

British Computer Society - Information Security Specialist Group



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting - 2011

Held at HP Labs, Bristol on Wednesday 28th September 2011.

Present:	Roger Smith	Acting Chairman
	Jane Chappell	Committee
	Gary Dooley	Committee
	Angus Pinkerton	Committee
	Paul Skinner	Committee
	Roger Cook	Administrator
	16 Members	
Apologies:	Gareth Niblett	Chairman
	Ian Fish	Membership Secretary
	Alan Woodroffe	Treasurer
	Mike Nash	Webmaster
	David Alexander	Committee
	Abdullahi Arabo	Committee
	Ezendu Ariwa	Committee
	Yvonne Bannister	Committee
	Les Fraser	Committee
	Michael Pike	Committee
	Charlotte Walker-Osborn	Committee
	Mike Westmacott	Committee
	Nick Connor	Member
	Michael Eaton	Member
	Simon Eccles	Member
	Nick Edwards	Member
	Bob Lincoln	Member
	Timothy Moorey	Member
	Nicolas Yannacopoulos	Member
Distribution:	Committee Members	
	Administrator	
	BCS HQ (Pam Fegan)	

1 Welcome and Introduction

In the absence of the ISSG Chairman, Roger Smith was appointed Chairman for the Meeting. Roger began by highlighting the fact that the AGM was not quorate due to the fact that only one Officer was present, and that this would be rectified by holding an Extraordinary General Meeting at the next BCS-ISSG event (November) where the matter could be raised and ratified.

2 Apologies for Absence

As shown above.



3 Acceptance of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the 2010 AGM were approved without correction.

Proposer – Angus Pinkerton
Seconder – Jane Chappell

4 Matters Arising from the Minutes

It was noted that the previous year's minutes mentioned conducting a membership survey in 2010/11. The participants were informed that this had not been undertaken and therefore remains outstanding but would take place as soon as possible.

5 Chairman's Report

This was accepted as provided.

I have had the privilege of serving as Chairman of the BCS Information Security Specialist Group (ISSG) for another term. We have seen continued growth of our group but some challenges due to the economic downturn, which everyone is having to deal with. At our last AGM, I reported on the significant changes in BCS branding and structure. Some of the changes, such as the branding, have been quite obvious and others have affected the logistics of how Specialist Groups, such as ours, liaise and work with BCS Headquarters. I feel that, on the whole, these changes have been positive and help move the BCS forwards. The ISSG would not run without the voluntary efforts of the Committee and active support from our Administrator and BCS Headquarters. 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.

I must apologise for not being able to be here today for the AGM, but I would like to extend my thanks HP for extending the ISSG their hospitality, and for covering a broad range of topical subject with their speakers, who I hope you found both engaging and informative.

Although the BCS has recently recommended that all Branches and Specialist Groups adopt their new Member Group Rules, the ISSG Committee felt that they are not yet mature enough to replace our current Constitution. Although we were quick to adopt the previous BCS model Constitution, that the Member Group Rules are seeking to replace, we'd like to see the Member Group Rules completed and actively trialled prior to us proposing their adoption, possibly at our next AGM. This year we have a no proposed changes to our Constitution.

Since our last AGM, we have seen sustained growth in the membership of the ISSG. We now have over 4,300 members, over 600 more than at the last AGM. BCS Member Group Rules now allow for Specialist Groups to accept members that do not belong to the BCS – similar to the arrangement we had some years ago, when the ISSG was more autonomous. We have not seen much demand for this yet, but if we adopt the Member Group Rules in the future we hope that non-BCS members that we lost at the previous rule change chose to rejoin.

BCS Publishing has continued to produce the Information Security Now (ISNow) magazine, which has also been available in print form as an ISSG member benefit. This year, we were please to have them engage more with our membership, requesting article contributions related to the topic of the next issue. ISNow will change, after the next issue, to become a distinct section within the BCS ITNow magazine. ISSG involvement will continue.

The BCS Information Security Specialist Group on LinkedIn (www.linkedin.com) now stands at over 1,250 members, an increase of over 50% in the last year. We continue to see interesting discussions and job postings. The BCS ISSG Committee hopes that our members will continue to take advantage of online places for discussion, news and networking along with such areas on the BCS website.



