

## Minutes of November 2008 Meeting of the Northampton Branch BCS Committee

Meeting Held 8:00 p.m. 27<sup>th</sup> November 2008, by Teleconference

### Present

Susan Bailey – ELO, Female Membership Officer  
Malcolm Collins – Chair Person  
Dave Ellard – Webmaster  
Andrew Page – Public Relations Officer  
Paul Squires – Secretary

### Apologies

Johnny Beardsmore – YPG (Professional)  
Richard Cooper – Treasurer  
David Niven – General Committee Member  
Graham Wallace – Membership Secretary, Email Co-ordinator

### Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes for the last meeting were accepted.

### Matters Arising

#### Actions Review

Action Ref	Action	Responsible	Complete
0908-07	Johnny, Richard to Provide profiles to webmaster for upload (if not already done). Webmaster to upload	Johnny / Richard / Dave	RC – Yes, JB - No
0908-08	Get in touch with Claire Davenport to progress our ideas on student prizes	Sue	No
1008-01	Advertise the laptop event attendance draw to their student communities by email	Sue / Gary Hill	Yes
1008-02	Book venue and food for November event	David N	Yes
1008-03	Update website with final details of November event	Dave E	Yes
1008-04	Issue finalised publicity	Andy	Yes
1008-05	Manufacture name badge for wearing at events	All	No
1008-06	RC send Xmas suggestions to MC, MC compile master list and issue to committee	Richard / Malcom	Yes
1008-07	All to return 1st, 2nd, 3rd Xmas preference to Malcolm, Malcolm to return results.	All	Yes
1008-08	Arrange Cranfield venue for 15th Jan '09 event	Malcolm	Yes
1008-09	Confirm that Avenue campus is booked for AGM	Malcolm	Yes
1008-10	Book Colossus event for 21st May '09	Graham	Yes

### Treasurers report

Treasurer not present, Chairman reported as follows:-

- Andy Page still waiting for £600 expenses to be paid. New Action 1108-01 Andy will approach HQ directly to resolve
- Malcolm Collins had received his expenses
- As far as is known, Johnny Beardsmore still waiting for his £180 relating to the bowling event in June 08
- No invoice has been received for the 6<sup>th</sup> November event as yet
- A Budget was agreed between the chairman and treasurer and submitted to HQ for an allocation of £4270 for the 2009/10 season.

## Membership report

Membership secretary not present, Chairman reported as follows:-  
Total 833 members as at 27/11/08 which is 3 down on last month.

Committee are not sure why the numbers are stagnant, although it has been suggested that the increase in student membership fees in the previous season, along with the credit crunch and redundancies, and corporate membership may be contributing factors.

## Current Programme

6 <sup>th</sup> Nov '08	<p><b>What have the Romans ever done for the computer industry?</b></p> <p>It was noted that the attendance was poor, though the speaker was very good.</p> <p>David Niven's voice recorder was used at the November event and the output was regarded as good, so the committee has decided that when funds permit a similar device should be purchased for recording the branch podcasts.</p>
16 <sup>th</sup> Dec '08	<p><b>Xmas event</b></p> <p>The Curry and Champagne option was the most popular so this has been booked for 16<sup>th</sup> December 7:30pm</p> <p>The branch is not subsidising this event.</p>
15 <sup>th</sup> Jan '09	<p><b>Agile Development Project Management</b></p> <p>It has been agreed between the chairman and Bedford branch (Ipsling Fan) that we will go 50/50 on this event. The same lecture theatre that we used for last seasons PM event is going to be used which holds 100+.</p>
19 <sup>th</sup> Mar '09	<p><b>Technology Transfer from Motor Sport to Road Cars, Prodrive</b></p> <p>This has been confirmed, the venue will be the Beryl building, access to this is good and there is an area for the cars being brought by ProDrive outside. For attendees there is a Café and seating area that will be good for Networking.</p>
21 <sup>st</sup> May '09	<p><b>Colossus</b></p> <p>A follow up to the Bletchley Park event. Graham has booked this for 21<sup>st</sup> May '09 There will be a limit of 40 people and the committee previously agreed to subsidise members but not non-members. The costs will be Members £5.00, non-members £7.50.</p> <p>The format of the event will be a lecture by Tony Sale followed by a tour of the Colossus museum.</p> <p>It was agreed at this meeting that the event will not be publicised until around March '09, it is thought that interest will mainly come from the same audience that attended the September Enigma event. Members will take the places and any left over can be occupied by non-members due to anticipated high level of interest.</p> <p>It was agreed that this event will not qualify for entry into the laptop prize drawer as it is felt that this would be changing the goalposts from previously advertised 4 events being eligible.</p>
24 <sup>th</sup> June '09	<p><b>AGM</b></p> <p>Gary Hill has confirmed booking room MB8 which will hold approx 80 people. Tea and Coffee to be placed in MB6 or MB9.</p>

