

September 2005



Dear Branch Member,

Welcome to the new 2005/2006 season

If you liked last season's programme, then I'm confident that you will appreciate our new programme. Our previous one was well-received judging by the good attendance figures at Branch meetings. Having to find more chairs in a hurry is a good problem to have. We cannot tell of course if our meetings were well-attended because of the interesting topics, or Hemel Hempstead being easily accessible, or the well-equipped premises of Steria Limited. We are very grateful to Steria, for the company's support of the Hertfordshire Branch, and therefore of the profession as a whole. You will note too that Steria Limited has again sponsored the production of the new programme card, and we are also very grateful for this.

In our choice of topics our policy remains mostly to look to the future and scan the horizon for whatever is heading towards us. The topic may seem some distance away, but is soon likely to be something we need to know about to remain up-to-date with our professional knowledge. If you are practising the BCS Individual Continuing Professional Development scheme, then certificates are available after each meeting.

I firmly believe that Branch Meetings have two advantages over any article in the computer press. Firstly you may ask the speaker questions, and in this way satisfy the gaps in your own particular knowledge or understanding. Secondly it tends to be the case that those present at a particular meeting are the subset of our members with a real interest in the meeting's topic. Consequently you will receive new ideas in that specialist subject not just from the speaker but also from the members present.

On the back of the accompanying Programme Card you will find a list of all current committee members. You will note that we have a new Webmaster, who will be receptive to any ideas you may have for enhancing the content of our website. It's also not too late to volunteer to be a Committee member. You may be co-opted on to the Committee at any time. Give it a thought, or better still, give it a try.

Branch meetings are the lifeblood of the BCS, so do come along to at least some of the meetings we have organised. You are sure to benefit from hearing a talk by an expert, who will always be pleased to answer your questions either during or after the talk. Note that although in general meetings normally start at 8:00 pm, refreshments are available from 7:30 pm when you will be able to do some personal networking before the meeting or after the end of the presentation.

Your committee members and I look forward to seeing you at our future meetings. We promise that you will find it both worthwhile and enjoyable.

Yours sincerely,

David Smith

David Smith
Hertfordshire Branch Chairman