

British Computer Society
Coventry Branch
2025 AGM



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 24th March 2026, at 6:30pm, by webinar.

Present:

Alaaeldin Abdelaal	Doris Anele	Rich Bishop
Ebunoluwa Idowu	Margaret Low	Dianabasi Nkantarh (Chair)
John Rendall (Secretary)	Bharath Sadasivaiah	Jianhua Yang

1. Welcome and Introductions

Dianabasi thanked everyone for attending. We all introduced ourselves.

2. Apologies

Apologies were formally received from the following:

Joshua Bygate-Ralph
Syed Muhammad Rizvi
Anthony Seaton

3. Minutes of the 2023 AGM

3.1. Minutes

Motion to accept the minutes

Prop: Margaret Low Sec: Dianabasi Nkantarh : Motion carried: ratified copy to be sent to HQ

3.2. Matters Arising

None.

4. Chairman's Report

4.1. Report

Motion to accept the chairman's report:

Prop: Rich Bishop Sec: Margaret Low : Motion carried

4.2. Matters Arising

It was noted that we had not achieved our target of 8 open meetings for our members; we resolved to get more meetings for the 2026-2027 programme. We can share meetings with Leicester, and extend to Nottingham.

We have a meeting on Friday (27th March 2026) for planning our Christmas lecture (see later in minutes).

5. Treasurer's Report

5.1. Report

Treasurer not present, Motion to accept the Treasurer's report was not made.

5.2. Matters Arising

Dianabasi presented an overview of the Branch financial situation: during the last year we had no spend – the only expenditure was the award to two student prizes, one to each of our universities.

6. Election of Officials

6.1. Elected Officials

Post	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder	Result
Chair	: Dianabasi Nkantah	Margaret Low	Rich Bishop	Nem. Con.
Secretary	: John Rendall	Margaret Low	Rich Bishop	Nem. Con.
Treasurer	: Syed Rizvi	Syed Rizvi (by email)	Margaret Low	Nem. Con.
Inclusion Officer	: Doris Anele	Rich Bishop	Jianhua Yang	Nem. Con.
Vice Chair	: Syed Rizvi	Syed Rizvi (by email)	Rich Bishop	Nem. Con.
Early Careers Advocate	: Ebunoluwa Idowu	Ebunoluwa Idowu	Rich Bishop	Nem. Con.
Education Liaison Officer	: Jianhua Yang	Jianhua Yang	Margaret Low	Nem. Con.
IET Liaison Officer	: Adrian Pauling*	Dianabasi Nkantah	John Rendall	Nem. Con.
Assistant Secretary	: Bharath Sadasivaiah	Bharath Sadasivaiah	Margaret Low	Nem. Con.

- **As Adrian was not in the meeting, the Secretary contacted him afterwards to confirm.**

6.2. Committee

Alaaeldin Abdelaal
Richard Bishop (Previous ECA)
Wendy Brown
Joshua Bygate-Ralph
Margaret Low
Chidi Okorro
Yuri Vershinin (Previous IO)

7. Further Ideas for the Branch Programme

7.1. Branch Open meetings

Dianabasi confirmed that we were working on securing a speaker for the April meeting (Ethics in AI) and we had an idea for the May meeting (cyber security).

Action: Dianabasi and Joshua Bygate-Ralph

7.2. Bletchley Park group visit

John led the discussion on the proposed visit to Bletchley Park, John had received a quote from them for a group discount: £22.75 per person and the minimum number required for a group booking is 12 people but there is no maximum.

For comparison: usual prices: Adult (18 - 64 yrs) £28.75, Senior (65 yrs and above) £26.25

Young person (12 - 17 yrs) £15.00, Child (8 - 11 yrs) £7.50, Under 8s £0.00

John also advised that typically a coach to transport a group of us there would be of the order of £575.

John also highlighted that, as we needed to pay for admission in advance, that we need a mechanism to collect payments from our members who sign up to come; HQ have advised that the Eventbrite charges are 6.95% plus £0.59 per ticket, so this cost would have to be factored in, plus if HQ manage the Eventbrite bookings, they would also need to make the booking with Bletchley Park, as the accounts would show an income and they would need to process the outgoing payment to Bletchley. They would also need to raise this as a Service Request with the legal team as they would need to review and agree to the terms and conditions of the booking.

Ebunoluwa suggested that there may be other, cheaper ways of collecting payments, such as Luma, who charge a 5% fee for paid events.

Margaret suggested that John should email the members and ask their opinion as to if they would be interested in a visit to Bletchley Park, before committing to any other work on this.

Action: John Rendall

7.3. Christmas Lecture

Dianabasi highlighted that this had been started; there will be a meeting on the 27th March 2026 between the interested parties of the IET, IMechE and IMA.

The committee will continue to work on this, led by **Dianabasi**.

8. Any Other Business

Chair asked that people to please suggest talks; Margaret provided the link to google sheet (posted in the comments)

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XEROSKm-oCXyvbKnX0KZVXfI26P-DicUiMbSjXfgz1Y/edit?tab=t.0>

Margaret confirmed that anyone could add ideas and meetings to this shared worksheet, and when they had secured a speaker could then feed this through to the secretary (John).

Action: All Committee

Jianhua Yang reported that University of Warwick had set up a central location for student research - so new students can see what has already been done and learn from it...and for programming Jianhua

currently sets an assessment - either free choice or fixed choice; the intention is that they can carry on student research from one year to the year below, and also this repository could bring a link between the two universities and industry; it could be possible to set-up a student projects pool that industrial colleagues can contribute projects to that might be helpful for them, especially if students can come up with some useful ideas, or the university can contribute, e.g. the Maths people can contribute something more maths oriented or WBS may contribute something more business oriented. Jianhua advised that he wanted to share these ideas with colleagues in the meeting to see if there were interests in co-developing these sorts of ideas... Or some sort of exchange between the two universities?

Action: Academia based Committee members to consider

Jianhua also advised that they promote BCS at Warwick primarily as there is a new Masters course in Applied AI; a lot of the students are from overseas - Chinese students; BCS membership might be useful for their early career job hunting (if they have a student visa); and as a way to promote our local Branch.

Dianabasi affirmed that such a program repository that can support students could be useful; possibly good for his colleagues to work on, to get students on board for, maybe the BCS could support this via student chapters in both universities; reaching out to students at both universities and offering some sponsorship.

No action was set or taken

What can we be doing to support early careers? Margaret advised that following a series of focus groups, BCS (HQ) have some interesting ideas.

We note that we have new Early Careers Advocate now, who had free rein to advocate for "Younger Members"

John raised the point that HQ now offer members three free CPD modules per year (Ostensibly worth £180) including Ethical IT Professional training (which the BCS would like everyone to take), John highlighted that he has also taken "An introduction to machine learning" and is currently working on "Avoiding Greenwashing: Identifying and Addressing the Risks and Roles in Green IT" (when he's not typing these minutes!).

Action: John was actioned to publicise the link to these.

Secretary's note: after the meeting John sent an email to Branch membership highlighting where they could access this training from

Margaret officially welcomed the new committee members, and Dianabasi also welcomed them aboard, and asked them for their ideas.

New Committee to meet Friday, the 22nd of May, 2026.

Formal Meeting closed 20:04 with thanks to the attendees.

I certify that this is an accurate transcription of the proceedings of the meeting to the best of my ability.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'John Rendall', written on a light green background.

John Rendall, CEng. MBCS CITP MIET
Coventry Branch Secretary
9th April 2026