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:	2022 -2023
Report Completed By:	Paul Moggridge

Group Chair:	Paul Moggridge
Group Treasurer:	Malcolm Newman
Group Secretary:	Peter Klein
Group Inclusion Officer:	Vacant
Other Committee Members:	Ronald Edema, Anil Jagota, Algirdas Pakstas, 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.

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Successes

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

Success	Additional Comments
1. Diversity of events	Our past programme saw us conduct a diverse range of events: We reached school leavers through attending “Generation Welwyn Hatfield”. We reached university students through partnering with the Herts student chapter for the “Social Meetup and Quiz” and we successfully executed a hybrid event, offering engagement from online and in-person, enabled by our YouTube channel.
2. Our continuing relationship with the University of Hertfordshire	Our strong relationship with the university continues. With most of our events being situated-at and supported by the University of Hertfordshire.
3. Our continued survival	The transition back to physical events has been made. However, attendance numbers have been modest. We are actively working to improve this by returning to planning events well in advance, which gives us the necessary time to advertise them well. Inline, with the BCS objective to recruit 700 new members across the UK, we have shared our discount code and believe it has been used to secure new memberships.

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Plans

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

Planned Activity	Additional Comments
1. Programme of physical event	We have two exciting events planned for the next financial year: • Dark Web Investigations (https://herts.bcs.org/events/programme-2023-2024/dark-web-investigations/) • Application of VR Technologies (https://herts.bcs.org/events/programme-2023-2024/applications-of-vr-technologies/) …with further events to be confirmed: • (Lecture) LEO the First Computer Business • (Competition) North Hertfordshire College IT • (Social event) BCS Herts Student Chapter Collaboration
2. Outreach and building community	In returning to physical events, we aim to build our community, network, membership, and committee. In addition, we aim to pilot smaller scale social events, located at small venues around Hertfordshire.
3. Maintain the link with the University of Hertfordshire and wider community	To celebrate excellent students, we assign prizes for innovation and collaboration to graduating UH students. We plan to continue running events at the University of Hertfordshire.

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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. Budget Codes	Our budget is consistently underspent, meanwhile we find it difficult to fund prizes for events. There is value in providing small/medium gifts (<£100) of things such as single board computers / robot kits / vouchers etc. as prizes for competitions and social events. Which we feel are some of the most useful events for community building. While the motivation for attending an event should not be extrinsic, a prize can inspire attendance and build some excitement around an event. Being able to make such purchases would make it easier to run competition-based events. Of course, we appreciate there are routes to securing prizes such as the Supplement Funding Request (SFR) process and finding company sponsorship. But these methods are slow and bureaucratic.
2. Low Attendance	Recovering from a past lack of face-to-face meetings, we have seen low attendance figures, but further to this is declining BCS membership (notably observed since 2014).
3. Low Committee membership	Recovering from a past lack of face-to-face meetings, we have continued to struggle to find committed, engaged, and energised members to bring onto the committee – particularly from the younger cohorts of the BCS membership.

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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.

It was felt that changes to the requirements of the membership tiers have lessened the value of MBCS post-nominal giving members the difficult choice of having to increase expenditure to get a more meaningful post-nominal.

As mentioned previously, attendance of events as been modest to date, but we remain optimistic for our coming programme. As I write, the Computer Fair that this AGM is twinned with, has just sold out of tickets.

Further Comments

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

We would like to praise Kerry Wear (and team) for their support of the branch. She has been quick to respond and provide us with resources for events.

We note the introduction of the Community Support Committee, hope they can bring about additional support for branches like ours.

As always we welcome feedback/suggestions/ideas/speakers/connections from our membership. Please e-mail herts_chair@bcs.org.uk

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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.

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.