



British Computer Society Swiss Section Chairperson's Annual Report 2008-2009

The BCS Swiss Section was started in 2004.

The 2007-2008 Annual General Meeting was held on 22.05.2008 at the Bluewin Tower (Swisscom AG) in Zurich. We were pleased that 2 members from the west of Switzerland could join us. The committee was elected as follows:

- Chairman: Mike Bellhouse
- Secretary: Paul Kennerley
- Treasurer: Peter Hurst
- E-mail coordinator: Mike Lewis
- Webmaster: Mike Lewis
- Membership Secretary: Paul Hicks
- Committee Member: Adrian Harper
- Committee Member: Ahmad Abu El-Ata

During the AGM we discussed holding a meeting in Zurich and Geneva/Lausanne with video communication but unfortunately this proved difficult to organise because of all the coordination. All the meetings for the last year were held in Zurich based on the location and activity of members. We offer budget to anyone willing to organise a meeting elsewhere in Switzerland but there has been no interest in this.

Although international sections were not invited to a BCS Congress meeting in 2008-2009, next week (19-20th May) there is a Member Groups Convention in London and Ahmad Abu El-Ata will represent the Swiss Section. Information and support from HQ has been good this year and we hope that this will continue.

On 06.05.2009 the BCS informed branches that the BCS financial year is being changed to close on 31st August starting this year. Our future AGMs will therefore be held in September or October starting with the next one in 2010.

On 24.10.2008 the IET organised a visit to the Swiss Post Sorting Centre near Zurich and our members were invited. Feedback was that the event was excellent.

On 26.11.2008 the committee hosted a social gathering at the Lion pub in Zurich. 10 people attended and enjoyed the networking opportunity. This was a repeat of a previous social event but again the venue (a last minute choice) was quite noisy.

On 04.02.2009 Crealogix AG invited our members to an event presenting their Microsoft solutions for "Increasing efficiency in turbulent times" at Casinotheater in Winterthur.

On 18.03.2009 the committee hosted another social gathering at the Helvti pub in Zurich. 12 people attended and enjoyed the networking opportunity. The social events are proving quite popular but again the venue was quite noisy.

The new website has proved to be much more satisfactory and easier to keep up to date. Thank you to Adrian Harper for creating the site and Mike Lewis for keeping it up to date.

Business commitments of committee members have again imposed heavy restrictions on our activities this year. Again it is hoped that we will find a solution to this for the next year. We would especially welcome ideas for any meetings and in particular, volunteers from the other areas of Switzerland to host meetings, for which budget is available.

The chairman would like to thank all members of the committee for the work they put in over the year. In particular Mike Lewis has endeavoured to keep members informed via the website and emails. Peter Hurst kept the books in order and Paul Hicks kept our membership list in order. All of the committee members are prepared to stand again.

Mike Bellhouse

14.05.2009