



# **EDINBURGH BRANCH AGM 2023 - 2024**

Wednesday 2 October 2024 at 18:15

Computershare Limited

Edinburgh House, 4 North St. Andrew Street,  
Edinburgh EH2 1HJ

Edinburgh Branch Committee

October 2024

# Agenda

- Welcome and introductions
- Apologies for absence
- Minutes of 2023's AGM
- Matters arising from the minutes
- Chair's Report by Kevin Fisher
- Treasurer's Report by Mike Hurst
- Inclusion Officer's Report (Oluwaseyi Obiyemi)
- Early Career Advocate's Report (Kieran Soutter)
- Elections
- AOB

# CHAIR'S REPORT

# Chair's Report

In the past 12 months, we held:

- **10 monthly events**

Topics this year included a talk by BCS' President, Alastair Revell, last week about professionalism, two talks on AI, one on robotics, one on growing your career, and one on delivering the impossible.

- ***Young Software Engineer of the Year***

On behalf of BCS-in-Scotland, we sponsored second prize (£2,000) in the awards organised by ScotlandIS. Enrique Martin Ocaña, of Strathclyde University, won for his use of autoregressive language models in the classroom, comparing the effectiveness of traditional educational content, versus content generated by artificial intelligence.

- ***SIGINT (University of Edinburgh's Cyber Security Society) pwnEd 5***

In March, we sponsored the two-day capture-the-flag contest open to UK university students.

- ***St Andrews University Computer Society (STACSHack)***

Also in March, we judged the entries and awarded prizes at the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary 24-hour hackathon.

- ***Edinburgh Science Festival 2024***

*"The Future of Transport"* by Prof Sarah Sharples, Chief Scientific Adviser at the UK Department for Transport.

A huge thank you to  for its support.

Thanks as always go to our committee. Its members freely donate their time and energy. Without them, we would not have an Edinburgh branch.

The branch is fortunate in having a particularly low turnover of committee members. At this AGM, we bid farewell to:

- Lee Parry (10 years)
- Kieran Soutter (2 years)

# TREASURER'S REPORT

# FY 2023-2024 Accounts

Operational Expenditure (“our” money for running our programme of events)

|                              | Budget       | Actual       | Last Year    |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Committee Travel/Subsistence | 360          | 493          | 192          |
| Room Hire                    | 780          | 625          | 541          |
| Speakers' expenses           | 1,092        | 592          | 1,011        |
| Catering                     | 300          | 221          | 159          |
| Other                        | 0            | 33           | 104          |
|                              | <b>2,532</b> | <b>1,964</b> | <b>2,007</b> |

Special Funding (comes from a central BCS pot)

|                                                    | Budget | Actual |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Scotsoft 2023 (on 29 <sup>th</sup> September 2023) | 4,280  | 4,160  |
| Sponsorship of Edinburgh University SIGINT         | 1,500  | 1,500  |
| Edinburgh Science Festival 2024 participation      | 2,800  | 1,926  |

# FY 2024-2025 Approved Budget

## Operational Expenditure

|                              | Requested    | Granted      | Percent    |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Committee Travel/Subsistence | 600          | 380          | 63%        |
| Room Hire                    | 780          | 494          | 63%        |
| Speakers' expenses           | 1,290        | 1,168        | 91%        |
| Catering                     | 300          | 190          | 63%        |
| Other                        | 0            | 0            | 0%         |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>2,970</b> | <b>2,232</b> | <b>75%</b> |

## Additional Potential Special Funding Requests

|                                                            | Requested |         |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| Provision for room hire and catering if no sponsorship     | 3,200     |         |
| Sponsorship of Scotsoft 2024                               | 4,280     | Granted |
| Participation in Edinburgh Science Festival 2025           | 3,060     |         |
| Sponsorship of Edinburgh University SIGINT                 | 1,500     |         |
| A Branch Professional awareness course (risk funding only) | 0         |         |

# INCLUSION OFFICER'S REPORT

# Inclusion Officer

BCS introduced a mandatory committee role of IO to promote the equality, diversity, inclusivity and community outreach.

- Attended the inclusion officer conference.
- Facilitated an event for *Black Professionals United Kingdom* (BPUK) with Holly Porter (Managing Director, BCS Institute) and Prof Alastair Irons (Chair of BCS' Tayside Branch) to highlight the benefits of BCS membership for career advancement and emphasize the need for ethical and professional use of computing.
- We hope to have more collaboratively inclusive events in the coming year.

# EARLY CAREER ADVOCATE'S REPORT

# Early Career Advocate's Report

BCS introduced a mandatory committee role of ECA to facilitate the professional representation of early-career professionals.

After a long leave of absence, our ECA is stepping down at this AGM.

# ELECTIONS

# Elections

The entire committee stands down each year and then seeks re-election.

Two mandatory committee roles, to be elected individually. 19 September 2024 was the closing date for chair and treasurer nominations, with one nomination received for each role:

- *Chair:* **Kevin Fisher**

*Proposer:* Paul Rattray

*Secunder:* Doug Curry

- *Treasurer:* **Mike Hurst**

*Proposer:* Doug Curry

*Secunder:* Paul Rattray

14 committee members [to be elected *en masse*]:

- Enebi Adejoh

- Zsolt Husz

- Oluwaseyi Obiyemi

- Iain Thompson

- Luciana Blaha

- Bryan Jones

- Paul Rattray

- Shufan Yang

- Doug Curry

- Ceri Jones

- Seb Rose

- Monika Gontarska

- Margus Lind

- Hopewell Silas

# AOB

# THANK YOU

# **“THE POST OFFICE HORIZON SCANDAL AN UPDATE AND ANALYSIS”**

**James Christie**