BCS Member Group Chair's Report

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

Member Group Name:	BCS Hertfordshire
Year:	2020 - 2021
Report Completed By:	Peter Klein

Group Chair:	Peter Klein
Group Treasurer:	Paul Moggridge
Group Secretary:	David Hubbard
Group Inclusion Officer:	Vacant
Other Committee Members:	Kes Browne, Ronald Edema, Anil Jagota, Malcolm Newman, Tripsy Pranesh, Jo Smith, Chris Tilley

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. Our YouTube Channel of events https://www.youtube.com/c/BCSHerts	As of 7:30pm, 31/08/2021 we have 209 subscribers with 7,959 video watches and 1,100 hours of videos playback. 89% of viewers are UK based while 11% of viewers have been from the USA, other countries include Brazil, Russia, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, South Africa, Canada and New Zealand, affording the BCS international exposure both inside and outside of The Commonwealth.
2. Our continuing relationship with the University of Hertfordshire through student prizes and other events including a YouTube Project Showcase	We continue to have a strong relationship with the university despite our inability to hold our physical events programme. Our university liaison officer is highly energised and a valuable member of the committee. Despite Coronovirus, we have reviewed and made the following awards this year: Bachelors Innovation Award - Sushmita Kumari - £150 + Professional Membership Masters Innovation Award - Emre Akin - £150 + Professional Membership Collaboration Award - Samantha Tyson- £150 + Student Membership

3. Our continued survival	Despite all of the difficulties and odds against us, we have innovated, engaged with our membership and have offered a service based on what they have told us they wanted. The pandemic has made this a very difficult year for the committee personally, professionally and as constituent members of the committee. The fact that we did not ‘throw in the towel’ as so many other branches have done over the last 18 months is a testament to the hard work and efforts of our core team.

Plans

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

Planned Activity	Additional Comments
1. Programme of events on YouTube	Will require membership involvement to provide speakers
2. Programme of physical events as and when we can.	With suitable resources we aspire to a hybrid model of streaming these events live on YouTube.
3. Maintain the link with the University of Hertfordshire and wider community	We hope that restrictions will be such that we will be able to resume our on-site programme with the university in 2022, including our annual Computer Technologies Fair and through our initial plans to reach out to our wider geographic community through sub-committee and public engagement activities (incorporating activities that are educational, technical and social in nature).

Impediments

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

Impediment	Description
1.Lack of vision, engagement and encouragement from HQ	We feel ignored and unsupported. HQ has refused to disseminate our events on Twitter, YouTube and Eventbrite. Our YouTube activities were and continue to be actively discouraged. Requests for funding/expenditure approvals have all been rejected. A request for help to the Head of Community went unanswered.
2.Engagement by our membership has been limited	Last year we surveyed our membership and asked how we could better serve them. They asked for online access to events with the option to catch-up. Our YouTube channel was a response to this but many of our viewers are not based in Hertfordshire.
3. Continuity & Long-term planning	We are struggling to find committed, engaged and energised members to bring onto the committee – particularly from the younger cohorts of the BCS membership

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.

Physical event attendance was in a steep decline before Coronovirus. The BCS's online presence makes little impact. Non-SIG branches are all struggling. When engaged on the subject, most of our membership question why they continue to pay to be in the society, what the society does for them and why it is even relevant. Our demographics show a near total decline in 'early career' membership or post-graduation membership, with the society member base becoming increasingly skewed to the over 50s. All the while the society seems focused on trying to sell us things that no one asked for, offer training that employers aren't asking for and increasing prices as frequently as possible. Combine these together and long-term sustainability looks to be unviable.

Further Comments

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

We need to have a Branch community forum – that can and should also include the SIG leadership. We need to be able to talk with each other and with you about what is and needs to happen – without you acting as gatekeeper or filter on the discussion. A very difficult, frank, open and honest conversation needs to happen about how we are all structured and what we are doing. We believe that our problems are not exclusive to us, but are being experienced by all of the remaining regional branches with the possible exception of Central London.

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

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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.

Group/Branch Member	Years of BCS Volunteering	Nomination
Chris Tilley	9	Certificate of Appreciation for design, development and implementation of our YouTube platform
Peter Klein	10	10 years long service

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.