

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNCIL OF PROFESSORS AND HEADS OF COMPUTING

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Council of Professors and Heads of Computing held on Thursday 16 April 2026 commencing at 16:45 at Manchester Metropolitan University Business School, All Saints, Oxford Road, Manchester M15 6BH and online

23 members took part in the meeting from **21** CPHC member institutions (in person and online)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Dr Funmi Obembe (Northampton), Professor Rebecca Strachan (Northumbria) and Professor Haris Mouratidis (Essex). 5 members, from 4 institutions joined the meeting online.

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING [CPHC/AGM25/05]

The minutes of the CPHC 2025 AGM held on Tuesday 29 April 2025 at 16:45 at Sheffield Hallam University, were approved and will be signed electronically.

2.1 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Actions are complete and there were no matters arising.

3. REPORTS

3.1 CHAIR'S REPORT – N Danino [CPHC/AGM/26/02] – Appendix 1

Members RECEIVED and NOTED the report.

3.2 SECRETARY'S REPORT – K Chalmers [CPHC/AGM/26/03] – Appendix 2

Members RECEIVED and NOTED the report.

**3.3 TREASURER'S REPORT INCLUDING 2024/25 ACCOUNTS – P Sant
RECEIVED & APPROVED – Appendix 3**

In response to a question about the increased year on year deficit, the Treasurer confirmed that this was due to a significant one-off cost and that the year end 2025 accounts had been confirmed and were stable. The year end 2026 accounts are likely to more closely resemble the year end 2024 accounts.

3.4 LDG Report including Special Project Grants – S Bradley

The Chair noted that there are changes being planned for future Special Project Grant rounds, which will be announced in the future.

3.5 CPHC IN THE DEVOLVED NATIONS REPORT – J Wallace (Northern Ireland) (Wales & Scotland currently no representation) – Appendix 4

Members RECEIVED and NOTED the report.

3.6 UKCRC REPORT – D Shadija

There are still challenges for UKCRC, particularly in the areas of membership and engagement.

4. OUTREACH DISCUSSION – J Davenport

This item was not discussed.

5. MEMBERSHIP VALUE PROPOSITION – N Danino

This item was raised to ask members about strategy targeting for adding value and exclusivity of offer (*what would a value proposition be?*) The Chair indicated that CPHC was losing institutional members, on many occasions due to new heads of schools/departments being appointed from non-computing disciplines. Members were invited to send ideas for making the membership proposition more appealing (eg, activities equivalent to the CPHC Special Project Grant offer) to the CPHC inbox: cphc@bcs.uk.

ACTION: Members

6. TO APPOINT INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS – HaysMac

Members APPROVED the appointment of Haysmacintyre LLP for the next independent examination of the CPHC accounts. It was noted that the choice of HaysMac had previously been made to facilitate the process as BCS employs the same examiners. BCS plans to go out to tender to appoint auditors after YE2026 and this will therefore be discussed at the 2027 AGM.

7. ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEE

The elections were conducted under the rules of the Constitution which had been amended and approved by the Council at the previous AGM. As a result, the following CPHC Officers have been elected to serve Terms of Office as indicated below:

Chair: Professor James Davenport (Bath) – 3 years
Vice Chair: Dr Nicky Danino (Leeds Trinity) – 1 year
Treasurer: Dr Paul Sant (Law) – 1 year
Secretary: Dr Kevin Chalmers (Ravensbourne) – 2 years

Of the eight Committee member vacancies, the following five Committee members are re-elected to serve a further two-year Term of Office:

Professor Steven Bradley (Durham)
Professor Jonathan Wallace (Ulster)
Professor Silvester Czanner (Chester)

Professor Damien Foster (Aston)
Dharam Shadija (Sheffield Hallam)

For the further vacancies, the following three previously co-opted Committee members are elected to serve two-year Terms of Office and were welcomed:

Professor Kate Hone (Brunel)
Dr Funmi Obembe (Northampton)
Professor Darren Dancey (Manchester Metropolitan)

Thanks were extended to Professor Rob Aspin, who steps down after completing a one-year term of office as Immediate Past Chair, two years as Chair and two terms of office as an ordinary member. Appreciation was expressed for Rob's work, in particular having to step in at last minute as Chair and re-energising Committee activities.

