

BCS NI Branch Annual General Meeting

26 November 2024

Attendees

- Andrew Foreman (Chair)
- Yuan Zhang
- Shakti Tripathy (Treasurer)
- Rachel Steenson
- Claire MacManus
- Michaela Black
- Garth Pelan
- Jonathan Wallace
- Helen Browne
- Adam McBride
- Diarmaid Kelly
- Michael Crozier
- Chuks Musei
- Daniel Sanusi
- Irene Bell
- Vincent Charles
- Martin Sands
- David Cutting
- Kevin McLaughlin
- Jonny Sinclair

Apologies

None

The previous minutes were accepted. No matters arising.

Officer's Reports

- The Chair delivered a report on the last year. The branch has focussed particularly on the digital divide, equality, diversity & inclusion, education and tech and society, and has hosted several successful events focusing on these areas.
- Rachel Steenson reported on the BCS "Council on Tour" event, hosted in Northern Ireland in June 2024. This was the first Council event hosted outside of London, and due to its success, it's hoped that similar events will be scheduled in the future.
- The Treasurer delivered the report on last year's expenditure. There was a £516.28 underspend on last year's budget of £1625.00. The budget allocated for the year 2024/25 is £1995.00
- The Chair delivered the membership report for the NI branch. Membership has increased slightly from last year.
- The Chair thanked Andrew Bradley, who is stepping down from the committee.
- The Chair gave a special thanks to Christine Campbell, who is stepping down, and a presentation in appreciation of her outstanding contributions to the BCS and to the IT

sector in Northern Ireland. The Chair also recognised Christine's work in raising awareness of ovarian cancer.

Committee Nominations

The following members were re-nominated to committee:

- Andrew Foreman – Chair
- Yuan Zhang – Vice Chair
- Shakti Tripathy – Treasurer
- Helen Browne – Secretary
- Jonathan Wallace – Inclusion Officer

General committee members:

- Adam McBride
- Claire MacManus
- Garth Pelan
- Michaela Black
- Rachel Steenson
- Bob McLaughlin (in absence)

The committee noted that there are 2 vacancies: Early Careers Advocate and Social Media and Comms Champion. Claire MacManus volunteered to take on the role of Social Media and Comms Champion.

Three new members were welcomed:

- Diarmaid Kelly
- Jonny Sinclair
- Martin Sands

Yuan Zhang noted that there is a new student chapter representative for Ulster University. He will put them in contact with the committee.

Jonny Sinclair volunteered to take on the vacant position of Early Careers Advocate.

A.O.B.

- Committee agreed to discuss the programme of events for the next year at the committee meeting next month. Michaela Black noted that it would be good to hold some events that aren't Belfast-centric.
- David Cutting is the BCS Accreditation Lead for the School of Computer Science at Queen's University, Belfast, is interested in fostering links between EEECS and BCS for their students. This may involve hosting BCS events or having BCS attend EEECS events, possibly relating to IT professionalism. Committee agreed to come up with a short list of possible opportunities and Andrew will send it to David.

- Committee supported the idea of hosting a joint event with IET NI, possibly around online safety, and agreed to discuss at next committee meeting.
- Rachel Steenson suggested inviting Fiona Baxter to a committee meeting to update on Barefoot Computing. Irene Bell said she would be happy to provide an update on the Digital Schoolhouse Initiative as well, which this year hosted the Festival of Play, and will do so in future.
- Committee had received a request from Young Enterprise for volunteers to assist with development of their website and other IT. Committee agreed that this would be difficult to facilitate with BCS members logistically. NICVA is currently investigating ways for organisations to reach out to suitably qualified volunteers and may be a better venue for this.
- Rachel Steenson urged members to check the MyBCS website, which has been updated with information and tools to assist in career development and professional development skill-building.

2024-25 Committee Meetings

Dates for committee meetings:

Tuesday 10 December 2024 – 6.00pm-7.00pm

Tuesday 11 February 2025 – 6.00pm – 7.00pm

Tuesday 15 April 2025 – 6.00pm – 7.00pm

Tuesday 10 June, 2025 – 6.00pm – 7.00pm

Meeting locations TBC