

Trip report: BCS Spring Convention 2015

by Benjamin Downen

Group strategy Jos Creese (BCS President)

Big org, lots of changes, focus on how to serve member's. Jos encouraged us to make use of the networking and Q&A. Strong brand but seen as a club, due to it perception, especially software development.

Jos stated BCS Would Continue to promote Woman and young people in IT. A new focus on apprenticeships. Currently there is a gap in numbers of apprenticeships available, there is a lack of experience of the industry and awareness of apprenticeships and a lack of understanding on how to get started for those interested. Jos wants feedback from us as individuals on how BCS can succeed.

Group strategy Continued - Paul Fletcher (Group CEO)



Paul introduced the new strategy for BCS was focus on the concept of “Make it good for society.” Including hot topics such as privacy and security where IT has a bad reputation. We need to look outwards.

BCS is to continue to be about qualification and standards, also human story. Focus success on outcomes.

3 pliers replace old 5.

- Community
- Excellence
- Leadership

How do we do this?

There are 3 'pillars' that we believe are simple, powerful and relevant to our new purpose. They will be delivered through our programs and activities:

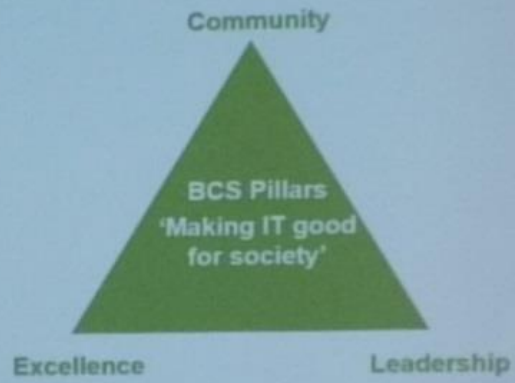


Table discussion. How do we make it good for society within our groups (Branch)?

- Help local it group's and meet ups work together
- Remember to support use and creation of IT
 - Two distinct groups, end users and creators of IT
- Promote membership, what did the bcs ever do for me? Answer hard questions.. And ask them.
- For young people and everyone else. Retain current members, not just about getting more members but keeping existing ones, for example Students after graduation
- Hard to be a member, do people know how they can be a members?
- Understand and remove barrier's. Better transparency and easier to become a member
 - New membership champion pack on member's portal suggested as an answer for this point

Q and A

Question from committed asked, responses as follows:

BCS Edinburgh Branch also big, has strong talks with a focus around IT for Managers. They also offer professional development course's

Berkshire branch set up their own meetup.com and co-promote with other meet ups. They also are a repository of all local activities and events to let member's know what's going on

Note event was promoted during Q&A:

London BCSWomen Appathon Guinness World Records Challenge

<https://events.bcs.org/book/1459/>

Presentation was given by Tony Neate about online safety. Get safe online
<https://www.getsafeonline.org/>



Tony told us that BCS already working with/sponsoring the Get Safe Online initiative. Some information was provided on topical issues and we were encouraged to champion the Get Safe Online campaign.

Tony wanted us to use the material from Get Safe Online to education our friends and family about online safety. He also promoted a "Presentation in a box" that he encouraged us to request, and then give.

Presentation from international groups

BCS USA Section

USA Section notes some difficulties, many members ex-pats, many don't live in the USA or are members of the UK chapter of BCS and do live in USA.

They noted there is a lack of localised material, and the qualifications are mostly not recognised in the US.

Middle East branch

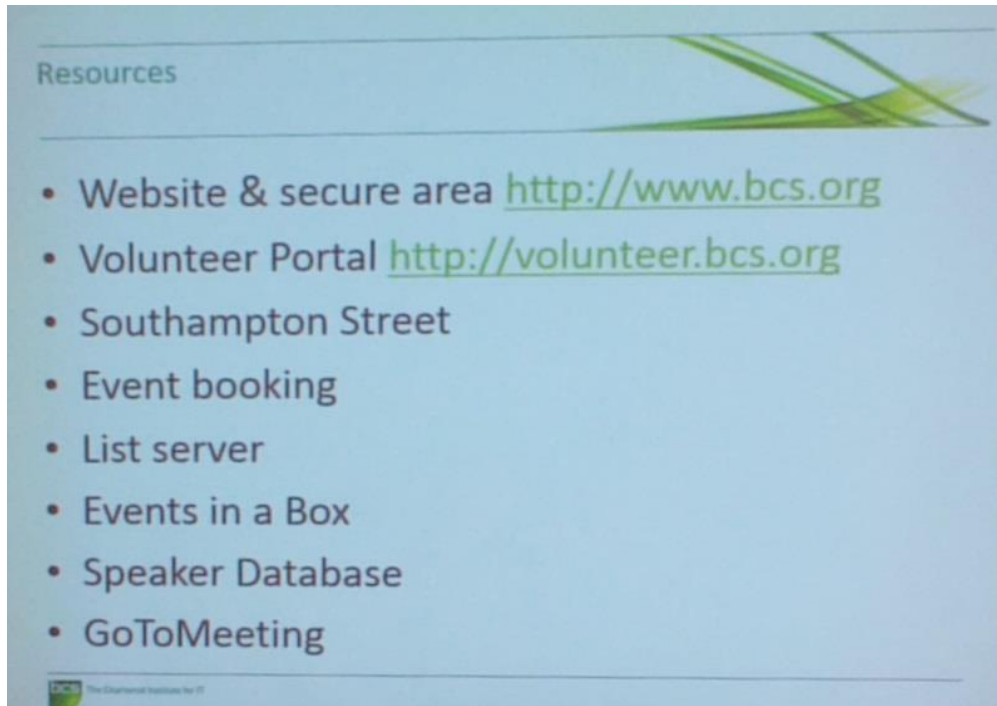


Middle East Branch had similar problem to USA section such as a lack of localised benefits and qualification recognition. They also had a number of common problems with all Branches, such as limited budgets.

Branch induction and training

New material to bring things together and is up to date with new strategy

Note: BCS Branches and Groups have access to a Citrix GoToMeeting account (for Webinars, so we can web-cast our events)



Unconscious bias training

Training was interesting, but felt a bit rushed. BCS want all volunteers to take the training.