CPHC
The Council of Professors and Heads of Computing

CPHC/2014/17

COUNCIL OF PROFESSORS AND HEADS OF COMPUTING
c/o BCS, First Floor, Block D, North Star House,
North Star Avenue, Swindon SN2 1FA

DATE: Monday 7th July 2014

CPHC 2014 CONFERENCE FEEDBACK REPORT

The following report summarises the participant feedback from the CPHC Conference held on Monday 7th & Tuesday 8th April 2014

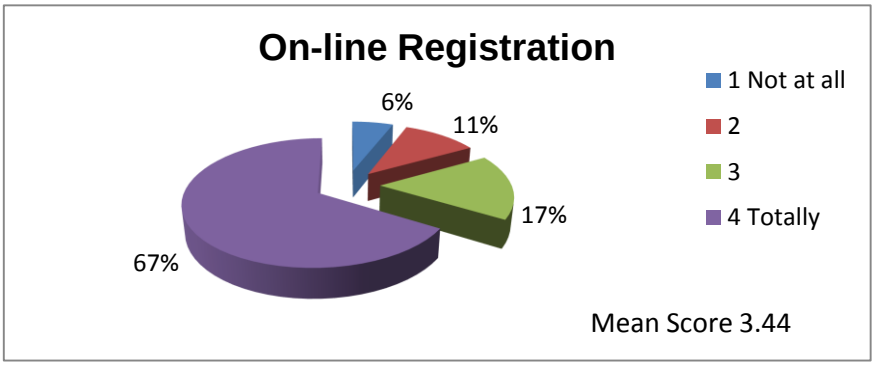
HEADLINE FINDINGS

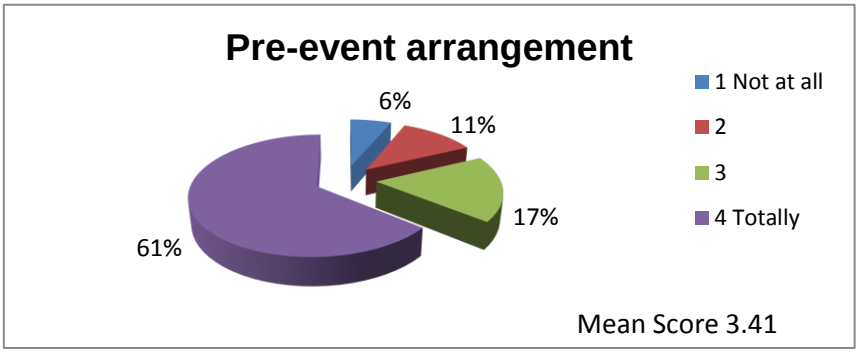
- Respondents were most satisfied with the conference keynote speaker (3.50) and the new heads workshop (3.33)
- Respondents were least satisfied with the social media presentation (2.24)
- In terms of the administration, delegates were most satisfied with the parking facilities (3.46), the on-line registration (3.44) and the dinner (3.44).

