

British Computer Society – South West Branch

Annual General Meeting

**9th May 2006
Met Office, Exeter**

Chairman's Report

The South West Branch is again able to report a number of very positive developments in the last year. Building upon the last year's success in increasing attendance at events, the branch has continued to offer a series of well-supported sessions, with 7 invited presenters and a student project evening forming the basis for this year's programme. Presentation topics have sought to address a range of themes, including IP communications over satellite links, computer music, information security, 'soft' buildings, and eBusiness project management. A similarly varied programme will be developed for the months ahead, and the branch is grateful to all of the presenters that have given their support during this year.

In parallel with these activities, the branch has continued to pursue a number of initiatives to promote the Society to future IT professionals in the region. One aspect here is the aforementioned Student Project Evening – our third run of which took place in April, with a winning entry from the University of Plymouth. In addition, we continue to offer student degree prizes for the three BCS-accredited computing degree programmes offered by Exeter and Plymouth universities. Targeting a younger age group, we have also run a schools website competition this year, with five entries received from schools in south-west region. The winner of our competition has the potential to feed forward to a national event run by the BCS.

It is worth noting that all of the above is reflected on our branch website, which now offers a genuinely useful resource to members in the region. In addition to the standard details about the branch itself, the site has now been populated with presentation slides from the various events, as well as a range of other informative content (with materials including a number of the branch newsletter/journal articles dating back to 2001). It is, of course, worth reminding members that (as with the printed branch newsletter that preceded it) contributions to the site are always welcomed, and are not restricted to individuals who wish to accompany their thoughts with a presentation.

A final note relates to our branch committee, and I would like to record my formal thanks to all concerned for the time and effort that they have volunteered in support of the branch over the last 12 months. I am confident that their ongoing works will ensure the continued success of the branch over the year ahead.

Dr Steven Furnell CEng FBCS CITP
May 2006