## **Future Programme**

September '09 first meeting in season, other branches have a sit down meal and networking event, this sounds like a good idea to be pursued.

Andy is looking into a modified re-run of the popular Mind the Skills Gap event, MC previously suggested putting a "skills for the credit crunch" slant on it, however, the committee now feels that it may be more relevant to go along the lines of "Skills for the recovery" when the event is held towards the end of 2009 as we could be coming out of the downturn by then. The committee decided that we wanted a more interactive event, to that end we are going to request speakers suggestions from the membership, with the aim of finalising the speakers for April / May '09. It is thought that we will hold this as a joint event either with Leicester or Bedford as that worked well previously.

Malcolm had agreement from a speaker who did a well regarded event at Coventry on Video Conferencing, including a demo across different rooms. This is now not as attractive as it is being repeated at other branches in the mean time.

IT in music – David Niven needs to pursue the alternative contact detailed in the previous minutes.

ITIL talk from the business IT lecturers at the University of Northampton. Existing Action 1008-11 for SB to arrange this.

A re-run of the SuperWASP talk. Johnny to investigate possibility (Existing Action 1008-12)

Sue Bailey and Rashmi Dravid would like to put on another Ladies event in the next season.

Dave Ellard is going to make contact with a BT futureologist, Ian Neild who Malcolm has the email address of. We would like to arrange a talk on BT's 21CN platform.

## **Any Other Business**

Web profiles not posted for Johnny after email from chair on 29<sup>th</sup> July and actions in the previous two sets of minutes. Action 0908-07: provide profiles to Webmaster and webmaster to upload.

HQ have confirmed to Paul who can post to the normem email list and committee agreed that Graham and Malcolm were those required.

It was noted that the Northampton branch got a mention for our podcasting activities in the latest Branches business.

Student prizes – Action 0908-08. SB requested committee clarification on what we are going to attempt to do this year as there are too many schools to target effectively. The committee decided that we should therefore restrict to Universities in our catchment area, which effectively means UON, OU, De Montfort MK, and possible Uni of Beds if Bedford branch do not already offer prizes to them.

Publicity for Agile Dev and ProDrive events. We would like to do a poster for display at all Higher Education establishments. This will also advertise the Prize Drawer at the AGM. New Action 1108-02 Andy agreed to do a design himself in parallel with trying to get Darren at HQ to do a design. Committee to decide at the 16<sup>th</sup> December event on way forward, then production and despatch as follows:-

New Action 1108-03 Malcolm to send Sue the address details he has for education establishments

New Action 1108-04 Sue to filter for HE only and produce posters and despatch

**Date of Next Meeting**

TBC Feb 2009

## Actions

### Carried Over

Action Ref	Action	Responsible	Target Completion
0908-07	Johnny to Provide profiles to webmaster for upload (if not already done). Webmaster to upload	Johnny / Dave	ASAP
0908-08	Get in touch with Claire Davenport to progress our ideas on student prizes	Sue	ASAP
1008-11	Arrange future event on ITIL from the business IT lecturers at the University of Northampton	Sue	End Jan
1008-12	Arrange future event on SuperWASP	Johnny	End Jan

### New

Action Ref	Action	Responsible	Target Completion
1108-01	Andy will approach HQ directly to resolve his expenses issue	Andy	ASAP
1108-02	Design poster in parallel with HQ design ready for committee to decide	Andy	16/12/08
1108-03	Produce list of all educational establishments address details and send to Sue	Malcolm	16/12/08
1108-04	Produce posters and despatch to HE establishments	Sue	ASAP After 16/12/08