The BCS also appreciates ISSG Member contributions to its responses to government consultations and we continue to share appropriate ones through our mailing list. Recently, a number of the ISSG Committee supported the successful BCS bid to become one of the certification bodies to the CESG CLAS replacement (the IA Specialists Certification Scheme) and we hope to continue to be involved, both in the panel overseeing and as assessors. Over the last year, we held a range of interesting and thought provoking seminars, covering Privacy, Legal, Business Change, Insider Threat, and Penetration Testing again. The ISSG also continues to support the BCS at its stand during Infosecurity Europe each April.

One disappointment was that, due to limited take-up over the last few years, we've decided to retire our 2-day conference format – this was our premier networking event but has fallen foul of the current economic climate, possibly more to do with delegate time off work than cost reasons. We will replace the conference with a 1-day seminar and are looking at trialling an evening event at the BCS London offices to see if an after work event fits in with work better.

I would like to thank those Committee members stepping down today, who have served for many years and brought valuable contributions to our Group. 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.

Gareth Niblett
Chairman

6 Secretary's Report

This was accepted as provided.

I am pleased to report on another very successful year for the ISSG. We have held 6 Committee meetings since our last AGM, and the attendance has ranged from 12 down to 6, averaging 9.8, so the quorum has never been an issue. Our ISSG Administrator, Roger Cook, also attended every meeting. I would like to express my appreciation of the support that I have received in arranging these meetings from the staff at the BCS London HQ, where they are held.

Last September, our 2010 AGM was kindly hosted by IBM at its Bedfont Lakes facility. Although the event itself went well, with some interesting presentations, only 48 delegates attended out of the 98 who booked. Our Administrator did investigate some of the no-shows. Many claimed that they had intended to go, but that essential business commitments had arisen subsequently. However, some applications from overseas appeared to be simply a way of gaining entry into the UK. Of course, were that to be proven, it would place the perpetrator in breach of the BCS Professional Code of Conduct, as well as the law.

The programme of one-day events following the AGM got off to a good start on 1 December with the Privacy Day, which has become something of a fixture. Despite inclement weather, the event was once again very well received, with 12 of the 14 feedback forms returned rating the day at 4 or 5/5. The event generated a sum of £1080, of which £380 was surplus.

2011 started with another annual fixture, the Legal Day at the RAF Club. This year the event attracted 22 paying members, two non-members and two students, as well as six Committee members. As a result, it generated a surplus of some £800. Feedback was again very positive. The date next year is 20 January, so make a note in your diary!

If the Annual Conference was one of the oddest that we have ever held, it was also one of the most rewarding. The venue was Bletchley Park, which turned out to be highly appropriate given the amount of head scratching that had to go on to save the event. But save it we did. Two factors conspired to turn the event on its head: firstly, the late withdrawal of not one but several of the speakers. All were for perfectly good reasons that could not have been



foreseen, but that was scant consolation. One of those reasons was the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan, and the unfolding story of the Fukushima nuclear reactor.

So we were fortunate indeed to have in Sally Leivesley one of the world's leading experts in crisis management as our keynote speaker. And that became the new theme of the Conference: "Moving the Goalposts" took a whole new meaning! With every news channel clamouring for her attention, Sally might have opened the Conference and bid us farewell. But not only did she stay to engage in some penetrating and informative discussions, she rapidly prepared a second full presentation to fill one of the holes. Sally was ably supported by Dr Mike Nash, our webmaster, who was able to draw on his personal experience of safety management in the nuclear industry. And the whole event was held together heroically by David Alexander, who also gave an excellent presentation prepared at short notice.

It was a shame, therefore, that such an excellent event resulted in a loss of some £200, although it would have been in surplus were it not for the cost of the coach to and from the hotel in Milton Keynes, and the need to accommodate a speaker who arrived a day earlier than expected. However, this did call into question the viability of a two-day Conference format, and a reluctant decision was subsequently taken not to have a Conference in 2012, given the economic climate.

