



Berkshire Branch

Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th June 2005 at the University of Reading.

Committee Members Present

Andrew Fieldsend (Chairman)
Ann Buck (Secretary)
Chris Rayner (Treasurer)

Mike Underwood
Steve Tayler

9 other members present

Meeting Commenced at 20:00

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from committee member Neil Rickus.

2. Minutes of 2003 AGM

Item 5, line 5 'braches' should read branches. The minutes of the 2003 AGM were accepted *nem con*.

3. Matters Arising

No matters arising from the minutes were raised.

4. Officer's Reports

- 4.1 **Chairman's Report.** Andrew Fieldsend thanked attendees and Committee Members for this year. The Branch has secured funding for the Anne Spencer prize for the next 3 years at Reading University and Thames Valley University. We hope to arrange to present the prize at the Graduation ceremonies. BCS membership has gone up as has branch membership. The Branch needs volunteers to help on the committee.
- 4.2 **Membership Report.** In answer to a question from the floor, the membership secretary said that the last set of figures from HQ showed 1720 Berkshire Branch members. Due to the introduction of the new Membership system, the more recent figure of 1860 includes duplications of Primary, Secondary and those included on the basis of their address.
- 4.3 **Treasurer's Report.** Chris Rayner informed the meeting that we are still having our accounts done centrally. The figures distributed come from HQ. Income and Expenditure fall into very narrow bands. The Branch does not

have any income as such. We only spent 50% of our allocation, since we are fortunate not to be charged for rooms at the University. The funding allocation for 2005/2006 is marginally down on last year. A question from the floor asked what is the philosophy behind engaging the membership to get more involvement? The webmaster responded that a survey on the website had 57 visitors in 6 months and is very fully featured with PHP and MySQL. In the last 6 months we have been cross publicising events with the Berkshire IEE. A comment from the floor remarked that the student prize of £100 plus one year's BCS membership is very paltry and questioned whether we could match the £100 from our reserves. The Chair pointed out that the University determines the student who receives the prize. A short discussion ensued on the policy of paying speakers at events. HQ suggests we pay the authors of BCS books. The chairman said the Committee will discuss this. It was pointed out that the members are busy at work and do not have time for the Committee. It was suggested that the charity commission recommend the notional reserves should be one third of reserves. It was reported that there had been serious discussion at branches Congress about the state of Finances of the branches and S.I.G.s. The working party is proposing that Branches and S.I.G.s will have to produce a budget in future.

- 4.4 **Secretary's Report.** Ann Buck reported that the Berkshire Branch had held eight meetings between September 2004 and the AGM in June 2005. The first meeting in September had been a joint event with the Thames Valley University IIT (Institute for Information technology), held on two days at reading and Slough. Average attendance at events was in the region of 20-30. The most popular event, with 60 attendees, was the Prestige Lecture on the rebuilding of the Colossus by Tony Sale of the Museum of Computing. This was held at Microsoft's Thames Valley Campus.

5. Programme 2005/2006

The Committee will do all possible to avoid no shows of speakers at next year's events. A standby lecture will be considered. The Committee do not wish to repeat the rolling plan of event booking as in 2004/2005. This year we would like to be in the position of have the Programme pre-booked by September.

6. Election of the Branch Officers and Committee Members 2005/2006

- 6.1 In the absence of any other nominations, Andrew Fieldsend was re-elected as Chairman, Chris Rayner was re-elected as Treasurer, and Ann Buck was re-elected as Secretary
- 6.2 Mike Underwood and Steve Tayler have agreed to remain on the committee. Peter Strode and Chris Dawe volunteered to serve on the committee. Neil Rickus was re-elected to the Committee as YPG Representative. Andrew Fieldsend explained that there is a commitment of a minimum four Committee Meetings a year. Attendance at Branches

Congress rotates around the Committee. The Committee meet and greet at Branch events. Three non attendances at committee meetings are equivalent to a resignation. Andrew issued a standing invitation to observe committee meetings Barry Chandler is happy to hand over the job of Webmaster over the next year. Peter Strobe expressed interest.

7. Any other Business

Suggestions of possible events were made by the Branch Members. A meeting on Website Design plus useful packages would be very interesting. Barry is happy to lead a discussion around both technical and design aspects. We will do one event on ITIL, the official Government approved framework. It was suggested to invite someone from HQ to talk about how to use Careerbuilder for the new CPD.

8. Date of the next Committee Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be held on Monday 27th June 2005.

9. Date of the next AGM

The next AGM will be held on the third Wednesday 21st June 2006.

Meeting Closed at 21:20