

British Computer Society
Coventry Branch
2021 AGM



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 13th October 2021,
at 6:00pm, by webinar.**

Present:

Rich Bishop	Peter Crouch	Irene Glendinning
Peter Mason	Dianabasi Nkantah (Chair)	Ian Nussey
John Rendall (Secretary)	Yuri Vershini	

1. Welcome and Introductions

Dianabasi thanked everyone for attending.

2. Apologies

Apologies were formally received from the following:

Ada Chan, Margaret J. Low, Adrian F. Pauling, Don Stewart, Gary Walton (outgoing Treasurer)

3. Minutes of the 2020 AGM

3.1. Minutes

Motion to accept the minutes

Prop: Irene Glendinning Sec: Peter Mason : Motion carried: ratified copy to be sent to HQ

3.2. Matters Arising

At the last AGM no chair was proposed or elected, however Dianabasi Nkantah kindly stepped up at a subsequent committee meeting. Formal thanks were extended to Dianabasi.

Secretary's Note: while preparing for the AGM John had re-read the 2020 AGM minutes and had noticed a number of typos and a couple of places where the grammar did not reflect the discussion. In order to not delay proceedings, John did not raise these necessary corrections at the meeting. The ratified and corrected minutes will be sent to HQ.

When we get back to "normal" meetings we will have to bear in mind that there were problems with catering.

4. Chairman's Report

4.1. Report

Motion to accept the chairman's report:

Prop: Peter Crouch Sec: Irene Glendinning : Motion carried

4.2. Matters Arising

Meeting noted the "Average" in the top row of the meeting stats was showing as 30, which did not accord with the actual attendance figures. John was actioned to investigate.

Secretary's Note: the meetings stats were captured on an update of the spreadsheet used for the 2019-2020 meeting stats, and as a number of meetings were cancelled due to Covid-19 the spreadsheet had been selective in which attendance figures were to be averaged. This was incorrect for 2020-2021. This has been corrected for the attendance figures to be included within the Chair Report to be sent to HQ following this AGM.

The abbreviation for the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications is IMA, not IMT (Christmas Lecture).

Irene reminded us that she was invited to a special dinner to help celebrate the sixty year anniversary of the founding of the BCS; this being one of the last "awards" presented to a Coventry Branch committee member.

Congratulations were extended to Margaret Low who had been awarded both a Professorship (last year) and an MBE this year (supported by Dr. Ian Nussey).

5. Treasurer's Report

5.1. Report

Motion to accept the Treasurer's report:

Prop: Peter Mason Sec: Peter Crouch : Motion carried.

5.2. Matters Arising

Meeting noted that Gary had stepped down as Treasurer. Formal thanks were extended to Gary for all his work over the previous years.

It was noted that no student prize were presented, due to Covid-19/Lockdown. Irene reported that she used to be able to chase people within Coventry University to get them to ask for the prizes, however her contacts have left and Irene is not there teaching now and is only at the University part-time. However, there still needs to be a "trigger system" in place to remind the faculty to request the prizes.

As this year Coventry University are taking nominations, Dianabasi will liaise as he is ideally placed. Dianabasi also advised that students now get 3 years free Student Membership of the BCS, Irene advised that this will need to be taken into account when budgeting for the prizes.

Meeting felt that these prizes needed to be tied to something that is already being awarded so the grads are aware of BCS and why it exists. It also needs to be advertised in advance to raise awareness. Rich suggested this could be done through the Student Union.

It was accepted that there needs to be dialogue with the faculty (of Computer Science) and if they are not interested then approach the Student Union to progress these prizes. It was noted, however, that if prizes are awarded to graduates post-graduation, they may have already left the University.

Irene confirmed that Coventry University had a Student Chapter for 3-4 years, and keeps getting emails from HQ intended to be passed to the Chapter as she was the BCS contact for the Chapter, however as Irene is not there anymore (and the original chair of the chapter has left), HQ need to be addressing this with the Faculty. Irene will forward the email to Dianabasi for onward forwarding to the (new) BCS contact for the student chapter.

6. Election of Officials

6.1. Elected Officials

Post	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder	Result
Chair	: Dianabasi Nkantah	Irene Glendinning	Peter Mason	Nem. Con.
Secretary	: John Rendall	Peter Mason	Irene Glendinning	Nem. Con.
Treasurer	: Rich Bishop*	Irene Glendinning	Peter Mason	Nem. Con.

*Please see note 2 below

6.2. Committee

John had been in touch with the committee both before and after the AGM. The committee list is now:

Rich Bishop - Early Career Advocate – please see note 2

Ada Chan - Treasurer– please see note 2

Irene Glendinning - Equality and Diversity Officer

Margaret J. Low – Education Liaison Officer

Peter Mason

Adrian F. Pauling – local IET Liaison Officer

Don Stewart

Yuri Vershinin

Gary Walton

Rich Bishop, as a ‘Young Member’ volunteered to take the ECA (early career advocate) mandatory branch role. There was discussion as to if Rich could be both the ECA and Treasurer, this was taken for discussion outside of this AGM.

Secretary’s Note 1: John had taken an action at the last AGM to confirm with Branches Liaison the situation with “non-BCS Members” joining the committee. The answer was that non-members may not be the elected committee members however could be “co-opted” to work with the committee. However, this year, we do not have that situation.

Secretary’s Note 2: *it was confirmed that the ECA cannot also be one of the elected branch officers, so Rich “stood down” from the Treasurer role. Following the AGM Ada Chan confirmed that she would like to take on the role of Treasurer. Formal thanks are extended to both Ada and Rich for their kind support for Coventry Branch.

7. Any Other Business

It was noted that Margaret Low was working with Maggie Philbin (formerly a “Tomorrows World” presenter and now a TeenTech advocate.) and had approached her with a view to our Christmas Lecture. Meeting resolved to await Margaret’s feedback with regards to dates and any associated fee. Irene resolved to send Dianabasi a copy of the email thread as when Martine (from IMA) asked the question, there were not aware that Dianabasi was the Coventry Branch chair (there is a conversation going on about this.)

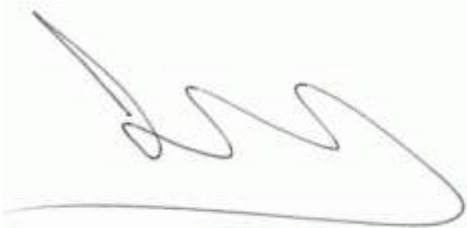
If we wish to move to hybrid meetings (i.e. joint webinar and physical meeting) once the pandemic is over, then the building needs to be unlocked and the lectern needs to be unlocked. Meeting resolved not to do anything too early; we need to see what happens in the winter. It was agreed to keep the remainder of the meetings programme as webinars for 2021-2022, however review this in January

once the University has returned after Christmas.

Motion for Adjournment: Proposer Peter Crouch, Seconder Peter Mason.

Agreed we will need to have a committee meeting in the new year to think about next-year's plan (meeting schedule)

Formal Meeting closed 19:00 with thanks to the attendees.

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light green background. The signature is stylized and cursive, starting with a large 'J' and ending with a long horizontal stroke.

John Rendall, CEng. MBCS CITP MIET
Coventry Branch Secretary
11th November 2021