

## Minutes of the BCS IRSG Annual General Meeting

28 November 2017

BCS Central London Office, The Davidson Building

*Draft*

### Present

Stefan Rüger [SR] (Chair), John Tait [JT] (Minutes), Ingo Frommholz [IF] (Treasurer), Udo Kruschwitz [UK], Steve Zimmerman, Dyaa Albakour [DA], Robert Ryan, Olivia Bosch, Andrew MacFarlane [AM], Haiming Liu [HL]

The meeting opened at 18:00.

### 1. Welcome from the Chair

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2. Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2016 were approved unanimously.

### 3. Matter arising from the 2016 AGM

There were 3 actions from the 2016 Meeting.

1. Recording and reporting committee attendance was indeed discussed by the committee. A policy has been adopted and when the secretary has a worthwhile amount of data this will be made available on the web site.
2. A document describing how to apply for support from the iRSG has been written and is now on the home page of the group web site.
3. As requested Google Analytics had been used to provide more information about Informer access.

### 3.1 Chairs report

The IRSG had been involved with four main events since the last AGM: the European Conference on Information Retrieval (ECIR) held in Aberdeen in April, the European Summer School in Information Retrieval (ESSIR) held in Barcelona in September, Future Directions in Information Access (as usual co-located with ESSIR) (FDIA), and Search Solutions 2017 – to be held the next day in London.

The chair outlined our relationship with each of the conferences.

All the conferences had been successful, despite a number of problems.

The group also appoints a member to the ICTIR Steering Committee: ICTIR 2017 was in Amsterdam.

ECIR 2017 – number of full paper submissions was down. But on the whole the conference was successful.

In the past ECIR had not been an A-rated conference. An opportunity had arisen to address that, and committee member Craig MacDonald had taken a lead to get the conference uprated. It was hoped this had been successful.

ECIR 2018 will be held in Grenoble (26 to 29 March 2018) and ECIR 2019 will be held in Cologne.

The group hoped to run more events in future, including an event outside London, and perhaps one at which we could run the AGM separate from Search Solutions.

**Action:** Committee to find ways to interact more with the practitioner community.

The Informer, newsletter of the group, has been published since at least the early 1980's with some gaps, continues to attract a solid readership with almost 4000 hits on the most recent issue. The chair thanks Tony Russell-Rose, Udo Kruschwitz, and everyone else who contributed for their continuing efforts.

The group organises the Karen Spärck Jones Award, which was won by Jaime Teevan of Microsoft Research in Redmond. As a consequence Jaime presented the corresponding keynote at ECIR. Five years further sponsorship has been secured from Microsoft Research Cambridge (they have already been sponsors for 10 years), for which they were thanked. The current chair of the selection panel, Udo Kruschwitz, was thanked for his efforts.

### 3.2 Treasurers Report

The treasurer reported the group had the following funds available

Rollover: £5,481.00 (i.e profits from past activities which are allowed to spend in the following couple of years)

Budget: £3,125 (funds from the BCS central funds to support the operation of the group).

Most of the rollover derives from Search Solutions.

Search Solutions 2016 :

Registration Fees Search Solutions : £6778.41

Expenditure (catering, speakers, travel): £2,179.94

Net profit/loss: £4,598.47

As noted by the chair the group also sponsored the following events:

ESSIR: £884.75

ECIR: £2,500.00

KSJ Award: £3,300.04 (incl awardee's expenses) (Accounted separately)

Total expenditure of the group on normal activities was (incl travel/subsistence): £4,559.72

Therefore over the year the group made the following Net profit: £4,598.47 - £4,559.72 = £38.75

### 4. Elections

There were three vacancies for this year, one unfilled vacancy from 2016, plus Andrew Macfarlane and Ingemar Cox reaching the end of their terms.

There were four nominations for the three vacancies. Members eligible to vote (those who were both members of the BCS and Members of the Group) had been given the opportunity to vote in advance of the meeting. The Chair offered members present at the AGM who had not voted electronically the chance to cast their vote in person, but no one took up the opportunity. The number of votes cast in the election were therefore:

<b>Votes</b>	<b>Nominee</b>
18	<i>Frank Hopfgartner</i>
16	<i>Jochen Leidner</i>
18	<i>Andy MacFarlane</i>
6	<i>Yashar Moshfeghi</i>

Therefore Frank Hopfgartner, Jochen Leidner and Andy Macfarlane were elected to serve on the committee. The chair congratulated them.

#### 5. Constitution

It had been hoped to present a new version of the Group Constitution for approval at the AGM.

The chair explained a little about the reasoning behind the changes.

However due to an unfortunate technological problem the wrong version of the constitution had been visible on the web site during the voting period. It had therefore been agreed with BCS HQ to declare the vote null and void, with the approval of the meeting. There were no objections to this course of action.

The chair announced his intention of bring the changes forward to the next AGM.

#### 6. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

The meeting closed just before 19:00.