

**BCS SOUTH WEST BRANCH
COMMITTEE MEETING
ROYAL OAK, SOUTH BRENT, 28th November 2013**

Present:

Steven Furnell(SF), Janet Kneller(JK), Alastair Revell (AR), Jonathon Fieldsend(JF), Shirley Atkinson (SA), Paul Dowland (PD), Joshua Moore (JM).

Apologies

Ted Draper(ED) , Nathan Clarke (NC).

Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of meeting on 11th February 2013 were approved.

Matters Arising

- JK : Special funding form was sent to Paul and actioned.
- SA : Updated funding request was sent and actioned.
- SA : Promotion of Bridge Inn event was done.
- SF : Talk by Steven Hope on Telehealth took place.
- KC : not available for update.
- AR : Still in negotiation with Colin Pearson for suitable date.
- JK : Discussions still ongoing with Config Management group.
- SF : Negotiations ongoing with previous student for session on social media and digital presence.
- SA : Callington teacher presented at branch AGM.
- SF : Negotiation with Apple to resume - given alternative AGM speakers found for this year.
- AR : Global cafe to be referred to later in the meeting.
- AR : Issue of Cornwall branch referred back to HQ.
- ED : attended Member group and notes on meeting sent to committee. Notes are attached as an appendix to these minutes.

Finance

JK gave financial report. The budget is £2,800 of which £332 is currently spent.

Funding for Secure South West has been submitted to HQ but HQ meeting will not happen until after the event. Contact at HQ advised JK to pay out of branch. AR noted the anomaly between that advised to be best practice and the advice. JK to raise issue with HQ.

JK

Events:

AGM and Retro Computing event have taken place.

Forthcoming events are on the branch website as follows:

- December : Fred Piper : Cryptography
- January : Helen Hockx-Yu : British Library presentation on digital archiving.
- February : Duncan Eadie : History of Apple
- March : Richard Mayall : Stream - although event is still in discussion.
- April : Paul Stephens : Teaching Police to Program

Proposed events discussed were:

- Event at Bridge Inn. Consideration given to keeping with Social Media and Law theme. Colin Pearson considered as suitable presenter. AR to discuss with Colin Pearson if available. AR and ED to organise.

AR / ED

JM bought up the issue about lack of student focused events that bring together undergraduate students from Exeter and Plymouth. There is already provision through the PCAT events but not for undergraduates. JF to find out what is happening with PCAT.

JF

Suggestion was made to engage with existing activities, for example supporting the Hackathon society. Recently a hackathon was held at Plymouth and a different one at Exeter - where students got together. JM to explore.

JM

There is no current YPG rep at Exeter. JF offered to be point of contact until somebody comes forward.

JF

JK to continue negotiations with Config Management group. Have offered talks in April or later, but not June. Discussion was held around Internet Specialist groups and their approach to charges. It was determined that charges would not be made, but that normal speaker expenses would be catered for.

JK

AR to continue discussions with Ian Herbert, the Primary Care Trust health specialist group regarding an event.

AR

AR to explore with HQ using marketing databases to test out approach for Global Cafe. Initial email to be drafted to ascertain opinion for type of event and location.

AR

Special Events:

Secure South West sponsorship funding was agreed by the branch as per previous discussion from Treasurer (JK). Proposed by AR and seconded by JM. This is the third run of the event and is for the benefit of local businesses. Event occurs on the 16th of December. Sponsorship pays for printing costs, some speaker expenses and catering. Some sponsorship already in place from other sources.

Code Skool will run again in June. Special funding request for prizes to be put in closer to the time, but 3 months in advance of the event.

Regional Constituency nominations:

An email was sent to branch committee members yesterday - 27th November 2013. It was agreed that all committee should review nominations and send their comments to SF in readiness for voting in the new year.

ALL

AOB:

None

Date of next meeting:

SA to send out Doodle poll to determine date.

SA

Appendix: Ted's notes from BCS Member Groups Spring Convention

This was an informative and positive day. The topics/speakers were:

- President's Themes for the Year Roger Marshall (newly elected president)
- Membership Board Update – Iain Thompson, VP Membership
- Computing in Schools & how we will get computing taught in 25,000 Schools? Bill Mitchell, Director - Academy
- BCS Personal Development Plan (CPD) – David Evans & Tony Davy
- Member Group Presentations
 - Engaging PhD Students with the yearly Doctoral Consortium
 - Challenge IT 2012 – engaging with the community and schools
 - Helping Employability of young professionals
 - Using third parties to fund membership groups

All slides of the morning session are at:

<http://www.volunteer.bcs.org/content/spring-convention-2013>

A few specifics:-

Computing in Schools – The BCS is at the centre of government plans to revamp teaching of IT in schools and make computer science “the 4th science”. An incredible success for Bill Mitchell & Team getting the BCS to where it is on this one. But he's going to need a lot of help and support with the implementation. There was an interesting question about new ways of teaching computing in primary schools and the speaker directed us to <http://csunplugged.org> from New Zealand.

Shirley et al...., have a look at Bill Mitchell's slides (slide 24 onwards) slides. What can the SW branch do to support this in Devon & Cornwall?

Jonathan ...have a look at the slides about where the universities come into this. The schools prepare your undergraduate intake. Looks like Exeter is not one of the 18/24 Russell Group. Any thoughts on this?

BCS's New CPD Tool – A test version was demonstrated and the product will be launched on 24 April. It provides a structured approach to planning, managing and assessing your continuous development. When you finally print out a summary (for your CV or job appraisal) the BCS logo os on the bottom. Communication win / win !

Challenge IT 2012 - Schools competition. Another one for you Shirley maybe? Irene Glendinning talked about the competition Coventry branch run every 2 years, how they get school engagement in the first place and how they have expanded the competition brief to keep it fresh and achieve increased participation.

Ted