

## BCS Member Group Chair's Report

Report submissions must be sent to [groups@bcs.uk](mailto:groups@bcs.uk) or your Community Coordinator.

<b>Member Group Name:</b>	BCS Hertfordshire
<b>Year:</b>	2024-2025
<b>Report Completed By:</b>	Aravind Jalajan

<b>Group Chair:</b>	Aravind Jalajan
<b>Group Treasurer:</b>	Malcolm Newman
<b>Group Secretary:</b>	Sobere Opusunju
<b>Group Inclusion Officer:</b>	Anil Jagota
<b>Other Committee Members:</b>	Ronald Edema, Nick McLauchlan, Kiran Krishnan, Ameer Ogirimah, Rashid Ali, Saud Ahmed Siddiqui, Paul Moggridge, Sidhdharth Ramanuj, Pallavi Chintapalli, Dawn Howson, Chengetai Bianca Chipanga, Ravish Desai, Swetha Pandithurai & Premkumar Sampath

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	Excellent Growth with improvements on a day to day basis.
2. Advanced Planning of an Adaptive Exciting Programme of Events 2025-26	We have speakers, titles, dates and venues confirmed for a programme of 10+ events. This planning events ad-hoc since covid which is now ended with even a programme card.
3. Diversity of Speakers	"Most Ethnically Diverse Programme in BCS Hertfordshire History"

### Plans

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

Planned Activity	Additional Comments
1. 51 <sup>st</sup> Year Conference	A Big event to Support our Community and Recognise I.T Professionals with Industry Talks and some Fun and maintaining our link with the University of Hertfordshire.
2. Programme of Event 2025-26	Loads of events including 27 <sup>th</sup> November UH NHC Hackathon

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	<p>28th November Cloud Computing TBC November Kickstart Your Tech Career – (Online Panel Discussion) Workshop External BCS London 17th December Xmas Party 12th Jan Membership Week Outreach 29th Jan Jillian Moore Event Student Workshop 12th Feb</p> <p>And many more....</p>
2. Outreach and Building Community	We shall be working on new locations and more ways to outreach to the community.

### 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."

Impediment	Description
1. Funding with Budget Codes and reimbursement	<p>In previous years our branch budget was consistently underspent, yet at the same time we found it difficult to fund small prizes for competitions and social events. These modest items (typically under £100 — e.g. single-board computers, robot kits, or vouchers) can make a significant difference. While prizes are not the primary motivation for attending, they help generate excitement, encourage participation, and can be particularly effective in engaging harder-to-reach groups such as families and students.</p> <p>In my first year as branch lead, I encouraged the committee to speak freely and bring forward new ideas to better serve the Hertfordshire community and deliver on BCS goals. I was proud that we spent our budget fully this year — but funding limits and the rules around Supplementary Funding Requests (SFRs) meant that on occasion I had to deny good ideas. This was not something I liked to do, as these ideas often had clear value but were constrained by process.</p> <p>Although the situation has improved compared to earlier years, it would be helpful if branches had access to a dedicated credit card for small prizes and emergency event spending. This</p>

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	would make it easier to support competition-based events and community-focused activities without the delays of SFRs or reliance on external sponsorship. Ultimately, greater flexibility in this area would enhance engagement, improve inclusivity, and strengthen the community-building role of our events.
2. Low Event Attendance	For the first time, we have introduced a small charge for certain events. This step allows us to reinvest directly into branch initiatives, improve the quality of our programmes, and bring added value to our members. By supporting events in this way, we can create more engaging experiences, attract inspiring speakers, and continue to grow a vibrant, impactful community.
3. Training	Our committee members are eager to continue developing their skills so we can serve the community even more effectively. While much of our learning has been “on the go,” we see this as an opportunity to expand access to training resources and create a stronger foundation for branch activities. In addition, we would like to encourage members to pursue certifications, helping them to build valuable skills that benefit both their professional growth and the wider community.

### 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.

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1. Review the Committee Training Materials
2. More Merchandise we Finished HQ Materials by December 2024. More events require more materials for our members.

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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](mailto: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
Sobere Opusunju	2	Certificate of Appreciation
Ronald Edema	8	Certificate of Appreciation
Rashid Ali	2	Certificate of Appreciation
Saud Ahmed Siddiqui	1 (2 Years with Student Chapter)	Certificate of Appreciation
Anil Jagota	5	Certificate of Appreciation
Sidhdharth Ramanuj	1	Certificate of Appreciation
Ameer Ogirimah	2	Certificate of Appreciation
Kiran Krishnan	1 (4 Years with Student Chapter)	Certificate of Appreciation
Dawn Howson	1	Certificate of Appreciation
Ravish Desai	1	Certificate of Appreciation
Premkumar Sampath	1	Certificate of Appreciation
Paul Moggridge	9	Meritorious Certificate

### 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.