Once again, the Group supported the BCS stand at Infosecurity Europe, and the organisers were very grateful for the ISSG contribution. All of our slots were filled, whereas some of the volunteers from other groups had failed to show. As a result, the Group has been invited to organise two workshops at the 2012 event.

The seminar on The Insider Threat, hosted by Napier University in Edinburgh, attracted just 7 paying members and 3 non-members. Unfortunately, it conflicted with another similar event, and would also have benefited from earlier advertising. Despite the low attendance, however, it still generated a small surplus, and Napier are keen to repeat the collaboration. And there was no doubt that our "Northern" event for 2011 really was in the North!

I am pleased to report that we almost have a full programme of one-day events for our 2011-12 season. As mentioned above we have regretfully decided not to attempt a two-day Conference next year; the March slot will be given over to the Privacy Day. Also, we have yet to decide on a venue and a topic for our July event - except that it will not be in London, because of the Olympic Games.

Finally, I confirm that I would be prepared to continue in my role as Secretary should you so wish.

Roger Smith
Secretary

7 Treasurer's Report

This was accepted as provided.

The BCS provides financial administration for the BCS-ISSG, the ISSG Treasurer's role is to draft the annual budget and to authorise and monitor expenditure.

The BCS changed its financial year-end in 2010 from 30 April to 31 August; this year's figures therefore reflect the period 01 Sep 2010 to 31 August 2011.

General income was approx £14,800 and expenditure was approx. £19,000 and we are therefore presently showing a deficit of £4,200; the latest available figures do not include transactions received during August 2011 so these figures are not final figures.

The ISSG budget for the year included a request for funding of £2,400 from the BCS and therefore the unexpected shortfall is reduced to £1,800. The figures below show that income from events has fallen and expenditure such as room hire and catering have risen considerably. The ISSG budget for the forthcoming year includes a request for funding from the BCS of £6,160.



Income breaks down as follows:	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09
• Events / Conference	£14,852	£19,067	£22,876
Expenditure breaks down as follows:	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09
• Travel / Subsistence	£1,752	£1,173	£335
• Stationery	£403	£526	£600
• Postage	£822	£682	£531
• Room Hire	£4,070	£1,130	£695
• Speakers expenses	£877	£610	£564
• Catering	£7,541	£4,740	£5,476
• Seminars and Conferences	£380	£5,558	£-
• Publicity & Materials	£97	£-	£-
• Other Costs (General)	£-	£209	£-
• Administrative Services	£2,500	£2,500	£2,750
• Telephones	£95	£162	£-
• Mobile Phones and Handsets	£56	£-	£-

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 cashflow analyses for the ISSG events; he has kept track of event income / expenditure and helped ensure that one-day events did not incur losses.

Alan Woodroffe,
BCS-ISSG Treasurer

8 Webmasters Report

This was accepted as provided.

First of all, let me apologise for not being present at today's Annual General Meeting, and in particular not being around to answer questions on last year's AGM proceedings, where I acted as Chairman. Unfortunately I was abroad last week, representing the UK at a series of international meetings arranged at short notice, and today I have to be in London to report back to Government on what happened.

Our Web Site continues to be the Committee's main tool in reporting to members, and publicising our regular meetings. We typically attract between 400 and 1400 visits to the site each month, usually peaking in the period immediately before each of our primary events. Most visitors are mainly interested in our programme of events, but there is also curiosity about who we are and what we do. We do try to keep the content of the site up to date, and I think we have a good record compared to other BCS Specialist Groups (and indeed, web sites in general).

We continue to have a good relationship with those members of the BCS executive staff responsible for event management, and a pretty much seamless integration into the BCS's event booking and management system. It is unfortunate, but beyond our control, that we are no longer allowed to volunteer forms of payment for events other than by credit card.

We do try to advertise other Branch and Specialist Group events with significant information security content on our Events Pages, but I regret that direct liaison from organising Groups and from the BCS Events Diary is typically very poor. We publicise what we can.

