

British Computer Society - Information Security Specialist Group



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting - 2009

Held at Logica, Kings Place, London on Wed 13 May 2009, starting at 2:30pm.

Present:	Gareth Niblett	Chairman
	Ian Fish	Membership Secretary
	Alan Woodroffe	Treasurer
	Roger Smith	Secretary
	Gary Dooley	Committee
	Les Fraser	Committee
	Dr Mike Nash	Webmaster and David Lindsay Prize
	Roger Cook	Administrator
	Rachel Browning	BCS HQ
	32 Members	
Apologies:	David Alexander	Committee
	Rodney Clark	Committee
	Nick Edwards	Committee
	Jason Fairfax	Committee
	Julia Harris	Committee
	Mark Jones	Committee
	Tony Phipps	Committee
	Charlotte Walker-Osborn	Committee
Distribution:	Committee Members	
	Administrator	
	BCS HQ (Rachel Browning)	

1 Acceptance of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the 2008 AGM were approved without correction.

Proposer – Jeff Day

Seconder – Angus Pinkerton

2 Chairman's Report

I have had the privilege of serving as Chairman of the BCS Information Security Specialist Group (ISSG) for another year, where we have seen significant changes and growth. I hope that you feel that, on the whole, this has been positive and sets the groundwork for further developments of and improvements in the Group. Of course, the ISSG would not run without the voluntary efforts of the Committee and active support from our Administrator and BCS Specialist Group Team. As always, they have given much to the Group over the last year and without them we would not have our events, magazine, website or members.



On behalf of the Committee, I would like to express our appreciation to Rodney Clark, who is stepping down (retiring) from the Committee after almost 25 years service. Rodney joined the Committee at the inaugural meeting on the 13th June 1984, and spent nine years as Chairman, from 1992 to 2001. Unfortunately Rodney cannot be here today, as he is out of the country.

The BCS Specialist Group Executive Council (SGEC) has decided to award him the Certificate of Appreciation, a BCS Members Award, in recognition of his many years of tireless service. The ISSG Committee will also be making our own award.

For today's AGM, I would like to thank Logica for extending the ISSG their hospitality here at King's Place, and for covering a broad range of topics with their speakers, who I hope you found both engaging and informative. Logica has, for many years, supported us both on the Committee and with speakers for our events.

Last year brought some significant changes in BCS and Specialist Group rules, covering membership, Constitution, fees, finance and administration. I believe these changes have helped the Group and have improved communications between the Specialist Groups and BCS HQ. This year we have no proposed changes to the Constitution or other rules governing the Group. However, there are ongoing and expected changes to the BCS, and new initiatives, which will affect its Specialist Groups. One effect we have been advised about is a requirement to hold next year's AGM later in the year.

Since the last AGM, we have seen stunning growth in the membership of the ISSG, with membership now in excess of 2,600. Unlike most other professional security groups, we only require our members to be interested in information security, and deliberately do not exclude non-information security professionals. We believe that this approach is refreshing in an increasingly commercialised world, where most groups are trying to push their own qualifications, training, publications and expensive events. The BCS, through ISEB and BCS Publishing, has these options, but they are not requirements for membership of the ISSG.

The BCS Information Security Specialist Group on LinkedIn (www.linkedin.com) has attracted over 500 members in its first 6 months, and is seeing some good contributions and activity. The BCS-ISSG Committee hopes that our members will take advantage of such online places for discussion, news and networking.

Over the last year, we held a range of generally well attended and interesting seminars, covering Privacy, Forensics, Legal, Data Loss and Data Leakage. One disappointment was having to cancel our Securing Flexible Business event, due to the organiser's work commitments - which has been rescheduled for November. Looking forward to next year, we are planning for our regular series of 1-day seminars, and 2-day Annual Conference, especially in light of the excellent and well attended Conference we had this year. With the growth in membership and the diversity it brings, I hope to see yet more new faces at future events.

I would like to thank those Committee members resigning today, who have served over many years. Their contributions are most appreciated and their support will be missed. The ISSG is run by its members, for its members, so if any of you could support the group by serving on its Committee, I'd ask you to stand for election.

In conclusion, I am willing to continue to serve on the ISSG Committee, as its Chairman, should you so wish in the Election of Officers.



3 Secretary's Report

In my report last year, I expressed concern that attendance at Committee meetings had been marginal at times, although the real regret was losing our Annual Conference in our 25th Anniversary year. I am therefore pleased to report that this year we have bounced back on both fronts.

During 2008/9 we held a total of 8 Committee meetings, with an average attendance of 7.5 members, which is up from 6.2 last year. Two meetings had 10 members present; however, there was one meeting with only 4 members, which is barely quorate, so there is no room for complacency. An innovation this year has been a teleconferencing facility for the use of any member who is unable to be present in person. The figures above do not include our Administrator, who travelled from Yorkshire to attend every meeting, nor BCS HQ, who were represented at our December meeting by Colin Chivers.

Our programme of one-day seminars began on 16 July with a Privacy Day at BCS HQ, organised by Ian Fish, our Membership Secretary. Unfortunately, due to a lack of advance publicity, only 29 people attended. Nevertheless, the event still generated a surplus for the BCS of over £1000, as there was no charge for accommodation.

On 24 September, the Forensics Day organised by Gareth was hosted by the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists in the City of London. The attendance was a very healthy 51, and generated a surplus of £692.

Unfortunately, the event programmed for 26 November at Cranfield University, "Moving The Goalposts - Securing Flexible Business", had to be cancelled when the organiser was called away and no-one was available to take over. The event has been reprogrammed into this year's calendar on 17 November, and will aim to cover both the legal and the technical aspects of business change. The local branch of the BCS in Bedford has been made aware of the event, and invited to suggest possible speakers.

