

South West Branch Committee Minutes

Date: 13th July 2004

Present: Dr Steven Furnell, Mr Nathan Clarke, Dr Paul Dowland, Mr Andrew Munslow

Apologies: None

Minutes of Last Meeting

1. No formal minutes taken on the 4th May 2004 since committee did not reach quorum. Informal E-mail sent by Nathan Clarke and appended to these minutes.

Matters Arising

2. School Competition Update
School competition winners will be added to the BCS website plus link to the winning website. Prize has already been sent to the School. Visit to be arranged for formal photographs and prize giving. [Action: Nathan to check on website access and check on School policy on Winners photos on web]
3. Student Project Evening
Students that attended and competed gained a great deal from the experience. New competition will be announced in September/October 2004 for the final in June 2005. Advertising to be arranged for January 2005 to inform students in Exeter and Plymouth Universities. [Action: Nathan to check with Sue Guy if postgraduate entries permitted]

Programme for 2004 – 2005

4. Discussion then took place on next years programme of events. Steve had three 'definite' speakers and one 'possible'. Below is the list:

October - Dr Jeremy Ward, Symantec - Security Threats

November - Dr Mike Evans, University of Reading - Web technologies

February - Prof. Paul Reynolds, Orange - Mobile data access

The 'possible' speaker was Chris Watson, Broadband Business Ltd, with another presentation on regional broadband.

Julian Elliott had been in discussions with 'Wired West' to arrange possible joint meetings. [Action: Julian to give update on progress to Steven]

Since a number of speakers had come from the Plymouth Net group, the Exeter AI

group may have some speakers to offer the programme. [Action: Steve Furnell to check e-mail for correspondence with Exeter University]

Would it be possible to get Devon County Council gives an update on the use of IT and the Web in government? [Action: John Higgs to find out if possible speaker/journal article can be found]

Empty slots appear to be January 2005, March 2005 and April 2005. Agreed to use the branch mail list two weeks and then one week before event to remind branch members of meetings.

Visits

5. Contact to be made with Met Office and Eclipse for possible visits. [Action: Andrew to write to companies and try and arrange visit]

Journal

6. We are short of articles for the journal. Can all committee members, in the next three weeks, put forward suggestions, articles etc for the journal. If there are particular subject areas of interest to members perhaps we can approach companies/people to write the articles.

Web site

7. Current design of the web site was discussed with a list of corrections that need to be made.
 - Removal of June event as 'next meeting'
 - Inclusion of Paul's details on the Committee page
 - Removal of 'Stop Press' and 'Noticeboard' sections
 - Addition of link to Wired West.

The addition of more useful content (e.g. previous journal / newsletter articles, presentation slides, etc) is a longer term issue, which we can all help to address.

[Action: Andrew to update web site with corrections] The committee was then informed of a contact that was made by Adrian Walmsley from Oxfordshire branch on new web services available from the BCS for branches. The contact link is <http://www.bcs.org/templates/hosting/docs.htm> were committee members can find .doc/.pdf files describing the services available. [Action: Committee members to read/review docs and discuss next committee meeting]

Bernard Apps Retiring

8. Bernard is not aware of this, but Phil Davies made an approach to HQ nominating Bernard Apps for a Branch Service Award. This is still being progressed by Phil and the hope is that it will be finalised before Bernard leaves the country. [Action: Phil Davies to establish Bernard's leaving date and liase with HQ]

Next Meeting

Wednesday 8th September 2004 at 7.00pm. Venue is Plymouth University, Portland Square Building, Room A304.

From: "Nathan Clarke" <nclarke@jack.see.plymouth.ac.uk>
To: <REMOVED>
Subject: BCS Committee Update Information
Date: 05 May 2004 12:31

Hi All,

Due to poor attendance at last night's committee meeting (myself and Bernard), nothing of consequence was decided upon. As such, rather than providing minutes of the meeting I'm sending this email just to give you all an update!!

AGM. Steve has booked the venue and Julian has confirmed the speaker for the evening (talking about Broadband in the South West). It has also be verified we can provide email only notification to the members of the AGM. Julian is to call Susan Guy to send a branch wide email, in order to meet the 14 days notification rule.

With regard to the Schools competition, John Hall has provided the vouchers, to the value of £150. I am chasing up a plaque with Susan Guy currently. I am also to confirm their presence at the AGM. It was suggested if the winner was unavailable to attend, perhaps the award could be present at the school? I am also currently in the process of printing the certificates (on proper BCS card provided by HQ) and will send them out to all participants within the week.

Abstracts for the Student Project evening are slowing beginning to arrive. Have received two submissions from Exeter to date and Steve is pushing staff at Plymouth to nominate the best projects.

The attendance at the most recent branch meeting was very poor, with only one person attending who was not linked to the presenters or the branch committee. The lack of mailing list notification probably limited the number of BCS members, and this was compounded by the fact that students are now revising for exams.

The branch programme for next year requires attention. Julian had suggested (via email to Steve) the idea of linking some events in with those of Wired West, who have been attracting large audiences (50-100 people) for their events in Exeter. Steve had also had some prior discussion with them about this, and so also supports the idea.

Questions:

- have members been notified that the latest journal is on the website? If not, then this ought to be done in order to draw it to their attention.
- have any inputs been received in response to Phil D's call for the 'history of computing'? If not, then promoting the journal via the mailing list (so members see the related article) and/or promoting this specific event could be helpful.