

Draft Minutes of the 2011 Annual General Meeting of the Glasgow Branch
of the British Computer Society held Room M404 (4th Floor), George Moore Building,
Glasgow Caledonian University, Cowcaddens Road, Glasgow G4 0BE
on Monday 10th October 2011 at 7:45 pm.

1. Welcome/Apologies

Richard Trail (Chair) welcomed the members present. The following apologies were received: Ian Douglas, Paul Leonard, Debbie-Jane Reyes, Althea Tolentino.

2. Minutes of the AGM of 14th June 2010

Printed copies of the 2010 AGM minutes were made available to members. Alasdair Thomson and seconded by Aaron Blair proposed that the minutes be approved and this was accepted.

3. Matters arising - None.

4. Chair's Report

The Branch Chair, Richard Trail gave the following report to those attending the AGM:

“I first start with an apology, that I was not able to attend many of the regular meetings of the branch last year. I had another commitment on Monday evenings which I couldn't escape. I was only able to attend one talk and that was the Christmas lecture on Bletchley Park. The other members of the committee rallied round admirably and organised the meetings. The reports that I heard were that the talks were up to the usual high standard and were well received by members. If you happen to disagree then I encourage you to join the committee and tell us how to change things for the better.

There have been changes this year and this meeting illustrates two of them. The first is the timing of the AGM. Traditionally we have held the AGM at the last meeting of the session in June. That gave the new committee a few months over the summer to arrange a programme for the following year, discuss subject areas and make initial contact with speakers. The change in the date of the AGM is not of our choosing, it has been forced on us by HQ. The rules now require us to have the AGM in September or October. We do not think this is helpful, but we have had to go along with it. It has meant that we are not so far advanced with arranging the programme for the coming year as usual.

The other change that cannot have escaped the notice of regular attenders is the venue. Our old venue was the conference room in the Lord Todd of Strathclyde University. It had served us well for many years but we were advised earlier this year that the Lord Todd was being refurbished and the new layout would no longer have a conference room. The committee considered this an opportunity to explore other venues. Over the summer we looked at various venues and assessed them for suitability, location and price. There have been suggestions from members that we should look outside universities for a meeting room. However you will see that so far we have not been able to find a suitable place outside of a university. At present we plan to use this venue at least up to Christmas. We are open to suggestions of alternative

venues. Unfortunately price is an issue, the BCS is suffering the same as everyone else at the moment and budgets are being squeezed.

IT is still developing fast and raising a host of new challenges for society. Governments are introducing ever more new legislation to adapt to the internet age. They do seek expert help in preparing new laws and BCS is frequently invited to comment on proposed new legislation. Mostly they relate to legislation going through the Westminster Parliament and HQ handles these. However some of the new laws coming out of Holyrood impinge on the computer industry and they also invite expert consultation from people in the industry or academia. We have a group call BCS in Scotland, comprising representatives from each branch in Scotland, who are trying to be the one point of contact between the Holyrood government and BCS. From time to time they want to find experts in different fields who are willing to give of their time and expertise to make a response to a consultation. There then arises the problem of finding someone who has something useful to say on the subject. At present we have no better method than emailing round members and inviting someone to come forward. I would encourage you to offer your services if it is in your area of expertise. Time for consultation is often quite short so speed is essential.

It has been an honour to serve as chairman of the branch. I am indebted to the efforts of the committee members who have contributed so much over the years. In particular I pay tribute to the office bearers the Treasurer Rod Blackwood and the Secretary James Penn-Dunnett who have kept the branch functioning. I step down tonight and wish my successor well.”

5. Treasurer’s Report

The Branch Treasurer, Rod Blackwood gave the following report to those attending the AGM:

BCS Glasgow Branch Treasurer's Report 2010/11

	Actuals	Budget
0		
INCOME		
Income	0	0
EXPENSE		
3010: Travel/Subsistence (Other)	25	200
4000: Stationery	1	0
4100: Postage	1	50
4110: Room Hire	295	350
4130: Speakers expenses	547	500
4150: Catering	1,491	1,800
4210: Seminars & Conferences	10	0
4290: Subs to Other Bodies	50	0
4900: Other Costs General	90	300
5102: Student Prizes - SFR - manually adjust budget for £606	516	1,212
Expenditure	3,027	4,412

The table above shows an extract from the branch accounts for 2010/11 as provided by BCS HQ.

The branch has come in under budget this year, having spent £2,510.56 on branch activities from a budget of £3,200 and £516 on Student Prizes from a budget of £1,212. Approximately £600 of the spend on branch activities was on the October Student Event.

The large underspend on Student Prizes is because we were able to award prizes only to Glasgow and Strathclyde universities this year. We missed GCU's award ceremony in October, failed to make contact with Stirling or the OU, and while UWS initially accepted our offer of a prize they didn't get back to us with recipient details. I hope we do better in 2011/12.

The branch's budget allocation for 2011/12 is £3,282 and we have an additional allocation of £1,000 for the October Student Event. The £3,282 breaks down as £2,070 for branch activities and £1,212 for Student Prizes, so we should be able to run a full programme in 2011/12.

Rod Blackwood
Treasurer
9/10/2011

6. Election of Branch Officers for 2011/12

Richard Trail and James Penn-Dunnett are standing down from the positions of Chair and Secretary and Daniel Livinstone is not standing for re-election to the committee. The committee would like to thank Daniel for all the work he has put in over the past six years in particular the Student Events.

It was proposed by Richard Trail that Tejinder Singh Lota take up the position of Chair. This was seconded by James Penn-Dunnett and there being no other nominations, Tejinder Singh Lota was duly elected.

It was proposed by Richard Trail that Alasdair Thomson take up the position of Secretary. This was seconded by Eddie Gray and there being no other nominations, Alasdair Thomson was duly elected.

It was proposed by Richard Trail that Rod Blackwood take up the position of Treasurer. This was seconded by James Penn-Dunnett and there being no other nominations, Rod Blackwood was duly elected.

7. Election of Branch Committee Members for 2010/11

It was proposed by Rod Blackwood that the following persons be elected to the new Branch Committee: CPD Officer - Eddie Gray ; Web Administrator - James Penn-Dunnett ; Members - Gordon Aird, Aaron Blair, Martin Blunn, Colin Crook, Paul Leonard, Arun Kumar Sathyanarayan, Debbie-Jane Reyes, Althea Tolentino and Richard Trail. This was seconded by Philip Kraven and there being no other nominations, the above mentioned new Branch committee was duly elected.

8. Any Other Business - None.