Our accessibility problems continue, but I have to say that use of incompatible browsers has markedly declined over the past year. From the security point of view, my major concern is the number of Firefox users who fail to keep their browsers secure. In a typical month, we see over 15 different variants of Firefox accessing the site, almost of all of which are not fully patched. Indeed, the majority of Firefox users are unsafe. I hope that you are not among them.



Once again, I apologise for not being here today, but I am confident that my committee colleagues will be able to answer any questions that you may have.

Dr M J Nash
Webmaster

9 Administrator's Report

This was accepted as provided.

There were 3 one-day seminars planned since the last AGM in September, 2011 plus the 2-day Conference. Attendance at each event was:

Event	Numbers Attending
Privacy Day 3 (December 2010)	26
Legal Day 12 (January 2011)	32
Annual Conference (March 2011)	25
Insider Threat (June 2011)	14

The apparent lack of meetings in the last year is due to the shift of the date of the AGM to September. Six meetings were reported to the last AGM against the four to this one.

All meetings have secured a small surplus except for the Annual Conference. A lower than expected delegate count plus higher costs for using the Bletchley Park site are the reasons for this. The unexpected and unpredicted loss of three speakers on the 2nd day seriously affected the event but Dr. Sally Lievesley and Dr. Mike Nash bravely stepped in to provide a highly topical appraisal of the aftermath of the Japanese tsunami. Otherwise, all other events have run smoothly with only minor 'back office' issues that have not affected delegates. I'm pleased to report that we were able to enjoy more spacious accommodation at the RAF club this year after the rather cramped facilities a year previous.

Special mention must be made of the "Insider Threat" event as this was held in Edinburgh – the first time the ISSG has been so far north. The low numbers at this event belie its success. Unfortunately, it clashed with other events in the region. Those attending were mostly ISSG members who had never attended an event before and were enthusiastic for further ISSG events in Edinburgh. The event was hosted by Edinburgh Napier University, for which grateful thanks are offered for their excellent arrangements.

Last year, I commented on ISSG events becoming more popular. Sadly, this trend seems to be reversing with lower numbers attending. It is presumed that many members are finding it difficult to get leave for seminars and/or are struggling to convince their employers of the importance of attending security events, even if they are highly educational and topical. This represents a challenge to ensure topicality, quality and economy of events.

The feedback forms have, once again proved valuable. Apart from feedback on how an event has run, there are usually very good ideas which can be incorporated in to future events.

All ISSG members receive the "Information Security Now" magazine. I forward bulk copies to 6 educational institutions at the moment. These are used for library purposes, distribution to IT Sec students and even for course material. If you represent academia and want bulk copies, please let me know. (This arrangement will continue after the merging of "IS Now" with the other BCS magazine, "IT Now".)

Finally, my thanks to the Committee for their encouragement and support over the past 12 months and to Pamela Fegan and her colleagues at HQ who are always ready to help with yet another small admin query.

Roger Cook
Administrator



10 Election of Officers and Committee

10.1 Officers

All of the existing Officers had agreed to re-stand in their current positions.

Proposer – Andy Taylor
Secunder – Chandrasekaran Sarith

All the existing Committee Members (except Michael Pike) had agreed to re-stand.

Proposer – Andy Taylor
Secunder – Graham Snee

The vacant committee position was offered to the attendees but no interest was shown.
Post-meeting note: A formal offer to stand was made by Alan Quinlan, Barclay.

Proposer – Jane Chappell
Secunder – Gary Dooley

11 Any Other Business

Question from the floor – How was the ISSG involved in the recent CESG Certification Scheme for Information Assurance professionals?

The ISSG Group was not involved collectively but individual members of the committee were involved in separate winning bids, and it was recognised that individuals have a duty to the employers first and foremost.

The Webmaster indicated that a number of unpatched Firefox users were accessing the BCS-ISSG website.

The Administrator indicated that paper copies of ISNow were available to Academic Institutions, and could be posted to any establishment that provided their postal details. It was also noted that ISNow would be merged from the next issue into the single publication of ITNow; this was partly due to the increase of Group members (4,000+) but was mainly to consolidate publications.

Gary Dooley
Acting Secretary

24th October 2011