

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2008-09

Date: Wednesday, 10 June 2009

Time: 18:30 – 19:00

Venue: BCS London Office, The Davidson Building, 5 Southampton Street, WC2E 7HA

Apologies: None (from committee members)

Present: Elisabeth Somogyi (Chair)
Terry Freedman (Hon. Treasurer)
Stuart Pollard (Secretary & Membership Secretary)
Ian Pickup (Programme Secretary)
Nigel Lewis (Publicity Secretary)
Simon Tyrell-Lewis (Web Editor)
Steve Sayle (BISSG Member)
Stephen Hilsum (BISSG Member)

1. Minutes of the Last AGM

These were circulated by the Secretary & Membership Secretary and accepted by the meeting.

2. Chair's Report

The Chair briefly referred to the year's programme which is reproduced as follows:

Date	Title	Speaker
08 Oct 08	Non-Linear Business Simulation – A Quantum Leap Forward	Christopher Ledger, Simudyne
19 Nov 08	Event cancelled due to low registration levels	
09 Dec 08	Event cancelled due to low registration levels	
14 Jan 09*	Anywhere, Anytime in 2009? - Going Global with Mobile IT	Andy Mulholland, Global CTO, Caggemini & Dr. Mike Short, Vice President R&D, O2
11 Feb 09	Event cancelled due to late withdrawal of the speaker	
11 Mar 09	Understanding Cloud Computing and the benefits to IT efficiency	Kate Craig-Wood, Managing Director, Memset Ltd
08 Apr 09	Understanding 'Lean' and its applicability to business and IT success	Andy Burtenshaw, Principal Consultant, Fujitsu Services
13 May 09	Event cancelled due to low registration levels; AGM postponed	
10 Jun 09	Annual General Meeting	

* Joint meeting with the BCS North London Branch organised by them

Of particular note were the three cancellations due to low registration attendance levels. This is unprecedented in the BISSG's history. The reasons are unclear but non-exclusive candidates include: the Green IT subject matter; the November date was not the time-honoured second Wednesday in the month; possible BCS list server failures leading to some people not receiving the email notifications.

3. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer provided the following summarised accounts statement prepared for the year ended 30 April 2009:

Income/Expenditure	Item	Amount	Total
Income	Events	£0	
	BCS Grant	£393	
	Total		£393
Expenditure	Catering	146	
	Committee Travel	247	
	Total		£393

Notes:-

1. Based on returns from BCS HQ dated 14 May 2009
2. Revision will be needed for the new year end of 31Aug09

4. Secretary & Membership Secretary's Report

The Secretary & Membership Secretary reported that the average attendance for the sessions that actually took place, excluding the joint meeting with the BCS NLB, was about 20 people.

Regarding the membership levels, following the BCS change in rules regarding attendance by non-BCS members at Specialist Group meetings and the availability of BCS email list server facilities, the membership database maintained by the Web Editor was switched off in favour of the BCS system. Members were advised several times in advance of the change to enable them to set up their BCS account details appropriately.

The current membership level (as indicated by those selecting the BISSG as one of their five membership options in the BCS system) is approximately 1,430 covering about 70 countries. A detailed breakdown by country was circulated of which the following is a summary of those countries with ten or more members:

Country	No. of Members	Country	No. of Members
UK	1,432	Hong Kong	21
Australia	14	Mauritius	12
Canada	10	Nigeria	33
Eire	13	Sri Lanka	107
Greece	10	UAE	12

The number of London home addresses was just under 250, a very rough guide to the potential theoretical attendance levels (given other people live close to London, some people work in London and some of those who live in London may work outside of it).

5. Programme for 2009–2010

There was some discussion about the nature of the BISSG and the degree to which there might be a need to refocus on a true specialism to avoid acting, in effect, as a small Branch. Related to this, a member had proposed a number of potential topics. While these were all perfectly valid IT topics, all were considered to be in the domain of other Specialist Groups, thus highlighting to some extent the nature of the dilemma.

There was also discussion about the extent to which the BISSG should collaborate with other Specialist Groups and Branches. A view was expressed that collaboration should be limited if the distinct BISSG identity was not to be overly diluted.

A member not able to travel into London has enquired about making meetings available as web casts. It is understood that the BCS is currently evaluating a possible 'webinar' service. This would expand the effective audience although could reduce the physical attendance level.

These considerations – and a number of factors discussed outside of the main meeting and noted in AOB below – will be explored by the committee.

Participants noted the BCS President's volunteering scheme.

6. Election of Officers

In the absence of any other candidates, the committee members offered themselves for re-election and were duly re-elected.

Role	Name
Chair	Elisabeth Somogyi
Hon. Treasurer	Terry Freedman
Secretary & Membership Secretary	Stuart Pollard
Programme Secretary	Ian Pickup
Publicity Secretary	Nigel Lewis
Web Editor	Simon Tyrrell-Lewis

7. AOB

None – during the main meeting.

Outside of the main meeting, a subset of the attendees considered the following factors over page:

- Offering sandwiches and wine after the topic presentation, as is the practice with some Branches and Specialist groups, in order to give more opportunities for networking. This might increase the overall attractiveness of the events and, hence, increase the turnout. The additional cost (c. £50 per meeting) would be extremely small in overall BCS terms but it would approximately double the BISSG expenditure.
- The BISSG events were not necessarily reaching the BCS web site calendar or the A4 handout which is made available in the London site. This will be investigated.
- Possible 'hot topics' for the upcoming year might be:
 - Lean IT
 - Identity Management
 - Risk Management
 - Business/IT Linkage
- Possible speakers sources might be:
 - Vendors and Systems Integrators
 - Presenters at major IT events such as those held at Olympia
 - Universities- particularly higher degree students