

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:	2023-2024
Report Completed By:	Paul Moggridge

Group Chair:	Paul Moggridge
Group Treasurer:	Malcolm Newman
Group Secretary:	Peter Klein
Group Inclusion Officer:	Anil Jagota
Other Committee Members:	Chris Tiley (Deputy Chair), Ronald Edema, Nick McLauchlan, Ansa Ithal, Kiran Krishnan, Aravind Jalajan, Ameer Ogirimah, Sobere Opusunju, Rashid Ali

The Chair's Report is a vital communication tool for the BCS Community Team to understand and support your activity as a group. The Community Support Committee (CSC) 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, completing this report supports not only your group but the 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. Growth of Committee	The committee has expanded from 6 members to 13 members. This increase is advantageous as it provides us with greater capacity to identify speakers and expand our reach. Additionally, the new members contribute fresh perspectives, expertise, and enthusiasm to the committee.
2. Advanced Planning of an Exciting and Varied Programme of Events 2024-25	We have speakers, titles, dates and venues confirmed for a programme of 8 events. This marks a recovery from planning events ad-hoc since covid.
3. Diversity of Speakers	Our programme of events 2024-25 features diverse range IT professionals both in terms of topics covered and representation. We hope the programme is interesting, inspirational and inclusive to all.

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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 Event 2024-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Computing the Genderless Technology, Holly Porter, 23rd Oct 7pm, UH College Lane ii. How to die young at a very old age, Graham Phillips, 12th November 7pm, UH College Lane iii. Careers Event Panel, (Joint event with Student Chapter), 29th November, UH College Lane iv. Ethics and Risks of social media, (joint event with ICT Ethics Specialist Group), Neil Gordon, 6th January 7pm, UH College Lane v. Unmanned Aircraft Systems - Can we give drones conscience, Rashid Ali, 19th February 7pm, UH College Lane vi. IEC 62443 Standards Cybersecurity of Automation and Control Systems, Nick McLauchlan, 18th March 7pm, UH College Lane vii. Information Security Management and Compliance, Deepthi Ratnayake, 1st April 7pm, UH College Lane viii. Cloud Solutions Architecture (with Amazon Web Services), Czarina Barnsby, (TBC Early-Mid May 2025), UH College Lane
2. Outreach and building community	<p>In returning to physical events, we aim build a community and increase membership.</p> <p>We aim to pilot smaller scale social events, located at small venues around Hertfordshire.</p>
3. Maintain the link with the University of Hertfordshire and wider community	<p>To celebrate excellent students, we assign prizes for innovation and collaboration to graduating UH students.</p> <p>We plan to continue running events at the University of Hertfordshire.</p>

Impediments

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

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Impediment	Description
1. Budget Codes	<p>Our budget is consistently underspent, meanwhile we it difficult to fund prizes for events.</p> <p>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 (some of the most useful events for community building). While the motivation of attending an event should not be extrinsic, a prize can inspire attendance and build some excitement around an event.</p> <p>Being able to make such purchases would make it easier to run competition-based events – this would help engagement with hard-to-reach segments – like families and students.</p> <p>Of course, there are route to securing prizes such as: Supplement Funding Request (SFR) process and finding company sponsorship. But these methods are too slow and remove our agency for organising modest events with prizes.</p> <p>The situation has improved but it would be helpful to have a budget code for small prizes / event sundries.</p>
2. Low Event Attendance	<p>With the programme planned we are in a position to well advertise our events. We hope this will increase attendance of our events. Increase attendance will help us organically grow and build a strong and impactful community.</p>
3. N/A	<p>Low committee size was a problem – but not no longer is.</p>

Additional Facts and Figures

Please provide any facts and figures that would be helpful to the Community Team and the CSC for further analysis and future activity planning.

No comment.

Further Comments

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

We would like to praise Kerry Wear's (and her teams) support of the branch. She has been incredibly quick to respond and provide us with resources for events.

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

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

The BCS recognises deserving voluntary service. If you know someone who warrants one of these awards, please nominate them. It is easy to nominate someone, but, if you need clarification on completing the form, the Community team can help. Please email groups@bcs.uk.

There are three levels to the 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 annually.

There are long-service awards for 5, 10, 25, and 30 years of voluntary contributions to the BCS.

Volunteer Recognition

Please complete the table below and indicate if you wish to nominate a committee member for an award of recognition. A Community Team member 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.