

## **BCS FORTRAN SPECIALIST GROUP**

### **Chairman's Report 1998-1999**

Yet again this year the Fortran Forum (FF99) has failed to materialise. We had chosen suitable dates but the required effort to put on FF99 was too much for too few people. We will review the situation at the AGM with possible dates in January 2000. However, the Numerical Algorithms Group and Visual Numerics organised another Fortran Futures (FF98) and the Group was invited to be a co-sponsor. This event was over-subscribed with attendees from Europe as well as the UK. A number of members attended and some gave talks and chaired meetings. The Group was also an exhibitor at FF98 on behalf of the BCS.

I have been able to attend all the Technical Board (TB) meetings during the year except the Specialist Groups (SG) Congress in December at which the Vice-Chairman, Chris Lazou, substituted. (I was attending a conference in Hyderabad, India). As last year, this year has not been free from turmoil with finances being the top of the list. The re-structuring of the way Specialist Groups are funded has finally reached a conclusion. The financial arrangements remain virtually unchanged and the Group will continue to rely almost entirely on BCS HQ support and funding. However, the Specialist Groups Handbook is being re-written and sounding "alarm bells", particularly amongst the larger Specialist Groups.

Specialist Groups chairs are sent by BCS details of projects and other information which may not be sent to members. With the improved communications via the Internet I am assuming that most of this information gets through. However, I have details of the following if members wish to be informed:

- (1) Details of EURO and Millennium 2000 books.
- (2) The proposal for a series of booklets provisionally titled: "Moving into the 21st Century".
- (3) Re-launch of BCS electronic workshops in computing (eWiC) series.

The AGM this year takes place in London on Thursday 13th May. We are required to meet face-to-face at least once a year and this is the first time we will meet since the last AGM. Again, this is an important meeting for the Group. We will be seeking a new Treasurer and Membership Secretary which I would like to see as two separate posts. Under new BCS rules the Treasurer has to be a professional member of the BCS and will need some knowledge of the BCS financial systems. Unlike in the past when the job could be done by a committed member of the Group my feeling is that we now need somebody with accounting expertise. The Group's membership list is maintained by BCS HQ so the Membership Secretary job is really putting new members in touch with Barbara Porch at BCS and, perhaps, contacting existing members, etc. One of my tasks from last year is to update the Group's Constitution. However, the TB is currently updating the Specialists Groups Handbook which defines the rules which govern the way Specialist Groups work. I have not yet seen the finalised document so in the present time-scale I will be presenting a new draft constitution at the AGM rather than a finalised document.

Again a quiet year on the Fortran standards "front". Three new (minor) standards have appeared recently. Come to the AGM if you want to know more.

John Young.  
26th March 1999.