



**Minutes of BCS Bedford Branch**

**AGM 2020**

**Held via GoToMeeting**

**On Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 8.00pm**

**Present:**

Ip-Shing Fan	Chairman	IF
Saverio Bongo	Secretary / Email Co-ordinator	SB
Richard Maddison	Treasurer	RM
Ian Wilson	Webmaster	IW
John Lockley	Committee Member	JC
David Briggs	Committee	DB
	Member/Membership Secretary	

Plus members of the audience who attended the Quantum Computing talk.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Phil Cobley, Sue Brandreth and Bob Bethell

**2. Minutes of Last AGM Meeting**

The Minutes of the 2019 AGM were APPROVED as a true record.

**3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising not covered by the 2019 AGM Agenda.

**4. Chairman's Report**

See attached Chairman's Report.

**5. Treasurer's Report**

See attached Treasurer's Report.

## 6. Election of Committee

The Elected Officers for 2020 were as follows:

<b>Position</b>	<b>Elected</b>
Chairman/ Email Co-ordinator	Ip-Shing Fan
Secretary/Email Co-ordinator	Saverio Bongo
Treasurer	Richard Maddison
Webmaster	Ian Wilson
Education Liaison Officer / Uni of Bedfordshire Student Chapter	Sue Brandreth
Committee member / Membership Secretary	David Briggs
Committee Member / Social Media	Phil Cobley
Committee member / Events Secretary	John Lockley
Committee Member co-opted	Andrew Cordani
Committee Member co-opted	George Yazigi

During the AGM two attendees volunteered to join the Branch Committee they were: Andrew Cordani and George Yazigi.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their continued work and acknowledge the support the Bedford Branch received from the Committee Members.

## 7. Any Other Business

None

The Chairman declared the formal AGM meeting closed at 21:00

# Bedford Branch

## Chair's Annual Report 2020

### An Overview

The 2019-20 programme year had been heavily impacted by COVID, as the rest of the world. The major achievement was sustaining the BCS (Bedford Branch) Cyber Challenge 2020 Schools Competition. This is an important work to our future membership and our commitment to Making IT Good for Society.

The committee had been building up the 2019-20 meeting programme to culminate at the TNMOC Family Fun Day in the summer. Unfortunately, face to face meetings had to be suspended from the end of March. The expectation of early resumption of face to face meetings proved too optimistic. During the rest of the year, we signposted those on our email lists to relevant and interesting online meetings of other BCS branches and specialist groups.

In February, we launched the Bedford Cyber Challenge 2020 Schools Competition. Over 400 eligible schools were invited, and we were registering strong interests. In May, the committee considered suspending the competition as schools were unlikely to resume school teaching until the end of the school year. However, some students and teachers had already started their work and we were urged to re-organise rather than abandon. The core team persevered and re-jigged the communications and submission process. We invited teachers to use the competition as part of the students home assignments as they studied at home. Submission was handled fairly and sensitively. The judging panel had representatives from CAS Bedford, Bedfordshire Police and the Bedford branch. They worked remotely to complete the evaluation. The winners were notified before schools broke for summer holidays. We are catching up to get the correct names of the winners to announce them formally. We had hoped to stage a physical award event in September. This again had to change and we are delivering the prizes to the schools and collecting testimonials to recognise their hard work. I thank again Jackie Samosa of CAS Bedford who championed this competition for us. We thank our police colleagues Michael Williams, Steph Frankish and Andrew Baldwin for their unwavering support. Bob Bethell, our retired committee member, had never stopped helping us. We shall continue this work to improve schools Computing in our area.

Unfortunately, we could not run the Family Fun Day in TNMOC and the planned visit to the Multi-User Environment for Autonomous Vehicle Innovation (MUEAVI) research facility in Cranfield University.

We experimented with a Virtual Coffee Drop-In in September. We shall be doing more for community networking.

I would like to thank the committee, branch members and many other partners for their support throughout the year. Our committee members of the year were:

<b>Position</b>	
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	John Lockley (JL)
Committee member	Phil Cobley (PC)
Committee member	Chris Ireland (CI)
YPG Committee member	Daniel Lam (DL)

Saverio shrewdly managed our relationship with the hotel and other partners. Richard scrupulously kept us straight on the budget in the uncertainties. Ian tirelessly responded to our website updates, which is our main communication channel for the competition and the branch. Sue unswervingly awarded most of our university student prizes, when the students were not there. John set up the meetings with ARM speakers before the lockdown. Phil digitally looked after our social media.

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

I thank Dan for injecting his youthful enthusiasm to the committee. He relocates to London and would not be staying with us in 2020-21.

# Programme

## What We Did Last Year

High level summary of activities:

Technical meetings	4
Student Chapter meetings	2
University induction talks	1
Family Day	0
Schools Competition (Year 5 – 10)	1

The main professional meeting series was based in Bedford.

