

Minutes of the Open General Meeting of the BCTCS

BCTCS 36, Swansea University, 7 April 2020

Opening: The meeting took place via Zoom and opened at 1623.

Quorum: The meeting was recognised as quorate, there being present the President, the Secretary, the local organisers of BCTCS 36, and at least ten other members of the BCTCS.

Apologies: No apologies were received.

Previous minutes: The minutes of the Open General Meeting held at BCTCS 35 in Durham were approved.

Matters arising: There were no matters arising.

President's report: Barny Martin had no specific remarks to make at this point.

Treasurer's report: The following summary was received after the meeting:

Due to the coronavirus restrictions, I am unable to access the Barclay's account paperwork to confirm the current status of the accounts. I can summarise activity over the previous year.

BCTCS 2021

Preparations for BCTCS 2021 at Liverpool are underway. No financial activity has occurred.

BCTCS 2020

LMS funding for BCTCS 2020 (Swansea) was applied for. A sum of £1250 was granted to cover the costs of the invited speaker Prof. Paul Seymour. Prof. Paul Seymour had to withdraw and funding was instead transferred to Prof. Robert Constable. Due to the coronavirus situation, LMS allowed this funding, which would normally be used to cover travel expenses, to be used to cover any costs relating to the cancellation of activities. It was decided to offer compensation to attendees who had booked travel. A single claim of £52.70 was made but cannot be processed yet because of the pandemic.

BCTCS 2019

A claim was put in to LMS for £1250 to cover the expenses of the LMS speaker, Prof. Maria Chudnovsky at BCTCS 2019 (Durham). The financial report was submitted to LMS on 3 June 2019, and the claim form was submitted on 9 April 2019. Receipt of this payment by BCTCS cannot be confirmed without access to the paper work.

The LMS funding of £1250 was transferred from BCTCS to Durham, plus £200 to cover additional expenses.

The Heilbronn Institute agreed to fund BCTCS 2019 to a sum of £1400. This was claimed directly by the organisers in April 2019.

BCTCS 2018

£1400 was claimed by Royal Holloway from Heilbronn in April 2019. There is an outstanding deficit of £1535 which will be covered by £2000 promised by BCTCS to cover student bursaries.

BCTCS 2017

In June 2019, it was resolved that St. Andrews are owed £1748 to cover the expenses of BCTCS 2017, including £1250 of LMS funding. This has not yet been processed.

Miscellaneous

As sum not exceeding £100 was paid in April 2019 to cover a gift for Faron Moller in recognition of his 15 years of service to BCTCS.

Transfer of Mandate

The transfer of mandate submitted on 9 April 2019 did not go through. Further attempts were made in Sep 2019, but did not proceed due to insufficient proof of ID.

Election of Secretary: David Manlove's three-year term of office had concluded. Barny Martin thanked David for his contribution over the last 9 years as Secretary. The meeting moved on to the election of the next Secretary. Michele Zito was nominated by Barny Martin and this was seconded by Faron Moller. No other nominations were received, and Michele Zito was duly elected as Secretary.

Election of Postgraduate Student Representative: Barny Martin thanked Karl Southern for his contribution over the last year. Filippos Pantekis was nominated by Faron Moller and this was seconded by Barny Martin. No other nominations were received and Filippos Pantekis was duly elected as Postgraduate Student Representative.

Report on arrangements for BCTCS 37: Michele Zito reported on the arrangements for hosting BCTCS in Liverpool in 2021. The Colloquium will be held from Monday 29 March 2021 to Wednesday 31 March 2021, which is at the "traditional" time for BCTCS, in the week leading up to Good Friday (2 April 2021).

Michele advised that he was not sure whether it would still be possible to join forces with AlgoUK at that time. He gave some information about the City of Liverpool and the Department of Computer Science at the University of Liverpool. The Department currently has over 50 academic staff, with research groups focusing on Algorithms and Artificial Intelligence.

The Colloquium will be held in the Management School building and will follow a traditional format, as follows:

- day 1: start and welcome reception
- day 2: full day schedule, OGM and dinner
- day 3: more talks and farewell

As far as accommodation is concerned, a list of hotels will be provided. The local organisers are Michele Zito and Patrick Totzke. Michele was thanked for his presentation.

Choice of host for BCTCS 38: Barny Martin encouraged meeting delegates to consider whether they may like to host BCTCS 38 in 2022, and report back to him if there are any expressions of interest.

Any other business: Faron Moller thanked everybody for participating and giving talks via Zoom. He mentioned that there might be funds available from the LMS to provide financial assistance to participants who had booked travel to Swansea before the COVID-19 restrictions came into force, but were unable to reclaim their expenses from other sources.

Faron confirmed that, as far as the local organiser costs were concerned, Swansea University will be able to reclaim all expenses relating to cancelled bookings from the University insurers.

Paul Levy remarked that streaming the talks via Zoom from this year's BCTCS meant that people were able to attend online who may not otherwise have been able to attend in person. He wondered whether it might be possible to arrange streaming in the future for "in person" BCTCS colloquia. Liam O'Reilly commented that a mixed environment (i.e., involving some participants attending physically and some attending virtually) can make this more of a challenge compared to running a conference completely online. Michele Zito said that he had noted this request in any case.

Barny Martin thanked the organisers at Swansea for an excellent Colloquium. He was especially grateful to them for switching the Colloquium to run as an online meeting at such short notice when it became clear that a physical meeting would not be possible due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

Ulrich Berger also thanked Faron Moller in particular for all of his work in organising BCTCS 36, and also for "unorganising" the physical meeting. He further thanked Liam O'Reilly and Rhys Clements for all of their technical assistance with ensuring that the Colloquium was able to run successfully using Zoom.

Closing: The meeting closed at 1641.

David Manlove
Secretary, BCTCS