

Thursday, 18 May 2006

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2005/06

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the third AGM of the British Computer Society Jersey International Section. I am delighted to be able to report to you the activities, growth and success of the section for the period of 2005/06.

It has been almost three years since the launch of BCS Jersey, when in the summer of 2003 we launched with a relatively small number of members. As reported in my two previous AGM reports the section has managed to maintain a regular, almost monthly diverse range of good quality events. The monthly committee meetings have also been consistent over the last period with good committee member attendance and only on a few occasions has attendance been low (obviously due to other urgent commitments). I can only recall having to postpone one or two meetings, in the twelve-month period so overall I am extremely pleased with the governance of the Jersey Section, which is attributed to the committee to whom I owe a great deal of gratitude again.

A major part of the committee's remit is to devise, plan and organise a calendar of events that we hope are of both genuine interest and great benefit to the section membership in their quest for continual professional development. The period from May 2005 to date, I believe has been no different and below is a reminder of the events and activities we have enjoyed:

- **12 May 2005: Question Time with Senator Frank Walker:**
I was delighted when (now Chief Minister) Senator Frank Walker agreed to speak and answer questions at our AGM. This was a great way to start the new BCS Section year, provoking many thoughts, views and debates about the Island's issues and how they may impact IT Professionals.
- **14 July 2005: IT from Mars, Marketing from Venus:**
This was the largest event to-date for us and we partnered with the Chartered Institute of Marketing to enjoy a dinner/lecture event with two speakers at the Pomme d'Or Hotel. The first of our speakers, David Bowen, a regular columnist for the FT spoke about effective web site design. Followed after dinner by Dr Robina Chatham, a visiting Fellow at Cranfield School of Management who spoke about IT and marketing stereotypes and how they sometimes hinder effective communications.
- **21 July 2005: ISO 9001 and BS15000 (ITIL) (BCS members workshop):**
This event was a first of its kind for us and was an interactive workshop on the above standards, which explored the links between them and how they can help effective service delivery. It was run by local BCS member, Neil Merritt, Service Delivery Manager, Abacus Group Services Ltd. to whom we are grateful. Feedback from some of those that attended was extremely positive.
- **9 November 2005: 'VoIP' technology:**
This was another event organised and run by one of our members, namely committee member and education liaison officer Stuart Philip. It was targeted at the general public and held at the Great Hall in Highlands College where Stuart spoke about Internet telephony and how it can be used straight from the desktop computer. Attendance was not as high as we would have liked, however, through promotion on the local radio we felt that we had served a public service in raising awareness of this relatively new technology.
- **16 February 2006: NLP (Neuro Linguistic Programming):**
This interactive talk and presentation by Moz Scott, looked at a number of light-hearted anecdotes and simple exercises to explore how we often programme our minds to behave in a certain manner, often inadvertently - through focus, language, physiology, emotional reactions and repetition. Moz explained how redundant or unhelpful programmes could be eliminated. The

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talk went on to explore how our brain works as a goal seeking achieving mechanism. Before exploring the different roles and capacities of the unconscious and conscious parts of the mind in achieving such goals and how we might overcome what might be considered as flaws in the basic design.

- **30 March 2006: Computer Forensics:**

Our final event of the previous calendar year was on the subject of forensic computing whereby a leading UK IT security specialist company, Sapphire Technologies spoke to a packed lecture theatre at the Jersey Museum consisting of around sixty (mostly IT professionals). The talk covered how often IT investigations can fail because electronic evidence is inadvertently rendered inadmissible by inexperienced staff and the approach that should be taken when gathering electronic information, along with how the evidence can be safeguarded and what procedures must be followed.

As can be seen again the committee has continued to collectively chose a diverse range of interesting events hoping to provide something that will be useful for everyone: directors, managers, technicians, and business savvy professionals alike. This more recent calendar of events has a deliberate emphasis on promoting the soft skill set as opposed to the more detailed technical ones since we realise the importance of a broad range CPD for IT professionals. The subject of soft skills in the IT profession is one that is continually raised in popular trade publications as one that is particularly important for both leadership roles and the developing IT professional alike.

Again, as we have done in previous years we ran a public awareness event. This time exploring the use of IP telephony technology, taking a practical look and demonstration of the offering from Skype and associated VOIP hardware. We as a local committee see these public awareness events as a great opportunity to promote information technology and everything it stands for to the greater community i.e. beyond the workplace.

I am extremely pleased with attendance figures for all of the events; again as in previous years it proved particularly successful where we partnered with another industry representative body. The joint dinner / lecture event with the Chartered Institute of Marketing was our largest event to-date and proved to be a very interesting, and enjoyable event with around 175 guests and two speakers. It provided a great opportunity for networking, whilst raising to the fore some of key debates, differences and similarities between the respective professions.

Membership

With 185 section members we have effectively quadrupled our membership since the initial launch in the summer of 2003. This growth is very encouraging and I expect the trend to continue as we raise the profile and awareness of BCS Jersey. Particularly as we raise the profile of the industry with the younger generation or tomorrow's IT professionals. We are currently working on a web site design competition for all schools in Jersey to participate. The event will run throughout the academic year 2006/07 with a prize giving event in late spring or early summer next year so please keep an eye on our web site: www.jersey.bcs.org.

Financial Statement

I would like to thank our Treasurer, Dr. Ian Jauncey for carrying out an excellent job again and maintaining an accurate and up-to-date financial position throughout the year.

I can report that as the end of the financial year (April 30th 2006) the book balance for BCS Jersey is: £798.77. The total income for the year was £10,318.59, and with a total expenditure of £9,679.62. We started the year with a balance of £602.80 and finished with creditors of £443.00.

This just leaves me to again express my sincere gratitude to all members of the BCS Jersey committee who have given up much of their free time and put in many hours over the year to support the society. Thus one would hope that this has an impact and influence for the greater good of both the IT profession and the promotion of technology on the Island. I am also delighted that nearly all of

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the existing committee will either be standing for re-election (like myself) or staying on in their current roles to continue the good work and I look forward to seeing some new members on the committee.

I would also like to Pam Fegan and Sue Guy at HQ for their continued and excellent customer focused and efficient section support. I never have to wait long for an email response. Finally, and by no means least, I would again like to express my gratitude to all the members of BCS Jersey for their continued support by attending and supporting the events over the last twelve months.

I look forward to the next interesting year ahead for the BCS and IT profession on the Island of Jersey.

Kind Regards,

Brett Sumner BEng(Hons) CEng MBCS CITP
Chairman BCS Jersey

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