Further thanks were expressed to Professor Rebecca Strachan (Northumbria) who steps down early due to retirement. Prof Strachan's contributions to the EDI agenda as well as supporting the Special Project Grants activity were gratefully acknowledged. In addition, Professor Haris Mouratidis (Essex) steps down following two terms of office.

There are also opportunities to represent institutions in Scotland and Wales. Post-AGM appointments are one-year co-opted positions, eligible for full membership by election at the 2027 AGM. Members are encouraged to put themselves forward if they have the knowledge, energy and enthusiasm to enable CPHC to play its role in contributing to the community, particularly in helping with forming a strong voice with government, alongside the BCS Academy and UKCRC. Members at the AGM are particularly keen to see an improved gender balance on the Committee. *[Post meeting note: the Committee has secured a volunteer for co-option for Wales representation, however a volunteer from a Scottish institution is still sought.]*

ACTION: Members

The full Committee membership is appended to these minutes as Appendix 5.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items of any other business.

The Chair thanked participants for attending and closed the meeting at 17:34.

Actions

#	Item (min)	Action	Who
5	Membership value proposition	Send ideas for making the membership proposition more appealing to the CPHC inbox: cphc@bcs.uk .	Members
7	Elections to Committee	Consider volunteering or proposing volunteer from network to be co-opted from a Scottish institution	Members

Appendix 1 – Chair's report

Appendix 2 – Secretary's report



Appendix 3 – Treasurer’s report (2024/25 Accounts for England & Wales and Scotland are attached)

Appendix 4 – Northern Ireland report

Appendix 5 – Terms of Office for the CPHC Committee – April 2026

Signed by the Chair (at 2027 AGM):

James H Davenport

DRAFT (inc 2026 pprs)

CPHC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026 CHAIR'S REPORT

This has been a challenging year for the sector, and one that has brought increasing clarity to the pressures facing computing in UK higher education.

Computing is consistently positioned as central to the UK's future and as one of the underpinning industries in the Industrial Strategy, underpinning priorities around AI, productivity, economic growth, and national security. However, the conditions in which computing higher education is being delivered do not always reflect that level of strategic importance. As a result, there is a growing gap between what is expected of the discipline and what it is currently resourced and supported to deliver.

The Role of CPHC

A core priority for CPHC is to act as a strong and independent voice for computing, ensuring that the discipline is properly represented in national policy, funding, and strategic discussions. Alongside this, CPHC plays a critical role in bringing together leaders across the sector, enabling shared learning, challenge, and collective leadership in response to an increasingly complex environment.

There is a clear opportunity to use this collective expertise more proactively, not only to respond to change, but to shape it. Members who would like to be more actively involved, or who have suggestions for improving how we communicate and work together, are encouraged to get in touch.

Policy and Regulatory Environment

The regulatory landscape, particularly through the Office for Students, continues to shape institutional priorities. Metrics relating to continuation, completion, and graduate outcomes are important indicators. However, there is a growing concern that these are sometimes applied without sufficient recognition of context. Student outcomes are influenced by a range of factors beyond the classroom, including regional labour markets, cost-of-living pressures, and the increasing number of students balancing study with significant paid work.

One of CPHC's strategic roles is to ensure that the realities of computing education are clearly articulated within policy discussions, and that sector expertise informs how these metrics are understood and applied.

Funding and Sustainability

Financial pressures across the sector remain a significant concern with Computing programmes expecting to deliver:

- High-quality, industry-relevant education
- Investment in specialist facilities and infrastructure
- Responsiveness to rapid technological change
- Support for increasingly diverse student cohorts

These expectations sit within a funding model that is increasingly constrained. This creates tension between ambition and sustainability. A key role for CPHC is to articulate clearly what is required to deliver high-quality computing provision, and to ensure that our voices are heard in the relevant forums.

