



# Capital

News from BCS Edinburgh Branch, January 2001  
<http://www.cee.hw.ac.uk/~bcsed>

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A Happy New Year to all our members

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## Revised date for Branch Annual General Meeting

Members are requested to note that the Branch AGM has been rescheduled to **Wednesday 9th May 2001**. It will begin at **6.00pm** and the talk which follows will start at **6.30pm**.

The topic and speaker have also been changed. The talk will be given by **Professor David Hartley** of the University of Cambridge, whose subject will be the **Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre** of which he is the executive director. His thesis will be that a University spin-off can be financially independent but motivated by science, rather than by money. (See <http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk>)

## Another Date Change

The meeting shown on the programme card for 7th February will be postponed until **Thursday 15th February** and the topic will be **Mobile phones - essential tools for 'computing on the move' or just the latest gadget?** Speaker: Anthony Harford, Mobile Communications Consultant, BT Cellnet.

## The Sidney Michaelson Memorial Symposium

For several years Edinburgh Branch has dedicated a lecture presentation, usually as part of the Edinburgh International Science Festival, to the memory of the late Professor Sidney Michaelson. This year we are instead organising a symposium on a topic which was always of great interest to Sidney, namely artificial intelligence.

### 'Feats and Frontiers' an A.I. Symposium

Edinburgh, Saturday 7 April 2001

'*Feats and Frontiers*' is a celebration of the practical achievements of artificial intelligence over the last 30 years and a look ahead to the emerging technologies that will shape IT in the first quarter of the new millennium. This is a unique opportunity to network with others at the leading edge of

intelligent technologies and to hear two of the world's best known authorities on A.I.:

*Marvin Minsky* (MIT) and

*Michael Brady* (Oxford).

Places are limited and early booking is advised.

**Full details at:** <http://www.cee.hw.ac.uk/~bcsed/00-01/meets.htm>

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## BCS into the 21st Century

### Regional Roadshow for all BCS members in Scotland.

The President of the Society, Alastair Macdonald, together with Colin Thompson and Ian Ritchie will present the results of Programme 2000plus, which is transforming the Society into a profession for the 21st Century.

Discussions at the briefing sessions will focus on four main areas for change:

- ◆ Redevelopment of the BCS Web site, to provide access to a wider range of technical, professional and career information and to enable members to network and to participate more effectively.
- ◆ Extending the scope of BCS membership into the areas of IS management and teaching as proposed by the Pollard report.
- ◆ Improving BCS marketing and communications, particularly through the implementation of a branding strategy currently being developed with the assistance of specialist agency Clark Hooper Momentum.
- ◆ Proposed changes to the organisational structure to ensure that resources are focussed most effectively on the delivery of service to members and customers. Proposals include the creation of a new 'Member Services Board' and the setting up of a Members Forum for each of three broad areas of member interest - Engineering, Management and Education.

**Edinburgh meeting on 21st February 6.30-**

**8.30pm** at Greyfriars Room,

Apex International Hotel

31-35 Grassmarket, Edinburgh. Tel: 0131 300 3456

## What, No Courses?

It has been our custom to advertise our Branch Courses in Capital. This time however you will not find an application form with this newsletter. It is not that your committee has run out of ideas, but we would like to give members an opportunity to offer their own suggestions as to the topics and timings of courses which we offer. Most of our courses are presented in four evening sessions at weekly intervals, but if you think a different format would be preferable please let us know.

Please remember that we are not trying to compete with the regular in-house or third party training courses which are an essential element in employers' staff development programmes. Our aim is to provide an introduction to some of the newer techniques in system design and development, with an emphasis on practical demonstrations and exercises.

Your Branch Committee welcomes suggestions from members, and you are invited to e-mail your ideas and comments to <PeterBarker@bcs.org.uk> using the subject heading "Suggestions for courses".

## Topics for branch meetings

The annual programme of branch meetings is mostly the result of brainstorming by members of the branch committee. Over the next month or two the committee will begin to rough out the programme for 2001/2. Their deliberations would be greatly helped by suggestions from members for relevant and interesting topics. Please e-mail your ideas to Alison Crerar, <mac@dcs.napier.ac.uk>.

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## BCS Scotland

Last November representatives from Scottish branch committees and BCS headquarters met in Stirling to consider how the BCS might present a unified Scottish presence both to members and to bodies such as the Scottish Executive. Iain White of Glasgow Branch chaired the meeting and was elected to represent the Scottish branches to HQ in identifying and presenting the case for a recognisable BCS in Scotland presence until such time as a formal structure is put in place.

Possible organisational arrangements are being considered by HQ, and in the meantime a web site has been set up by Iain Wilkie of Tayside Branch at <http://www.iwilkie.fsnet.co.uk/>. You are invited to visit this site and send any comments to <IWilkie@computing.dundee.ac.uk>

## Project Management Specialist Group for Scotland

Come along and join up and help make the Proms-g Scotland a useful and effective voice for IT project management in Scotland.

### Inaugural Meeting of the Proms-g (Scotland)

**31st January 2001, 6.30 - 9.00pm**

**Thistle Hotel Edinburgh,  
107 Leith Street,  
Edinburgh EH1 3SW**

*[http://www.thistlehotels.com/hotel\\_dir/property/index.jhtml?id=3499](http://www.thistlehotels.com/hotel_dir/property/index.jhtml?id=3499)*

## Agenda

### 6.30 Bar open

Finger Buffet (Donations towards this will be requested on the night) and meet and greet session.

### 7.00 Main Meeting

- 1) Introduction and Background to Proms-g
- 2) Debate on Proms-g (Scotland) Setting the Strategy what we want to try to achieve.
- 3) Approval of the constitution and regulation of the society.
- 4) Installation of Management Committee.
- 5) On-line demonstration of the e-group and how to use it.

**(To subscribe to e-group send e-mail to [Scot-promsg-subscribe@egroups.com](mailto:Scot-promsg-subscribe@egroups.com))**

**RSVP** (So that buffet can be ordered.)

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