See Science, promote STEM subjects to schools across the whole of Wales. With a focus on robotics using Lego Mindstorm.

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:

- Produced lesson plans, linked to the Welsh curriculum
- Delivers presentations to schools linked to learning themes and the curriculum
- Sponsor the annual **DVLA code challenge**.
- Take an active part in **Teen Tech**
- 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 use our new Lego kits, software and iPads 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.

If you think you could contribute, we have Lego Mindstorm kits available for anyone with an interest in support STEM across Wales.

## 5. Heritage Computing Co-ordinator's report

In John T's absence, the Chair introduce Elaine another committee member to introduce our expanded involvement with two collections. The substantial **History of Computing Collection at Swansea University**, where John also provides lectures on the subject. Who also organise our annual history of computing event each April.

There also a new project is named 'What did south Wales ever do for computing'. With the aim to explorer 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. We are also in the progress of apply for national lottery funding to expand this project and the collection.

As well as our recent role in collaboration this collection with the **Cardiff History of Computing Committee (CHoCC)**. Displays of which are dotted around this building, they also provide pop-up exhibitions based on the equipment used by the university since the 1960s.

## 6. Inclusion Officer's report

Elaine attended last year's Inclusion Officers event at BC London and organised the BCS Unconscious base train to the committee.

We are keen to make the branch more diverse and would like to hear from anyone from an underrepresented group. So the committee more accurately reflects our membership.

## 7. Education Liaison's report

Elaine and Andy continue to re-establish and develop the branches relationship with Cardiff University, University of South Wales, and Swansea University and. With a focus on engagement on what we and the BCS can offer. WE plan to host an event from all three higher education intuitions at least once in the year ahead.

We hope to expand this to include Cardiff Metropolitan, St Davids University and our local colleges in the coming year.

**Student chapters** continue to grow with better student participation and promotion of the BCS specialist interest groups (SIG) all members can join and increased engagement in your branch. We're also active in local networks cyber societies, student led cyber clusters. Discussions to develop, fund and support new student chapters continue.

**Student engagement** at Cardiff University, where students have won awards. After being encouraged to enter into BCS competitions. One who has been accepted on a foundation programme.

- First prize - Geneve Purayil in the second-year category BCS Lovelace Colloquium
- Bronze Medal - Abdulahim Umaru for the Animation and Games Development SIG
- Finalise - Lakshmi Sikha BCS Lovelace Colloquium the University of Liverpool

## 8. Industry Liaison

Steven, who only joined 3 months as a co-opted member, has been reaching out to over 40 tech groups across Wales. To foster collaboration, share industry insights and engage with a more diverse audience. To build stronger connections to ensure a more inclusive and informative outreach of information.

## 9. Treasurer's Budget Report

John F provided a summary of the budgets from the last and next years. With no income and a no face-to-face events last year the budget has been used to support the STEM working group discussed earlier. With new Lego kits, software and iPads. Also to pay the travel and accommodation expenses when the working group members attend events across the whole of Wales. Such as Wrexham and Margam.

Owing to the commitment of our committee our budget for 2024-2025 has been increased.

## 10. Secretaries' Report

**Webmaster** Michael asked for any feedback on the current BCS website, which could be used to inform a planned redesign.

**Branch Secretary** recent development include

- The BCS recently awarded Welsh Water as a Gold Partner
- I've also been offered the role of a BCS Wales Hub ambassador.

I continue to support the committee in three roles: the branch secretary, members secretary and Webmaster. and hope to be able to provide more information in the future on this.

They continue to volunteer for the Enterprise Architect Specialist Groups to raise the profile of our branch. I have had to resign from my volunteer roles with the BCS Community Support. Committee and MyDigitalFuture.

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

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

In Summary: we are still the second largest BCS branch, group or section, only London Central has more members. Our member has increased by 676 this year to 3,934. The fourth year in a row. This has been driven by Cardiff University joining the BCS as an academic scheme member.

There has been a shift from student membership to professional member, as these student graduate and take advantage of free professional membership for one year.

## 11. Election of Committed for 2024-2025

Michael explained the approach to voting to mitigate any bias 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.

We've received one new nomination from Simon Field to be your events co-ordinator, and as mentioned earlier Jon A has agreed to change their role owing to working abroad.

- Andy Bellamy was re-elected as chair with 9 votes.
- Jonathan Fish was re-elected as treasurer with 7 votes.

Andy would ask for the vote for branch secretary.

- Mike Warman was re-elected as branch & membership secretary & Webmaster 6 votes.

The remainder of the committee was elected en-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
Elaine Haigh	Inclusion, Diversity and Education Liaison Officer
Steven Mason	Industry Liaison
Simon Field	Events Co-ordinator
Rob Ludman	Co-opted Member
Jonathan Ayodele	Co-opted Member

NB There were no objections received for any of the above elections.

This leaves the following key volunteer vacancies:

- Early Careers Liaison,
- Marketing & Social Media Officer

## 12. 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](mailto:swales-chair@bcs.org.uk)

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

Social media: [https://x.com/bcs\\_south\\_wales](https://x.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 TBC .

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