Student Experience

Student experience remains a central focus, with NSS continuing to carry both reputational and operational weight. There is strong commitment across the community to delivering engaging and intellectually stimulating teaching. However, there is also a need to ensure that measures of satisfaction do not unintentionally discourage academic challenge or rigour. Preparing students for a complex and evolving workforce requires a balance between support and stretch. Maintaining that balance is becoming more challenging in the current environment. Supporting members in navigating these tensions is an important part of CPHC's role in enhancing educational practice and leadership across the discipline.

Artificial Intelligence in the Curriculum

The rapid emergence of AI is one of the most significant developments affecting the sector. It is already reshaping how students learn, how Universities are responding at pace, but often without clear or consistent guidance. This places additional pressure on academic staff and raises important questions about assessment design, academic integrity, and curriculum relevance. This represents a significant opportunity for CPHC to support sector-wide leadership, share emerging practice, and shape the future direction of computing education.

Community and Collective Leadership

One of CPHC's key strengths remains its community. The willingness of members to share openly, discuss challenges, and exchange practice is a valuable asset. This directly supports one of CPHC's core strategic aims: to connect leaders and enable collective problem-solving across the discipline. There is scope to build further on this, particularly in mobilising the expertise within the membership to inform national conversations.

The annual conference continues to provide an important space for focused discussion on key issues facing the discipline. This year's themes, including leadership under uncertainty, employability, and the impact of AI, reflect the complexity of the current environment. The value of the conference lies not only in the topics discussed, but in its role as a space for open, honest, and sometimes challenging dialogue, which is essential to effective leadership across the sector.

Diversity and Participation

Progress towards greater diversity in computing continues, but at a pace that remains slower than desired. There is a need to maintain focus on widening participation and ensuring that the discipline is accessible and inclusive. This aligns directly with CPHC's commitment to supporting a diverse and representative future pipeline, recognising that inclusion is central to the long-term strength of the discipline.

What CPHC Has Delivered This Year

Alongside responding to sector pressures, CPHC has continued to deliver against its strategic priorities:

- **Strengthened sector voice and representation** through ongoing engagement with government, funding bodies, and professional organisations, ensuring that computing is part of national conversations on skills, AI, and the future workforce
- **Convened the computing leadership community** through active member engagement, facilitating open discussion, shared problem-solving, and exchange of practice across institutions
- **Delivered the annual CPHC Conference**, providing a platform for critical sector dialogue on leadership, employability, and the impact of emerging technologies
- **Enabled collaboration and knowledge exchange** across the membership, strengthening CPHC's role as a trusted network for leaders navigating an increasingly complex environment, with a clearer focus on using our website and LinkedIn to communicate, connect, and share

The coming year will require continued focus on:

- Strengthening the voice of computing within policy and funding discussions
- Articulating clearly the requirements for sustainable, high-quality provision
- Supporting leadership and practice across the sector
- Responding effectively to technological change, particularly in relation to AI
- Advancing diversity and inclusion across the discipline

CPHC has a critical role to play in all of these areas.

Conclusion

It is a privilege to serve as Chair of CPHC at a time when the discipline is both under pressure and central to the future. There is a clear opportunity, and responsibility, for the community to take a more active role in shaping the direction of computing education in the UK. Ensuring that expectations, policy, and resource are better aligned will be key to sustaining and strengthening the discipline in the years ahead.

If computing is truly central to the UK's future, then it is time the system started treating it that way.

**CPHC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026
SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The current membership of CPHC is 678 individuals from 101 institutions. This represents a decline from 733 individual members from 106 institutions in 2025.

	2025	2026	YoY change	YoY % change
Individuals	733	678	-45	-6%
Institutions	106	101	-5	-5%

CPHC has also welcomed two new institutional members:

- University of Law
- University College Birmingham

There is a third new institutional member in the pipeline with communication to follow.

In 2025, the CPHC Committee co-opted the following members:

- Kate Hone - Brunel University of London
- Funmi Obembe - University of Northampton
- Darren Dancey - Manchester Metropolitan University

James Davenport of the University of Bath steps into the Chair role in 2026 for the now extended period of three years (until the 2029 AGM). Nicky Danino of Leeds Trinity University is stepping down as Chair to become the new Vice Chair of CPHC. We thank Nicky for her work promoting CPHC and supporting the revitalisation of the work as supported by the new CPHC strategy.