Date	Title
11/09/19	Ransomware! Kill chain and Defence (Inc. Branch AGM)
12/11/19	Cyber Crimes and Fraud Update
14/11/19	Ransomware – Kill Chain and Defence! (University of Bedfordshire Student Chapter)
27/11/19	IBM Blockchain Workshop (University of Bedfordshire Student Chapter)
12/02/20	Edge Computing
11/03/20	A brief history of ARM
	COVID Break
09/09/20	Virtual Coffee Drop-In

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

Open University	Ms Lucy Parry Best Computing and IT Project
Cranfield University	Jose Maria De La Puente Best Performing student in Management and Information Systems
University of Bedfordshire	Marcin Frackiewicz Best Performing Year 1 student in Computing



## Making IT Good for Society

### How We are Making IT Good for Society as a Member Group

The Bedford Branch has been a recognised partner within the local community for Making IT Good for Society. The annual BCS (Bedford Branch) Cyber Challenge Schools Competition works with the local CAS Hubs, schools, universities, Police and business to encourage secondary school students into computing.

Our links with the Cyber Crime Units of Bedfordshire and Eastern Region Police force has been a long standing partnership. We sit as Associate Member in the Regional Trust Group of local cyber businesses set up by the Bedfordshire Police.

The regular evening meetings are open to non-members and the branch partners with the local IET Chapter, Royal Aeronautical Society Chapter and Federation of Small Business for meetings. The wider public benefits from the Branch's talks.

Every year, Bedford and Northampton Branches jointly run a Family Fun Day at the National Museum of Computing in Bletchley Park, subsidising members to bring their families into computing.

## Community

### Who We Serve and How We Engage with Our Community

BCS Bedford Branch has about 850 members registered, about 400 are based in the Bedford area and another 360 in Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire. We also have members as far afield as Auckland, Texas, Singapore, Karachi and Lagos.

The geographical area is largely rural with concentrations of business and professional employment in Bedford, Luton and Milton Keynes. A sizable body of professionals commute to work in London. There are four universities in our patch and a number of FE colleges.

We have meetings most months. The main series of meetings is in the Bedford Centre Hotel in Bedford. These meetings are opened to non-BCS members and have been well supported by local business and students.

BCS Bedford Branch has two strategic initiatives in our local area. Since the 2013 academic year, we have been running an annual school competition to encourage students to develop coding skills and take up Computing as one of their subjects. The competition now covers Year 5 to 10. The Branch has also been working with the Bedfordshire Police Cyber Hub since its launch in 2015 to help in their Prevent agenda, promoting knowledge to avoid citizens and businesses becoming victims of cybercrime.



We work with the local IET branch, the Royal Aeronautical Society as well as the Federation of Small Business to coordinate meetings.

Student prizes are awarded to all four local universities.

## Inclusion and Diversity

### How We Are Working for Everyone

The Chair was a panel member at the BCS Webinar 'Diversity in Tech - The Awkward Conversation' on 19 August 2020. The recording is on the BCS website.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ip-Shing Fan'.

Ip-Shing Fan

BCS Bedford Branch Chair

12 September 2020

## Treasurer's Report for Bedford BCS Branch AGM on 14 September 2020

Everything is satisfactory.

In March 2020 we bid for £3317 for our budget net running costs for September 2020 to August 2021. This included income of 20 \* £10 and expenditure of £450 for the summer 2021 visit to The National Museum Of Computing (TNMOC) – an increase on previous years. It also included £1450 for the Schools Challenge Competition; and £850 for four university student prizes; as well as the usual expenditure on meetings with some increase in case the hotel charged us more for room hire and catering. These figures are net of VAT, assuming HQ claims the VAT back.

On 1st September we were told that for 2020/21 we had been allocated £2969.92. The difference is that HQ reduced the bid by more than the bid increase in meetings room hire and catering, and indeed reduced it to less than the actual hotel costs per meeting in 2019 to 2020. We can live with that by perhaps having fewer meetings at the hotel and/or making savings elsewhere.

Early in the development of the coronavirus situation, I predicted to HQ that there would be reduced expenditure because of coronavirus effects – eg no TNMOC visit; no meeting to present prizes to the schools; and fewer normal meetings so less Room Hire and Catering. I also suggested to HQ that they should nationally adjust the expected totals of the branches as the coronavirus situation evolved, rather than expect each branch Treasurer to continually submit estimates of possible or expected changes. They accepted that suggestion.

Our outturn for the 2019 to 2020 year was far less than the budget allocation we had bid for in April 2019 and were allocated. I only have the actual figures to the end of July 2020, received 25th August. The totals up to the end of July were:

- \* income was zero against an expected £100

- \* expenditure was £1124.48 against an expected £3232 – see below for details.

The main differences were:

- \* the whole of the TNMOC income £100 and expenditure £400 did not occur

- \* university student prizes actual £290 not £850 – presumably some universities did not make awards as expected and/or some student prize winners did not spend the whole of their prize money

- \* Schools Challenge Competition underspend through no prizes presentation meeting. Also the costs of prizes and engraving £252.08 + £50.42 Vat = £302.50, plus £55.41 + £11.08 Vat = £66.49 did not reach HQ early enough to be paid in July. Indeed in late August it was not clear whether these two invoices would or would not be paid in August before the end of the financial year or whether they would be accrued and paid in September. There will probably be a small expenditure in the next month or two to deliver the prizes to the schools, but without any meeting. This travel can be covered by our 2020/21 allocation.

- \* Room Hire £400 against an expected £608

- \* Catering £216 against an expected £240

Richard Maddison  
13 September 2020