

British Computer Society – South West Branch Annual General Meeting

29th September 2011
Plymouth University, Plymouth

Chairman's Report

The total membership in the region now stands at 1,180, with members focused within Devon (746), but also extending across Cornwall (139) and Somerset (69). We also have numbers spread into Dorset, Wiltshire, and the Channel Islands (plus even France, Senegal and Australia!).

The last year has seen a total of five events organised to the benefit of our members and a wider audience:

- ““The Birth of a Third Platform”, Lawrence Stephenson, Apple UK Limited (September 2010)
- “Physical Security in Information Technology”, Thomas Hackner, University of Hagenberg, Austria (November 2010)
- “Retro Computing Launch Event”, University of Plymouth/BCS South West (December 2010)
- “Smarter Spectators at a Smarter Tennis Tournament”, Bill Jinks, Client Technical Advisor, IBM UK (March 2011)
- “The cynic's guide to information security”, Dr Jeremy Ward, ExeclA (April 2011)

We would like to thank all of the presenters for their time and support that they have given to the Branch. In several cases, the slides from the talks are available for download from the Branch website, with some also having streaming video in order to give access to members who were unable to attend in person.

Our website actually maintains details of talks going all the way back to 2004, and so is building an increasingly rich set of material for regional members and the wider IT community to make use of. We also welcome contributions from members, and so if you have any articles that you wish to share across the Branch then please feel free to send them in (just use the ‘Get Published!’ link on the Branch homepage).

The Branch continues to sponsor degree prizes for the best performing students on computing programmes studying at universities in the region. This years prizes were awarded to Mark Cooksley from *BSc (Hons) Computing Informatics* at Plymouth University, and Michael Morris on the *BSc Computer Science with Industrial Placement* course at the University of Exeter. Meanwhile, in terms of student events, we have again supported the *Postgraduate Conference for Computing: Applications and Theory* hosted by the University of Exeter.

Throughout the year, the Branch committee have given their time as volunteers to support our activities in the region, with Kevin Chamberlain and Alastair Revell also supporting the BCS in a wider context as members of the Best Practice Committee of the BCS Membership Board. Our committee continues to include members from academia, business and the public sector, and I would like to thank all of them for their commitment and enthusiasm in supporting the BCS.

Finally, with four events already scheduled this side of Christmas, I look forward to an active year ahead for the South West Branch.

Prof. Steven Furnell CEng FBCS CITP
September 2011