

# Minutes of the Open General Meeting of the BCTCS

## BCTCS 32, Queen's University Belfast, 23 March 2016

**Opening:** The meeting opened at 17.38.

**Quorum:** The meeting was recognised as quorate, there being present the President and Secretary of the BCTCS, the local organisers of BCTCS 32, and at least ten other members of the BCTCS.

**Apologies:** Apologies were received from Barny Martin, Stephan Reiff-Marganiec and Michele Zito.

**Previous minutes:** The minutes of the Open General Meeting held at BCTCS 31 in Middlesex were approved.

**Matters arising:** There were no matters arising that will not already be covered by specific agenda items.

**President's report:** Faron Moller highlighted the BCTCS website at [www.bctcs.ac.uk](http://www.bctcs.ac.uk) which has been recreated using WordPress. He invited people to contribute to it and offered to grant edit permissions to those who were interested in adding content. He then remarked that this was the first time that BCTCS had been hosted in Ireland, and he conveyed his gratitude to Amitabh Trehan, Alan Stewart and the other local organisers for all of their hard work. This had been a smaller event this year, with 32 participants, but nonetheless he felt that it had been a terrific meeting with an excellent line-up of speakers. In suggesting invited speakers, those with a connection to Ireland, and to Queen's University Belfast in particular, had been sought. Tony Hoare, a BCTCS invited speaker last year, had unfortunately been unable to return for this year. Liam Neeson, another Queen's University Computer Science alumnus, was similarly unavailable. Faron Moller expressed his gratitude to the London Mathematical Society and to the Heilbronn Institute for Mathematical Research for their continued financial support.

**Treasurer's report:** Stephan Reiff-Marganiec reported that the LMS has paid the expenses for last year's speaker (Thomas Hales) to the full amount of the grant (£1,250).

£2250.00 has been paid to Middlesex University (the expenses for Thomas Hales plus an additional £1000.00 to contribute to 'losses made'). This had been invoiced by Middlesex University after agreement that this would be a goodwill payment which would help them to cover a hefty overspend. Final accounts from Middlesex University are pending.

The closing balance is £13,072.68.

LMS funding had again been applied for and BCTCS was successful in being awarded support to the amount of £1,250 for Professor Valerie King. This will be claimed after this year's event.

Also, notification had been received from Middlesex University that there were problems with their claim to Heilbronn and that after correcting these, their overspend turned out to be

much smaller and hence they have in principle agreed to refund the sum of £1000 previously mentioned. Middlesex University are now looking into the administrative solution to arrange the refund.

Middlesex University did not arrange for EATCS memberships to be renewed; Stephan Reiff-Marganiec had agreed to do this but somehow got side-tracked and when looking into this more recently, he realised that he did not have a participants list from Middlesex University to make the arrangements. He conveyed his apologies for this, but it highlights the importance of the local organisers to undertake this matter.

**Election of President:** David Manlove thanked Faron Moller for his contribution over the last three years, remarking that he had held the position of President since 2004. Faron Moller was proposed by David Manlove and seconded by Amitabh Trehan. No other nominations were received and Faron Moller was duly elected as President.

**Election of Treasurer:** Faron Moller thanked Stephan Reiff-Marganiec for his contribution over the last three years. Stephan Reiff-Marganiec was proposed by David Manlove and seconded by Amitabh Trehan. No other nominations were received and Stephan-Reiff Marganiec was duly elected as Treasurer.

**Election of Additional Member:** Faron Moller thanked Michele Zito for his contribution over the last three years. Michele Zito was proposed by David Manlove and seconded by Amitabh Trehan. No other nominations were received and Michele Zito was duly elected as Additional Member.

**Election of Postgraduate Student Representative:** Faron Moller thanked Bram Geron for his contribution over the last year. Thomas van Binsbergen was proposed by Daniel Playfair and seconded by David Manlove. No other nominations were received and Thomas van Binsbergen was duly elected as Postgraduate Student Representative.

**Choice of host for BCTCS 33:** Faron Moller reported that the University of St Andrews will be hosting BCTCS 33 in 2017. Markus Pfeiffer gave a presentation introducing the town and the University. BCTCS had been hosted by the University of St Andrews previously – in 1998. It was noted that there are direct trains from London King's Cross to Leuchars, from where a bus service runs to St Andrews. With a population of around 16,000 permanent residents, St Andrews is an attractive and historical seaside town and is known as the home of golf. The University of St Andrews was founded in 1413 and is the UK's 3rd oldest university, having a student population of around 8,400. BCTCS 33 will be hosted by the School of Computer Science and by the School of Mathematics and Statistics. Within the School of Computer Science, the main research groups are as follows: AI and Constraint Solving, Computational Algebra and Symbolic Computation, Programming Languages, Logic and Formal Systems, and Natural and Formal Languages. The Colloquium is tentatively scheduled for the University of St Andrews spring vacation which will occur between 13-24 March 2017. The local organisers will be Markus Pfeiffer, Juliana Bowles and Marco Caminati, with some additional support from others. Faron Moller thanked Markus Pfeiffer for his presentation and for agreeing to host BCTCS 33.

**Choice of host for BCTCS 34:** Faron Moller reported that Royal Holloway, University of London, has offered to host BCTCS 34 in 2018. Thomas van Binsbergen reported that Matthew Hague, José Fiadeiro and Adrian Johnstone have agreed to be the local organisers in

2018. He noted that there is accommodation available on campus and that the University is easily accessible from Heathrow Airport. Royal Holloway hosted BCTCS 5 in 1989. The meeting agreed that Royal Holloway will host BCTCS 34 in 2018. Faron Moller thanked colleagues at Royal Holloway for agreeing to host BCTCS 34.

**Any other business:** David Manlove raised the issue of the timing of BCTCS 33, noting that during the period 13-24 March, some people may still be involved in teaching. The traditional timing of BCTCS is during the week leading up to Easter (which will be on 16 April 2017). However Markus Pfeiffer noted that teaching will be in progress at the University of St Andrews during the week beginning 10 April 2017, which is likely to make it very difficult to find lecture rooms and delegate accommodation. The meeting agreed that BCTCS 33 may need to move away from its “traditional” timing in order to meet the local constraints at St Andrews.

**Closing:** The meeting closed at 1801.

*David Manlove*  
*Secretary, BCTCS*