January 23 saw our annual "Legal Day" at the Royal Air Force Club. As ever, we received a lively and informative update on the latest developments in both computer-related legislation and supporting case law. Organised once more by our legal eagle, Charlotte Walker-Osborn, supported by David Alexander, the event was well attended, and made a surplus of about £1000; feedback was very positive in every respect.

Following the cancellation of the Annual Conference last year, I am pleased to report that this year's event was a sell-out in its new venue – Scafford Hall, near Melton Mowbray. The topical subject of Data Leakage attracted some prestigious speakers, and provoked some passionate debate: so much so that, for next year's event, the number of presentations may be trimmed to allow more time for this.

Finally, from 22 – 24, April the Group supported the BCS stand at the Information Security (Europe) Exhibition, in its new venue at Earl's Court. Thanks to Rodney Clark, and his team of volunteers drawn from the ISSG Committee, there was, once again, an ISSG presence throughout the event.

The changes to the Security Groups' Constitution have had a major impact on the ISSG Magazine, "Information Security Now": the print run has had to be increased from about 400 copies to over 2500! However, I believe that the quality has been maintained, and would hope that you all appreciate the benefit to ISSG members of receiving a hard copy of every issue.

In conclusion, on a personal note, I would be willing to continue to serve on the ISSG Committee as its Secretary, should you so wish in the Election of Officers.



4 Membership Secretary's Report

The Membership Secretary was able to confirm that membership had now exceeded 2700. However, he did not make a formal report, as the BCS had assumed responsibility for the membership database, collection of fees, and circulation of the magazine.

His role therefore had a broader remit in information security, in which he was effectively a conduit for the communication of events and activities that might be of interest to ISSG members.

5 Treasurer's Report

The BCS still provided financial administration for the ISSG, with the Treasurer's role reduced to budgeting and authorising expenditure.

General income was approx £22,900 and expenditure was approx. £11,600, and we were therefore presently showing a surplus of £11,300. However, these figures did not include the cost of the Annual Conference (approx. £10,500), or some of the income from the Conference, so they were not yet final. We hope to show a surplus of approx. £3k after resolving all outstanding receipts and expenditure.

Income breaks down as follows:	2008/9	2007/8
• Events / Conference	£22,876	£12,400
• Subscriptions	£0	£4,069

Expenditure breaks down as follows:	2008/9
• Travel/Subsistence	£335
• Stationery	£600
• Postage	£531
• Room Hire	£695
• Speakers expenses	£564
• Catering	£5,476
• Administrative Services	£2,750
• Student Prizes & Membership	£500

Once again, all one-day events returned a paper surplus this year.

I would like to thank Roger Cook, our Administrator, for maintaining the running cash-flow analyses for the ISSG events; he has kept track of event income/expenditure, and helped ensure that one-day events did not incur losses.

The BCS has announced that it will be changing its financial year-end from 30 April to 31 August. The figures above will become part-year figures, with the transactions from May to August being added to form an extended year's statement. The BCS-ISSG will have to adjust the date of its AGM in subsequent years to accommodate this and other changes planned by the BCS. The BCS-ISSG Committee will announce all related changes to its membership when the Committee is fully briefed and has assessed the impact to the ISSG.

6 Administrator's Report

The dramatic increase in the ISSG Membership posed a potential problem in finding suitable venues for events. BCS HQ could accommodate up to a maximum of 50. This could affect the budget for events.

Feedback forms had been completed for a number of events and had proved very useful. Payment for events by credit card had proved a success, but there was a continuing problem with cheques made out to the BCS that did not bear any indication of the event or the name of the delegate! Members were asked to educate their companies.

The Administrator concluded by thanking the Committee and Rachel Browning for their continued support.



7 Election of Committee

7.1 Officers

The following Officers were elected unopposed:

Chairman: Gareth Niblett – Proposer: Ian Fish; Second: Gary Dooley

Secretary: Roger Smith – Proposer: Roger Cook; Second: Ian Fish

Treasurer: Alan Woodroffe – Proposer: Gary Dooley; Second: Mark Jones

Membership Secretary: Ian Fish – Proposer: Mark Jones; Second: Les Fraser

7.2 Members

The following members of the Committee did not seek re-election:

Rodney Clark
Nick Edwards
Jason Fairfax
Tony Phipps

The following members of the Committee were re-elected as a group:

David Alexander	Michael Pike
Gary Dooley	Paul Skinner
Les Fraser	Charlotte Walker-Osborn
Mark Jones	Mike Westmacott
Dr Mike Nash	

Proposer: Barry Jones; Second: Stephen Darvill – Carried

Three further offers to stand were voted on:

Abdullahi Arabo; Kwasi Boafo-Asante; Angus Pinkerton

Proposer: Jeff Day; Second: Patrick Curry – Carried

8 AOB

8.1 Patrick Curry asked about co-ordination with other groups. The ISSG were represented on the BCS Security Forum Strategy Panel. The Institute of Information Security Professionals (IISP) continued to assert its independence. However, the ISSG did try to harmonise events and deconflict its activities with those of the IISP and some 50 other bodies in the information security arena.

8.2 On behalf of the Security Forum Strategic Panel, Ian Fish spoke of the Infosec Literacy Exchange, the aim of which was to raise awareness of information security in the adult world. Both the ISSG and BCS Branches had a role to play. The first task was to train the trainers. The University of the Third Age could provide coordination.

8.3 The first Committee meeting of the new ISSG year would be held at the BCS London HQ on 10 June 2009.

8.4 The Meeting closed at 3.15pm.

Roger Smith
Secretary