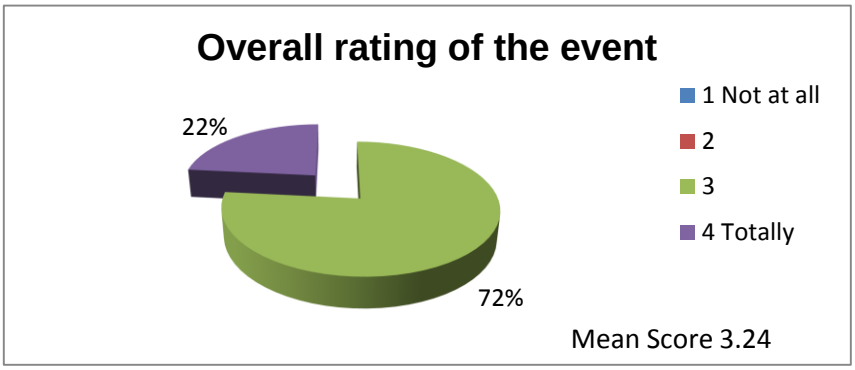
DETAILED FINDINGS

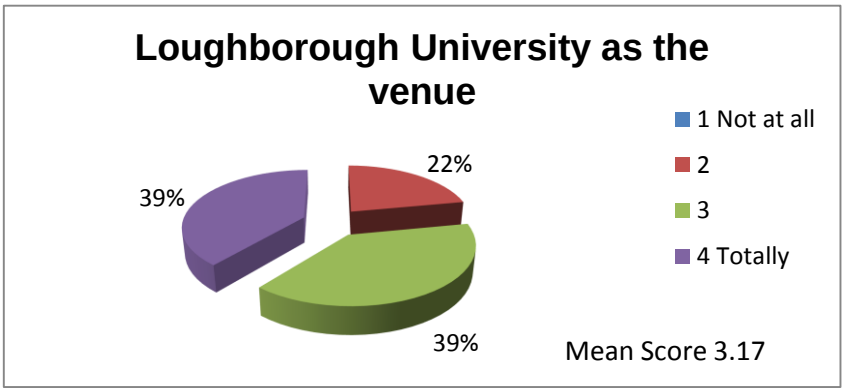
Delegates were asked to rate each of the following factors where 1 is not at all satisfied and 4 totally satisfied.

Q1 – How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with each of the following aspects of the CPHC Conference?





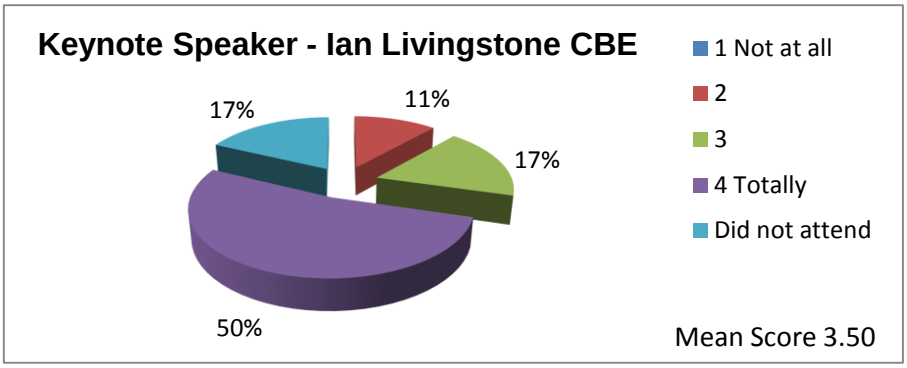


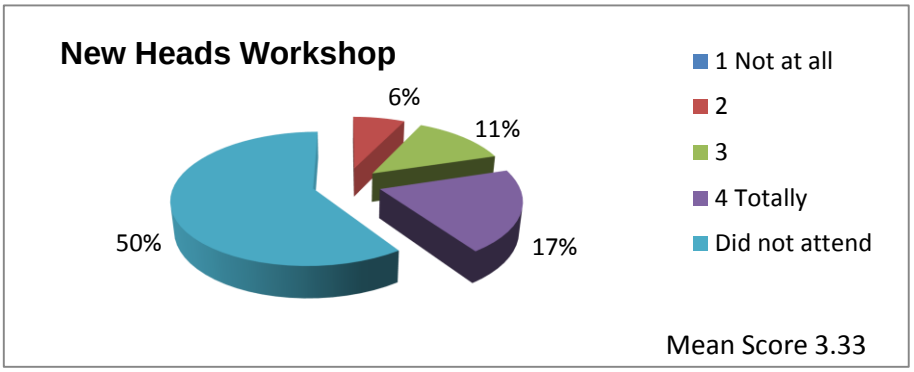


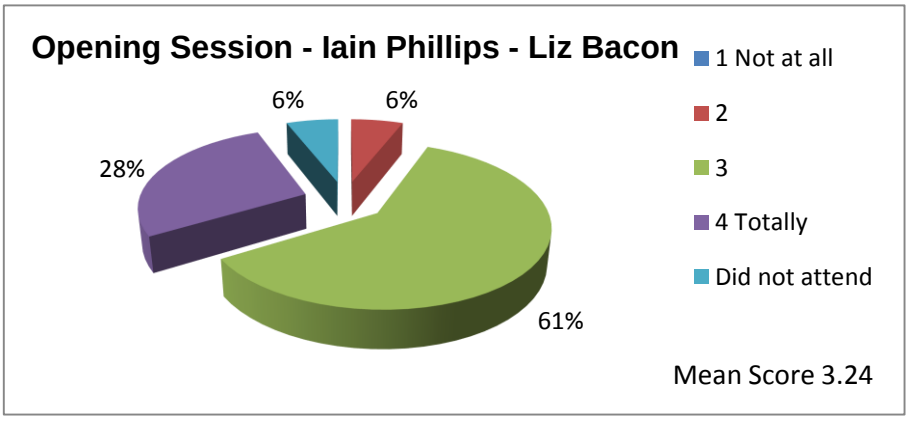
Additional comments:

