MINUTES OF A COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE SOUTH WEST BRANCH OF THE BCS HELD AT ROYAL OAK, SOUTH BRENT ON MONDAY 2nd April 2012

Present:

Prof Steven Furnell(SF), Ted Draper(ED), Janet Kneller(JK), Dr. Jonathon Fieldsend(JF), Alastair Revell (AR), Kevin Chamberlain(KC), Jonathan Fieldsend(JF)

Apologies from Nathan Clarke, Kent McClymont, Dr Paul Dowland, Dr. Shirley Atkinson

Minutes of previous meeting:

Minutes of meeting on Sept 19th were approved.

Matters Arising:

Joshua Moore is new Plymouth YPG rep – KC to check he's added to mailing lists. **SF to confirm email address**

Past events:

All previous events ran and were well attended.

Events program:

AR suggested Paul Jagger on CITP, possibly combined with Jooli Atkins with SFIA Level 5. Maybe suitable for AGM (Sept around 25th)

SF has had interest from New Model Identity – "Knowing Me Knowing You - Defeating Identity theft using biometrics" – possibly for end of May (22nd).

Also Mike Evans with Web focussed talk, and Plymouth Uni colleague, Nick Outram about IOS/Mobile devices, possibly joint with Android speaker from Exeter Uni (likely venue).

Branch is currently underspent on budget (mainly due to no speakers claiming expenses), discussion about should we run additional event, or use funds to promote the Branch e.g. at Agile 'on the Beach' in Cornwall.

Action – All to reach out to other local IT groups – e.g. Girl Geeks and see if we can co-brand/support events.

IT in Schools is also current hot topic, consider getting an BCS Academy person to speak to teachers and other school bodies.

Could also look at attracting local larger businesses, but this would be a longer term activity, maybe linked to the AGM/CITP/SFIA.

Approaching local IT managers for a networking event to share ideas/problems and for BCS Branch to act as mediators to SG's or other experts. Possibly involve SG's to provide experts or adverts for a rolling PPT display. Encourage IT managers to bring their ideas /issues. Consider a Global Café style with a number of key topics – aiming for 30 – 50 attendees, with the aim of identifying relevant topics for the next year's events. Generally agreed to pursue this, possible date of 19th June.

Action AR to plan outline, the SF/PD to book Plymouth venue.

Finance:
There are some catering expenses outstanding, and student prizes, but there is still over £500 remaining in the budget. Spent £1300 of the £2700 budget.
Additional funding applied for PCAT conference sponsorship – **Action JF to see if KM is going**.
SA had discussed a schools web competition, agreed to make an additional request for funding.

Agreed to continue membership of Exeter CoC.

Next years budget request was £3200, including 2 degree prizes, and additionally 3 special projects for Schools competition, PCAT conference and

HQ Matters:
Slow progress towards more openness, the volunteer portal (http://volunteer.bcs.org/) is the main route for Member groups.
Working party in progress for Recording and publishing events, to add recommend the way best to do it. BCS SW gets few hits, but itunes-U has many more hits – About 2400 downloads in first week on John Finch's Security talk.

Date for next Convention is in October (date to be confirmed) – we should try and send a rep.

AOB
Kevin Cahill (Branch fellow) has been trying to get Super Computing back onto UK agenda, with a view to try and form a Supercomputing SG. Branch would support, if the idea gets off the ground.
KC to get these minutes out asap to all.

Request to use Doodle to organise committee meetings, but need to agree rough dates to schedule them.

Next committee date 28th May, 7pm in South Brent.

JK – Asked if we could circulate the CM Conference (in London), being organised by Met Office BCS member – Agreed.

Events in Exeter – have been problems with catering, also need to ensure that more than one committee member can attend. JF can't make Tuesday's or Thursday's, so need to avoid those nights.