

Bedfordshire Branch



Chairmans Report  
For the Year 2006/2007

29 May 2007.

This year has again progressed fairly quietly, due to commitments of committee members.

With regret, I fear that I have to confirm my intention not to seek reappointment as your Chairman, due to an impending move out of the area. I can provide a hand-over period to a successor up till Sept. Your Secretary, Bob Bethell, has also indicated his intention to resign the Secretarys post, though he is prepared to remain on the committee, and I am sure would also provide a suitable handover.

It still may be appropriate to seek advice, help and guidance from Mary Clarkson, who is our Branch Mentor, in rebuilding the committee and programme.

### **Education and University Liaison**

During the course of this year, considerable ground has been gained in improving the contacts with University of Bedfordshire in both Bedford and Luton, and also with Cranfield University. A committee member wiling to take over this role will need to found.

### **Programme**

On the evening of Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2006, we contributed toward 'Engineering in the creation and consumption of the moving image' - the eighth annual prestige seminar organised by the East of England Engineering Science & Technology Association (Herts and Beds) with support from many Professional Engineering Institutions and others. In return, we had prominent advertising on the programme. This free event was hosted by the University of Hertfordshire

On 1 Feb., Richard Morreale presented an excellent talk entitled 'Over 50 Killer Ideas for Delivering Successful Projects' at Cranfield University, kindly hosted by Ipshing Fan and supported by Northampton Branch amongst others. This was our most successful meeting in recent years, with an attendance of approx. 80.

On 27<sup>th</sup> March, Elizabeth Sparrow, prominent BCS author and chair of various groups and working parties gave a very good lecture entitled 'Offshoring - challenge or opportunity?' hosted at the Luton campus of the Univ. of Bedford by Paul Sant.

### **Forthcoming events for 2007.**

**6th June 19:00**

#### **Method-based problem diagnosis**

##### **Paul Offord of advance7**

Method-based problem diagnosis is rarely understood and even more rarely practiced, and yet it offers an effective means to solving intermittent or long-running IT problems, it is the critical missing element within the Service Delivery toolbox. In this presentation Paul outlines an IT specific problem resolution method called RPR and describes the core principles. He moves on to describes how your company can benefit from the approach and illustrates the effectiveness of RPR with two case studies from the finance industry.

Paul has a 29-year career in the IT industry, working in the UK, the US and Germany for companies such as IBM, National Semiconductor and Hitachi. In 1989 he founded advance7, an independent consultancy specialising in IT performance and stability. In August 1990 advance7 launched a critical problem resolution service called REACT, since when the company has helped over 250 of Europe's leading companies solve chronic IT problems.

Venue:

University of Bedfordshire  
Bedford Campus  
Polhill Avenue  
Bedford  
MK41 9EA

## **Gridlock? Transport in 2030**

### **Solving congestion in South East England**

The ninth annual prestige seminar organised by the East of England Engineering Science & Technology Association (Herts and Beds) with support from many Professional Engineering Institutions and others will take place on the evening of **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2007**. This free event is hosted by the University of Hertfordshire and will commence with refreshments and networking in an informal environment.

All transport modes are increasingly overloaded at peak times and we have all experienced the M25 and routes into London and many towns at a standstill. Trains can be seriously overcrowded yet simply building more roads or railways is expensive and strongly opposed by local residents and environmental groups. "Doing nothing" is not an option, but can we get smarter?

## **BCS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.**

As I hope you are already aware, the BCS Golden Jubilee is 2007. A Steering Committee is working, headed by Bob McLaughlin and other committee members include various other past, future and present Presidents. Some themes for the year will be the Public Perception of IT and the Future of IT, including an emphasis on the involvement of young people.

The Steering Committee would like all Branches to consider organizing local or regional events which could come under the Golden Jubilee Celebrations banner and they have devised a Project Criteria form for submission.

All submissions will be considered by the Steering Committee and, if successfully approved, the events will be branded, publicized and 'gold wrapped' accordingly.

## **Treasurers Report.**

The Branch accounts are in good order, and I will forward the 2006 accounts that I received from HQ. They show an overspend, but that was against a budget of only just over £1000, not the £1850, that I bid for the Branch.

The overspend, is covered by HQ, due to the very low allocation we were given for 2006.

Turning to 2007, I bid for almost £3000 and have secured a generous allocation of £2866.00. I believe that that should cover any planned program the Branch runs during 2007/08.

*Shane Barnes*

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