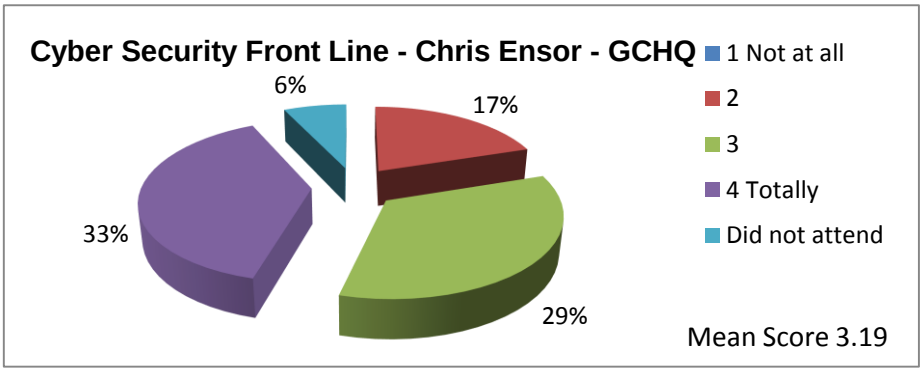
- The room on the Sunday night was so noisy (a wedding was on and run until well past 1am).
- I thought the local arrangements were fairly chaotic – wandered round in the rain looking for someone to get me a key to my accommodation.
- Loughborough is remarkably hard to get to!

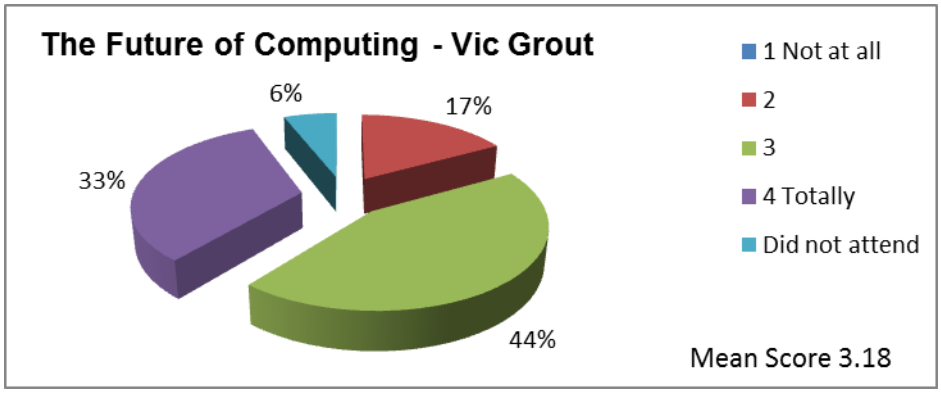
Q2 – How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the Conference, AGM and Reports?

