

British Computer Society
Belfast Branch
AGM 2008/2009

Honorary Secretary's Report

The Belfast Branch started the BCS Financial year with a number of changes to the committee. Due to the loss of a number of key members of the committee, the difficult task of gathering Branch information such as contact lists, outstanding financial invoices and details for annual events (both physical and electronic) was compounded. The process of collating and updating this information has commenced and we have made good progress but acknowledge that it is not yet completed.

I began my secretary duties by carrying out a small project to investigate online shared storage and collaboration possibilities to ensure all documents would be available in one place for current and future committee members. This has resulted in the use of a project management application namely Huddle, that HQ provided free, to allow online storage of committee documents and other planning tools. Additionally the BCS Belfast website hosting was transferred to HQ to ease management logistics and induce cost-savings. Concurrently the site was redesigned to align with BCS standard website corporate image.

The Branch has not been as active throughout this year when compared to previous years but has succeeded in running events. We would like to thank all attendees for their support. The events information is available on the new BCS Belfast website. <http://www.bcs.org/server.php?show=nav.10447> A disappointment for the Branch was the cancellation of the 'IT Professional of the Year' award due to lack of resources available to run the event. It would be our strong intention to hold this event next year. Upcoming events the Branch aim to host include the annual 7-a-side football event. This remains the Branch's most popular event in terms of number of website enquires received to date. The other sporting event is the golf outing planned for September and dates will be posted on our website shortly.

As in previous years we have continued to arrange joint events with organisations such as ITSMF and all our events continue to be open to both members and non-members of the Society. We have been able to make contact with other organisations and hope to be in the position to run some joint events later this year. We also intend to run a membership survey over the next few months to gather appetite for event areas.

Three members from the Belfast Branch recently attended the BCS Members Convention in London in May 2009. This was found to be a very worthwhile experience and would be strongly recommended for committee members to attend. Key factors that made this a positive experience included excellent networking opportunities with other branches and headquarters staff and meeting support contacts for the Branch.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our sponsors throughout this challenging year and we appreciate all members' patience and support as we regroup and co-ordinate our efforts for the future.

Lynne McQuitty MBCS
BCS Belfast Branch Secretary
27th May 2009