

# **British Computer Society – South West Branch Annual General Meeting**

**8th May 2007  
University of Plymouth, Plymouth**

## **Chairman's Report**

The South West Branch is again able to report good progress over the last 12 months. Our principal service to members continues to be the Branch events programme, and we have had a number of very successful presentations addressing a range of topics:

- Life, the World and Information Security in a Global Bank (James McKeogh, Information Risk Management, Barclays Wealth Management)
- Peer-to-Peer Networks: Facts, Controversies and their Future (Nikos Antonopoulos, University of Surrey)
- Professionalism in IT - What it is and how we get it (Charles Hughes, BCS)
- Security Research at the University of Plymouth (Shirley Atkinson, Sevasti Karatzouni, Gina Tjhai, University of Plymouth)
- From e-world to real world, the work of the Child Exploitation and Online Protection centre (Maggie Brennan and Mark Cameron, CEOP)
- The Future of IT Security (David Lacey, David Lacey Consulting)

I would like to thank all of the presenters for giving us their support and helping us to deliver a genuinely interesting range of events for the members in the region.

We have also had a number of planned events that were ultimately less successful. Two of these were events targeting the student population in the region. The first was an event entitled 'You're Hired', which intended to offer students the opportunity to submit their CVs and face a mock panel interview, while the second was a Student Project Evening, to which students from the two universities in the region were invited to make submissions based upon their final year degree projects. Neither event received a sufficient response to make it viable, and so both had to be cancelled. For future years, we will look into the potential to award a BCS Projects Prize independently of having a specific Branch event linked to it.

A third and final event that we were ultimately forced to cancel was a coach trip to the Internet World exhibition in London. This was envisaged as an opportunity to allow Branch members access to an event that distance may normally have prevented them from attending. However, despite promotion to the regional membership, less than 20 people expressed interest – which made it too difficult to justify the use of Branch funds to pay for the transport.

The Branch has continued to be well-served by its Committee members, and I would like to extend my usual thanks to everyone for the significant time and effort that they have committed to BCS activities. It should be noted that two members are standing down at this meeting: Mr Phil Davies, who has been the Branch Secretary for the last few years, and Dr Shukor Razak, who has been our YPG Ambassador. Both have given excellent service during their period of office, and I would like to thank them for the time they have given us. On a more sombre note, one of our longest standing Committee members, Mr John Hall, sadly passed away in July 2006. John had served on the Committee for many years, holding the position of Treasurer and Education Liaison Officer. He is greatly missed and will be fondly remembered by all of the Committee members that worked with him.

Prof. Steven Furnell CEng FBCS CITP  
May 2007