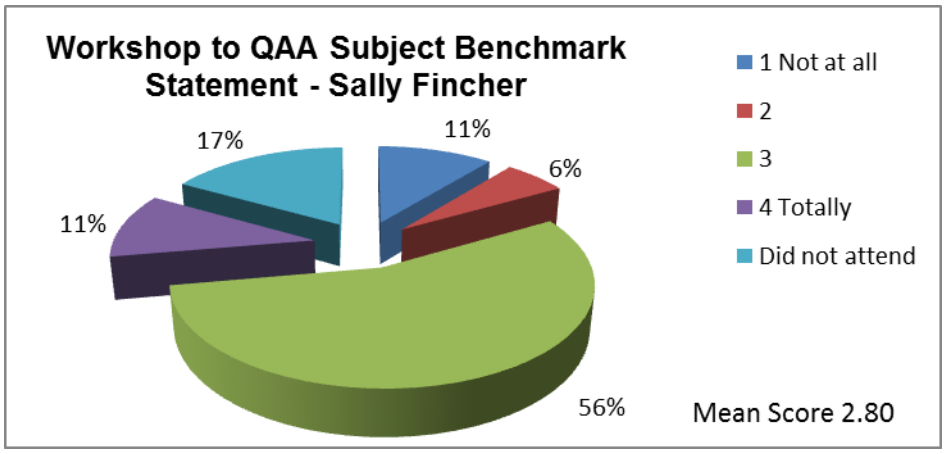


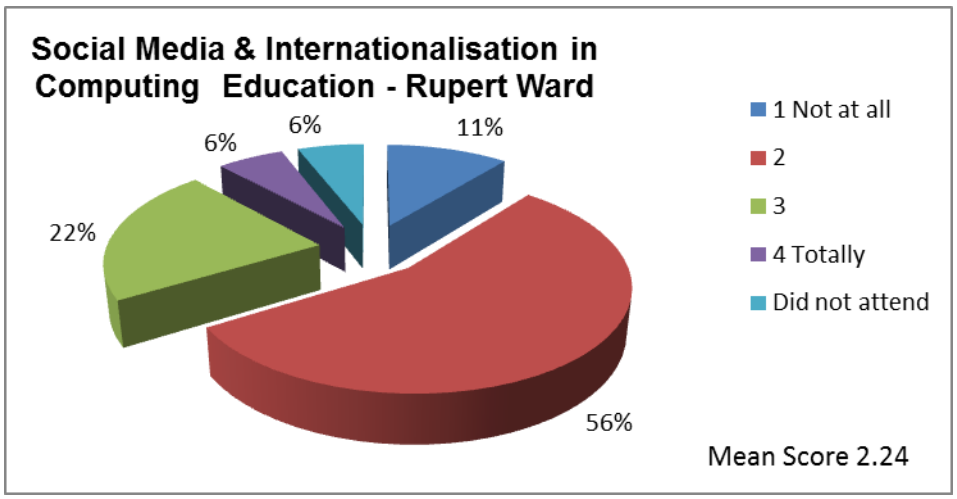










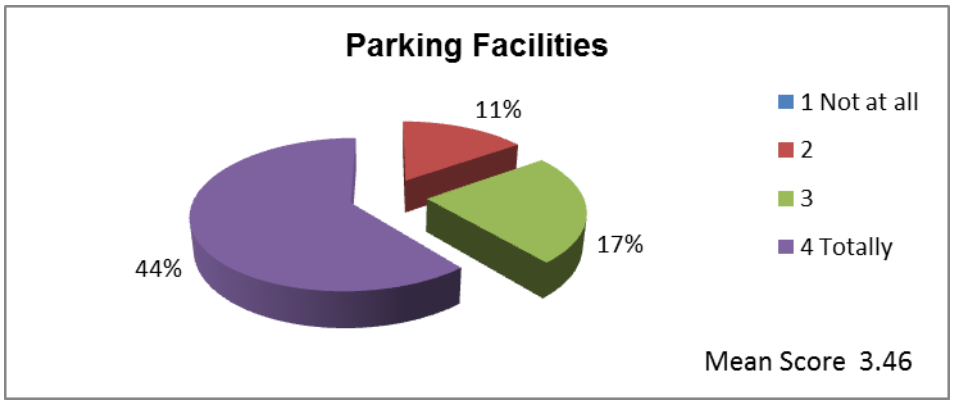


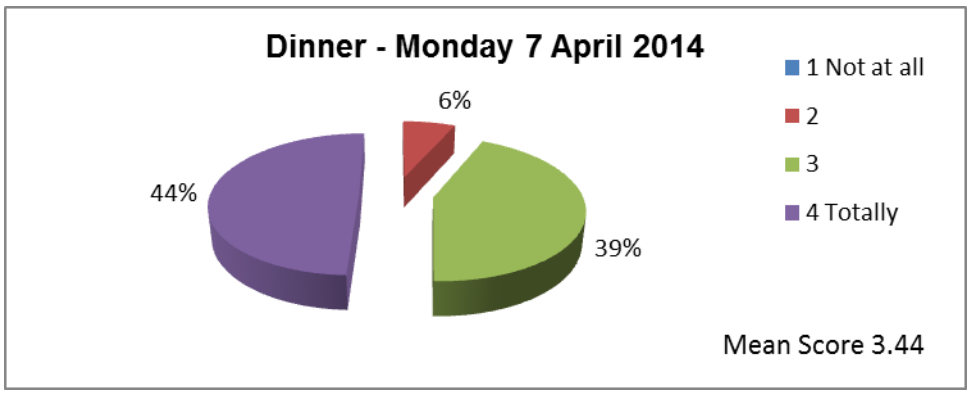
Additional Comments:

