



Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 @1800

Online

AGM Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions

The incumbent chair welcomed everyone to the AGM

Present Alastair Irons, Ian Robinson, Chris Topham, Klaus-Michael Vogelberg, Steve Hewitt, Lewis Butler, Richard Sterry, Guallaum Evrard, Paul Sheridan, Marcin Kaczmarek,

2. Apologies for absence

Tom Prickett, Aad van Moorsel

3. Minutes of the previous AGM

Minutes approved

Proposed Ian Robinson seconded Chris Topham

4. Matters arising from the minutes

No matter arising not covered elsewhere in the agenda

5. A report from the Chair on the year's activities

The chair thanked everyone for their contribution and their participation in the branch activities over the last year. Thanks were offered to those who helped the organise online events. It was another strange year because of lockdown restrictions. No events organised in the autumn, although we did try to have our annual Christmas event at SAGE.

Overall, almost 200 members and non-members attended the reduced schedule of events.

We managed to have four events this year – we continued to use online facilities, GOTO Meeting and Zoom, the event schedule is summarised below.

*3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2021*

Digital Poverty and Digital Capital : Examining the issues associated with digital poverty particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic : Dave Donaghy – Hewlett Packard Enterprise

*25<sup>th</sup> March 2021*

Responding to COVID-19: Case Study from Durham University : Cris Bloomfield Durham University

*13<sup>th</sup> July 2021*

'Empathy in Accessibility' : Craig Abbott DWP

*23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021*

Digital Evidence and Expert Witnesses : Basil Manoussos, Napier University

Planning for the schedule of events for 2021/22 is underway. The target is for 10 events distributed between Newcastle, Sunderland and Durham. We are hoping to return to face to face meetings in early 2022.

As in previous years the branch awarded prizes to students, the best performing first year student from each of the 4 Universities in the NE Branch geography. The students were

Student prizes

Shawn Martin - Sunderland University  
Zachary Allen - Northumbria University  
Luke Briggs - Newcastle University  
Joe Shephard - Durham University

The branch will continue to support the student chapters and will endeavour to host a regional event involving all of the university chapters. Discussions are underway with colleagues in the BCS to facilitate this and how to encourage more young people to get involved with BCS NE Branch.

6. A report from the Treasurer, including a review of income and expenditure against the budget agreed with BCS HQ for the past year and an explanation of next year's budget request.

Chris Topham presented the report for the financial year 2020/2021 (see Appendix 1)

The Branch was able to secure an improved operating budget of £2308.24 with an additional £500.00 for a project to rejuvenate the Student Chapters subject to an approved Supplementary Funding Request (SFR).

As a consequence of the Covid restrictions all the meetings in the Financial Year 2020/21 were held virtually, and the Student Chapters revival project was regrettably postponed. With the considerably reduced Branch activity there were no expenses recorded in the year.

This leaves the Branch with an under spend for the year of £2308.24.

The budget request for 2021/22 was based on the 2020/21 budget allocations and submitted on schedule. This was approved with only small reductions in some of the account codes with BCS HQ using our expenditure profile from the previous 3 'normal' years in calculating our budget allowance for 2021/22.

Finally, BCS HQ have noted that it does not anticipate many physical meetings being held before late 2021, so it is anticipating that most of the Branch expenditure for this financial year to be incurred in 2022.

#### 7. Election of Chair, Treasurer and committee members

Proposal that the committee for 2021/22 would stay the same as 2020/21.

One change to committee – Cris Bloomfield resigned from committee due to moving from the region. Chair thanked Cris for his contribution.

It was noted that at present there is no female representation on the committee.

It was agreed that as an action from AGM we should try and attract some female colleagues to join the committee.

Noted the need to confirm young persons' group membership

Proposed Alastair Seconded Paul Sheridan

#### 8. Any other business – any items for AOB to be sent to chair by close of play on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021

New membership discussion

Consideration of option to pay fees by monthly direct debit – action to pickup with BCS membership

Discussed how we might engage with schools in the region to raise awareness of BCS and enhance BCS membership

Meeting closed at 18.30 and adjourned for the talk by Basil Manoussos

*Professor Alastair Irons FBCS CITP*

*BCS NE Branch Chair*

*November 2021*

## Appendix 1

### BCS Newcastle Financial Report 2020/21

For the financial year 2020/2021 the Branch was able to secure an improved operating budget of £2308.24 with an additional £500.00 for a project to rejuvenate the Student Chapters subject to an approved Supplementary Funding Request (SFR).

As a consequence of the Covid restrictions all the meetings in the Financial Year 2020/21 were held virtually, and the Student Chapters revival project was regrettably postponed.

There were no expenses recorded in the year and no student prizes awarded.

This leaves the Branch with an underspend for the year of £2308.24 (detailed below).

The budget request for 2021/22 was based on the 2020/21 budget allocations and submitted on schedule. This was approved with only small reductions in some of the account codes with BCS HQ using our expenditure profile from the previous 3 'normal' years in calculating our budget allowance for 2021/22.

Finally BCS HQ have noted that it does not anticipate many physical meetings being held before late 2021, so it is anticipating that most of the Branch expenditure for this financial year to be incurred in 2022.

	Budget 2020/21	Actual Expenditure
Travel	£443.74	£0.00
Speaker Expenses	£750.00	£0.00
Catering	£199.50	£0.00
Publicity	£140.00	£0.00
Student Prizes	£400.00	£0.00
Room Hire	£375.00	£0.00
Totals	£2308.24	£0.00

*Chris Topham*  
*Treasurer*  
*BCS Newcastle Branch*