Rob Aspin has come to the end of his two-year term as Immediate Past Chair and will now step down from the Committee. CPHC thank Rob for his efforts in supporting CPHC through his tenure as chair and related roles.

In 2025 the committee launched the new CPHC 2030 strategy. Committee meetings have focused discussions on activities around the strategy enabling more clarity in the work undertaken.

CPHC retains its charitable status across England, Scotland, and Wales. CPHC continue to source administrative support from the British Computer Society.

Kevin Chalmers
CPHC Secretary
April 2026

**CPHC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026
Treasurer's REPORT**

Purpose: to receive and approve the Accounts for 2025 and provide an update on financial position up to March 2026.

Accounts for the year ending 30 June 2025

Members are asked to APPROVE the 2024/25 accounts

Report

As members will see from the annual accounts and audit document, income for 2025 was down compared to 2024 (£43,834 vs £53,122) mainly due to changes a number of resignations from CPHC due to financial pressures in the HE sector. For the same period, expenditure has also increased significantly due to increased support costs (£92,483 vs £59,604), creating an annual deficit of £48,649 (compared to a deficit of £6482 in 2025).

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which CHPC is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to major risks and that we remain in good financial health.

We have maintained a healthy reserve and do not consider the charity to be in any financial trouble. However, we will be monitoring this reserve to make sure that it does not increase substantially to ensure we do not violate any regulations

CPHC remains to be in a strong financial position and current projections based on the spend so far in 2026 (current income as per the latest audit sheet is £45,779 and expenditure is £24,789). We are managed available funds and keeping these at manageable levels. Our total net assets are £34,485.60, with unrestricted funds of £40,854.90) and total funds at £40,854.90.

The full report on expenditure has been supplied alongside this executive summary.

Paul Sant
CPHC Treasurer
April 2026

Brief Notes for Update for NI for CPHC Committee AGM Meeting on 16th April 2026

The AI Bubble

Following on from the success of our joint AICC Technology and Skills Advisory Board (TSAB) / Computing Employer Advisory Board (CEAB) engagement in September 2025 (report from which I shared previously) along with our having had a preliminary 'Red Team' discussion on the AI Bubble at our last quarterly TSAB meeting which took place on Monday 26th January - we will be running another joint engagement week beginning the 25th May 2026 on the 'AI Bubble and the impact on both the NI economy and the continued uptake of AI by SMEs and FDI companies if / when it bursts'. Happy to share the report with the committee post the engagement.

Responsible AI Talk and CAGE Tool scenario walkthrough at Belfast Grammar School RBAI

AICC Team of Tadhg Hickey, Geraldine Doherty and myself presented a Responsible AI Talk and undertook an interactive CAGE Tool scenario walkthrough with A-Level Computing and A-Level Digital Technology students at Royal Belfast Academical Institution (RBAI) which they found very insightful and made them much more aware of the different aspects of and the real need for Responsible AI.



AICC Learning Lab Launched <https://www.aicc.co/ai-learning-lab>

Northern Ireland is at a critical tipping point in its adoption of artificial intelligence, as a new AI Learning Lab launches to help close a growing skills gap that experts warn could leave the region trailing other parts of the UK. The Learning Lab is led by Geraldine Doherty who is the Professional Training and Academic Coordinator at AICC. Geraldine coordinates AICC scholarships and short courses to support professional training and plays a central role in helping students and professionals navigate their AI learning journey.

The AI Learning Lab offers free, flexible online courses designed to help learners understand, evaluate and apply artificial intelligence in real-world contexts, with an initial suite including Fundamentals of AI, Prompt to Prototype and Data Readiness for AI.



Women in STEM Hackathon

This hackathon which took place on Saturday 11th of April was co-organised by: Women in STEM Society at UU Belfast Campus, Women in STEM Society at UU Derry/Londonderry (DLD) Campus, Women in STEM Society at QUB, and BCS Northern Ireland. As part of BCS-NI Committee we secured sponsorship from Allstate NI as the headline sponsor to host the hackathon entitled 'Break the Pattern'.

