



BCS Bedford Branch Chair report to AGM 12 September 2017

The 2017-18 programme year has been another very busy year. The committee continues our commitment to sustain the two strategic initiatives in the Schools Competition, and working with the Bedfordshire and Eastern Region Police Cybercrime Prevent activities. These work are important to our future membership and fully in line with the BCS Making IT Good for Society strategy.

1. The fourth year of the BCS Bedford School Challenge built on our previous successes. We extended the competition to Year 9, so covering the three year groups of 7, 8 and 9. Through the introduction of the Police, we added Satisnet as a sponsor. Satisnet is a cyber specialist based in Luton. John McCann of Satisnet committed his marketing team to design the competition brochure and used his telemarketing team to call all the eligible schools in Bedford, Central Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes areas. Unfortunately, the number of schools that participated was still in single digit. We had some excellent submissions and the prize winner of the Year 9 group from Mark Rutherford went on to win the National Animation 17 competition for KS3. I thank again Jackie Samosa of CAS Bedford Hub, and Bob Bethell who represented the Branch Committee. We were able to use some of the prize money to buy micro:bit accessories to support CAS Bedford. We shall continue to work and improve schools Computing in our area.

2. There had been significant changes to our interface with the Bedfordshire Police Cyber Hub. Our main contact is now Sean O’Neil, the Cyber Security Advisor. Sean spoke for the branch in February. Sean started a new Regional ICT Trust Group of local security businesses and the Branch is in communication with this Group. Through the Branch connections, one of our member is now serving as a Cyber Special, helping to spread the e-safety messages in schools. We shall continue to support the Police community work in ways we can.

3. We again have another successful series of joint meetings with many other partners, sustaining high level of attendance.

| Date | Title | Partner |
|----------|--|--|
| 20/09/16 | Fortran, alive and well at 59! (Inc. Branch AGM) | BCS Fortran SG, IET |
| 8/11/16 | Disability, Accessibility, Personalisation, Inclusion and Design | BCS Digital Accessibility SG, IET |
| 23/11/16 | Cybercrime - Prevent and Protect | Bedfordshire Police, IET |
| 17/01/17 | Configuration & Software Asset Management | BCS Configuration Management SG, IET |
| 21/02/17 | Artificial Intelligence: How did we get here and where are we going? | BCS SGAI, IET |
| 14/03/17 | Brex-IT: How to do IT? | IET |
| 15/06/17 | BCS Bedford Challenge School Competition Prize Award | CAS Bedford, CAS Milton Keynes, Satisnet Bedfordshire Police, ERSOU, Cranfield |

| | | |
|----------|--|-----------------------------|
| | | University, Open University |
| 4/07/17 | Computer Law (including data protection Law) after Brexit | |
| 16/07/17 | Bletchley Park - The National Museum of Computing - Family Day | BCS Northants |

In addition, we supported University of Bedfordshire Student Chapter meetings in the last year:

| | |
|-----------|---|
| 25/10/16 | Welcome and Introduction to the BCS Student Chapter |
| 23/11/16 | Crypto 101 |
| 4-5/02/17 | TUI Hackathon |
| 21/02/17 | Forensic Myths |
| 19/04/17 | Cybercrime - A talk by Sean O'Neill |

As we sustain the number of meetings, we continue to suffer the weaknesses in the communication before meeting, recording of meetings, reporting after the meeting, and various opportunities of communication. We can do with additional skills and more hands. If you can help, please make contact anytime in the year.

4. University Student Prizes

We presented prizes to all four universities in our area. It was a delight to present prizes to the worthwhile recipients.

| Date | |
|----------------------------|---|
| University of Buckingham | Nicholas Whiskerd Best Performing Graduate in Applied Computing |
| Open University | Alex Kitching Best project for The Computing and IT Project |
| Cranfield University | Sergio Peña Miñano Best Performing student in Management and Information Systems |
| University of Bedfordshire | Lukasz Wladyslaw Migacz Best Performing Year 1 student in Computing |

5. Engaging members better is a recurring item in committee meetings and there are still a lot we want to do.

6. I would like to thank the committee, branch members and many other partners for their support throughout the year. We are delighted to be able to co-op Phil Cobley to join the committee during the year. Our committee members of the year are:

| Position | |
|--|----------------------|
| Chairman / Email Co-ordinator | Ip-Shing Fan (IF) |
| Secretary / Email Co-ordinator | Saverio Bongo (SB) |
| Treasurer | Richard Maddison(RM) |
| Webmaster | Ian Wilson (IW) |
| Membership Secretary / Education Liaison Officer | Sue Brandreth (SB1) |
| Committee member / Project Management | Chris Ireland (CI) |
| Committee member | Phil Cobley (PC) |

Thanks also to Bob Bethell who is not officially on the committee but do a lot to help in the work with the School Competition project.

Ip-Shing Fan, September 2017