



GLASGOW BRANCH

Minutes of the 2007 Annual General Meeting
of the Glasgow Branch of the British Computer Society
held at the Lord Todd, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow
on Monday 4th June 2007, 6:30 pm.

1. Welcome

Bill Milne (Chair) welcomed the members present in this 50th Anniversary Year. Apologies were received from Paul Goldfinch (Treasurer) and Pat Crawford (Committee Member).

2. Presentation on state of the Scottish IT job market

Before the business of the AGM proper there was a presentation by Gordon Kay of the Edinburgh office of the national IT specialist employment agency "Computer Futures". This was an updated talk from last year on "The Current State of the IT Recruitment Sector in Scotland"; and drew attention to the current employment hotspots, developing technologies, and growth areas which are particularly relevant to the Scottish IT sector. This was followed by a stimulating question and answer session. Opportunities were then made available after the talk for individual members to consult with the Computer Futures representatives. On behalf of the meeting Bill Milne expressed thanks to the speaker and his colleagues, and said he was sure that Branch members looked forward to a similar talk at the next AGM. These sentiments were unanimously confirmed by acclamation from the floor.

3. Minutes of 2006 AGM

Printed copies of the 2006 AGM minutes were made available to members, the minutes themselves having been also available on the Branch website for most of the previous session. Comments were then invited from the floor. Rod Blackwood pointed out his name was misspelled as "Blackman". There being no other comments received during the meeting or during the previous session, the minutes were adopted subject to this amendment. Motion proposed by Laurie Borthwick and seconded by Bob McLeod.

4. Matters arising from 2006 AGM Minutes

There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman's Report of Past Year

Bill Milne tabled his end of year report copies of which were handed out to those present.

Bill Milne then spoke to his report and drew attention to;

- the continuing high level of Branch activity,

- the highlights of the year including the very successful Agile systems course and the BT show case visit,
- the innovations in remote lecture web-casting,
- the formation of the Ayr sub-branch,
- the increased external relations activities with other Scottish national Engineering bodies and the Scottish body politic,
- the planned Jubilee conference, Gala dinner and Civic reception.

He also commented on the work of the committee and its rejuvenation and performance. Questions and comments were then invited from the floor. There were no questions from the members present and the report was approved unanimously.

6. Secretary's Report

Sean Mackay (Secretary) tabled his detailed report on the closing year's rich schedule of wide-ranging events. This was circulated to those present. He outlined the following;

- ◆ Following a previous talk on Agile Methods by Clark Ching, a one-day workshop "Introduction to Agile Software Development" was arranged at Paisley University in July 2006, and all twenty available places were booked;
- ◆ The first meeting of the year in October 2006 was Voice over IP (VOIP), arranged and convened by new committee member Calum Morrell;
- ◆ In November there was a daytime visit to a BT site in Edinburgh which offered hands-on demonstrations of the latest networking applications, including: RFID, home working, video conferencing etc. Thanks to new committee member Rod Blackwood for coordinating this event;
- ◆ Also in November was a talk with the title "Sado-Masochistic Caravan and other experiences of a Computing Expert Witness" (one of our longest ever titles), sharing experiences of actual courtroom cases;
- ◆ Unfortunately there was no student event in 2006, but we plan to have one for 2007;
- ◆ In December our planned and much sought after "Security Christmas lecture" fell through and our own Eddie Gray rose to the occasion and gave a stimulating review of System Design Methodologies and how these have evolved with evolving IT technology;
- ◆ January saw the first collaborative event, held at the Teacher Building in St. Enoch Square, using web conferencing technology, where we shared in the London "Turing Lecture by Grady Booch" This was a useful test of the remote facility and much was gained from the experience;
- ◆ The February talk, "Making Wonders", arranged by Ann Mair, highlighted the challenges of setting up an IT infrastructure in one of Africa's poorest countries, and how this infrastructure could be applied to helping the education of the visually impaired children in Malawi;
- ◆ Also in February was the Inaugural Meeting of the proposed Ayr Sub-Branch, when the video "Do Biometric Solutions Work?" was shown. The meeting elected Brian McGhee of Ayr College as their chairperson;
- ◆ In March again as a standby a talk was given by our own Dr Daniel Livingstone on "Virtual Worlds" with a focus on the "Second Lives" phenomenon. The history of computer games was outlined together with current technologies and possible future developments;
- ◆ Our speaker for April was Becky Hodge of the Open Rights Group. This thought provoking talk discussed various experiences of electronic voting systems and explained clearly the difference between e-voting and e-counting; furthermore, the talk was topical and well timed just one

month before the Scottish May 2007 elections;