Women continue to face repeated patterns across education, hiring, career progression, and workplace culture. At the 'Break the Pattern' hackathon, participants worked in 8 teams of between 3 to 5 people to identify these patterns and design creative, technology-driven solutions that help build a more inclusive future for STEM.

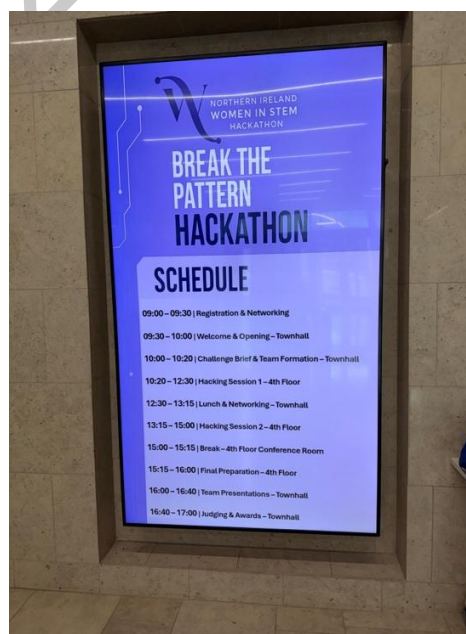
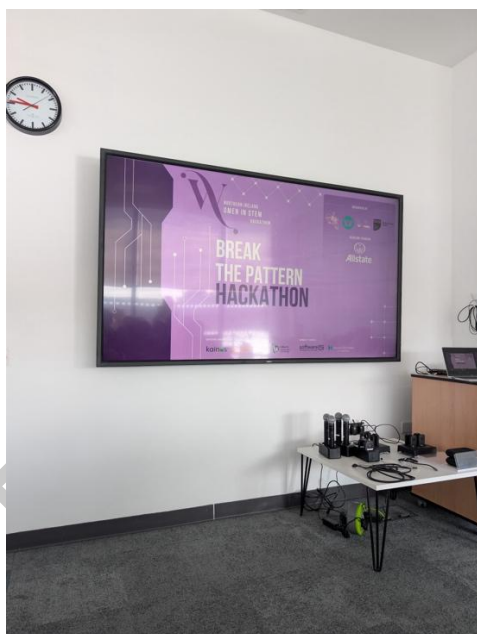
The hackathon was an opportunity for participants to:

- Tackle real-world challenges affecting women in STEM
- Collaborate with like-minded students from diverse disciplines
- Learn from industry mentors and gain insight into tech careers
- Build practical solutions with real social impact
- Grow their skills in problem-solving, innovation, and teamwork

Headline Sponsor and Hackathon Venue Host: Allstate NI

Prize Sponsors: Allstate NI, Kainos, Pytilia, Data Intellect, Liberty IT

Community Partners: Women Techmakers Belfast, Software NI



As EDI and ESG Lead for BCS NI Committee apart from being one of the organisers, I was also one of the judges on the day. Some very innovative ideas were pitched and pleased to say some of the teams are keen to progress these as entries to Catalyst's annual Student INVENT Awards Competition.



DRAFT

TERMS OF OFFICE FOR THE CPHC COMMITTEE – APRIL 2026

CPHC Committee Membership (post AGM):

OFFICERS:	DATE
Chair: Professor James Davenport (Bath)	2026-29
Vice Chair: Dr Nicky Danino (Leeds Trinity)	2026-27
Treasurer: Dr Paul Sant (Law)	2026-27
Secretary: Dr Kevin Chalmers (Ravensbourne)	2026-28

Full Committee Members:

Professor Steven Bradley (Durham)	2026-28
Professor Silvester Czanner (Chester)	2026-28
Professor Damien Foster (Aston)	2026-28
Dharam Shadija (Sheffield Hallam)	2026-28
Professor Jonathan Wallace (Ulster)	2026-28
Professor Kate Hone (Brunel)	2026-28
Dr Funmi Obembe (Northampton)	2026-28
Professor Darren Dancey (Manchester Metropolitan)	2026-28

Co-opted Members appointed post-AGM:

To be confirmed.