- ◆ In April, there was the visit to the Digital Design Studio (McIntosh School of Art) in Bellahouston Park. Although places were limited, those who were present were treated to several high grade interactive demos including digital city mapping, 3D car design etc.
- ◆ In May we were able to show a recorded presentation from another Scottish Branch entitled "Digital Forensics". Although the presentation was slightly longer than a typical meeting, this was one of our best attended meetings of the year!

As a whole, the 2006/07 session has seen a good number of varied events more than that mandated by HQ regulations. The Branch intends to put forward an equally interesting schedule of meetings over the coming year, whilst continuing to offer every opportunity for professional and social networking.

The report was accepted by the meeting.

7. Treasurer's Report

In Paul Goldfinch's absence, Bill Milne (Chair) delivered the Treasurer's report.

Bill picked out the sudden financial reorganisation that had been unilaterally imposed on branches by HQ and the particular problems that this had occasioned the branch.

Bill noted that Paul is standing down at the end of this session, having served the Branch for many years as Committee member and as Treasurer. A vote of thanks for Paul Goldfinch's long and distinguished service was carried unanimously. The acceptance of the Treasurer's report was proposed to by Laurie Borthwick, and this was seconded by Calum Morrell.

The meeting approved the report.

8. Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members

All officers and Committee members offered their resignation.

Bill Milne, on behalf of the membership, thanked the retiring committee for all their efforts and hard work.

With no Vice-Chair currently available to move up to the position of Chair, it was proposed that Bill Milne continue as Chair for the 2007/08 session, if elected back onto committee. Bill said that he was happy to do this although he hoped a Vice-Chair could be found during the coming session to fill this important role. He did however foresee the contingency that he may not be able to complete another full year in this capacity and that if he were to retire during the session then an EGM would be called to agree a new Chair. This course of action was proposed by Daniel Livingstone and seconded by Bob McLeod. The motion was unanimously carried.

Bill Milne (New Chair) noted that at least one third of the committee was required to stand down to ensure rotation. Those retiring and not seeking re-election are:

- ◆ Paul Goldfinch
- ◆ Ann Mair

It was then proposed by Bob McLeod that the remaining current committee stand down, and a new set of names proposed to form the committee for the next session, with Bill Milne as Chairperson. This was approved.

Those nominated were;

- ◆ Mrs Pat Crawford

- ◆ Mr Sean Mackay
- ◆ Mr Eddie Gray
- ◆ Mr James Penn-Dunnett
- ◆ Dr Daniel Livingstone
- ◆ Mr Calum Morrell
- ◆ Mr Rod Blackwood
- ◆ Andrew Back
- ◆ Angela Newlands
- ◆ Richard Trail
- ◆ Bill Milne

It was proposed by Bob McLeod that Sean Mackay continue in the post of Secretary. This was seconded by James Penn-Dunnett. Motion Carried.

It was proposed by Daniel Livingstone that Rob Blackwood take up the post of Treasurer. This was seconded by Kyle McLachlan. Motion carried

Bill Milne sought, and was given, approval by the meeting to seek and recruit a suitable person for Vice Chair, who according to our custom would be eligible to stand for Branch Chair next year when Bill's own tenure is passed on.

9. New Chairman's Remarks

Bill stated that there were several goals for the year ahead, and that in no particular order these will include:

- ◆ more use of information technology by the Branch, for example recording of events and also video-conferencing with other Branches;
- ◆ to plan to make full and best use of the Branch allocation which would otherwise be lost under the new financial procedures;
- ◆ to build up membership participation in Branch activities;
- ◆ to increase BCS representation to the Scottish Parliament and Scottish Government;
- ◆ to arrange some meetings to take place in locations other than the Lord Todd in order to widen the catchment;
- ◆ and to have membership of the BCS recognised more widely through the IT community in Scotland;

10. AOCB

Bill thanked the members for attending, and highlighted the forthcoming two-day 50th Anniversary Jubilee Event being held jointly with Glasgow University at the end of the month. There being no further business, the AGM for 2007 was closed.

Minutes approved 2nd June 2008.