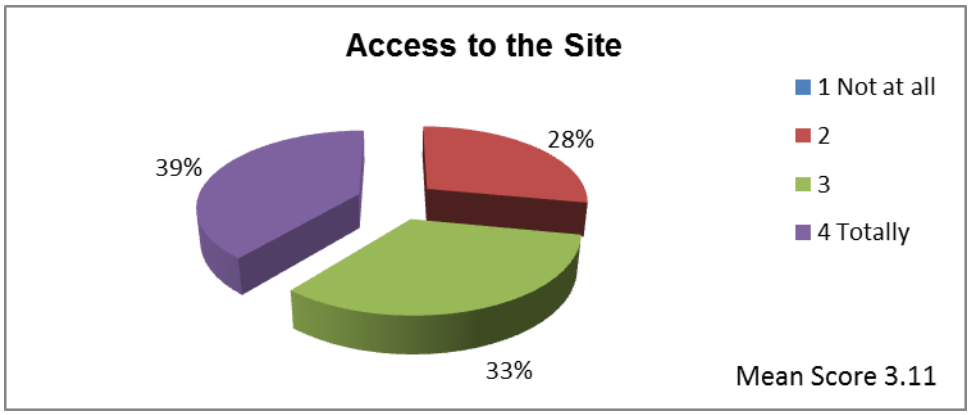
- All those I saw were high quality.
- As a last minute stand in Ian Livingstone did a good job of entertaining us but I didn't come away with anything particularly insightful.
- I can't believe we are wasting so much time on the Subject Benchmark, to this level of detail. The "Social Media" thing was just tedious
- I found "Social Media" unfocused.
- Livingstone was excellent. The Panel I found unfocused.
- Rather disappointed in New Heads Workshop. I think what we wanted here was wisdom, experience, even inspiration, but we were asked to split into small groups

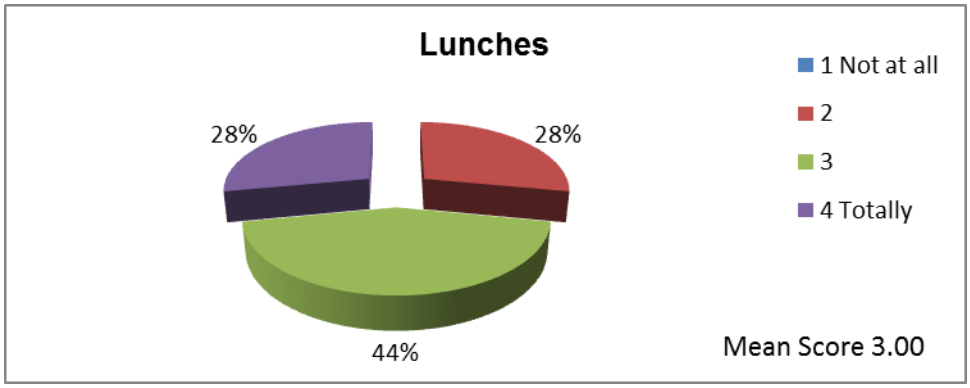
and discuss our own specific problems, which were narrow ones and weren't always relevant or even interesting. Maybe next time we could have a recent New Head give us their experience and talk about e.g. what he/she would have done differently!

Q3 – How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with each of the following aspects of the CPHC Conference?









Q4 – What benefits did you get out of the conference?

- Interesting discussions and good to extend network of contacts
- Meeting other new heads
- Meeting some other heads.
- Network with colleagues
- Networking.
- Networking, plans for the future.
- Networking. Finding out what other people were doing about things. Calibrating where my department was against them. Finding out about new trends, new legislation that was important etc.
- The main benefit is meeting with colleagues to compare notes. Getting a sense of sector wide views on a number of topics was most useful especially where CS is chastised within our own institutions such as for poor dropout rates, lower NSS scores and of course the employability debate.
- This was my first meeting and it was good to see the people who come to the meeting. Some talks were really good and interesting.
- Usual networking, meeting old friends, etc.
- Very interested to hear more about CAS. Good to meet and chat to Computing colleagues.

Q5 – If you have any further comments about how the conference could be different or improved please comment:

- Maybe a session on important new trends in computing education that we need to be aware of.
- More BCS input
- Nothing against panels as such, but they need to be much more focused.
- Perhaps it would make sense to have separate discussions about issues that emerge in the three tiers of UK HE, namely large research-intensive universities (~Russell Group), research-oriented smaller universities (~pre 92 smaller universities), and teaching focused universities (~post 92 universities). While this implies a division, it also recognizes the existing differences between these three groups of universities. Ignoring these differences can often make discussions sterile, as the common ground of issues across these three groups of universities may be very limited, or alternatively the discussion can become dominated by the interests of the largest group, i.e. the teaching focused universities. The separate discussions could be held serially such that everybody can take part in all of them, but the discussions would be led by the participants from the relevant group of universities.
- The “new heads” workshop could be more interactive – it is mostly just presentation from the front.

- The venue of catering lunch and tea was a bit congested and did not help talk to people more freely….more space please next time.
- This was my first CPHC conference and was broadly what I expected.

Technical notes on research method:

- This survey was conducted on-line by BCS among delegates of the CPHC Conference.
- A total of 18 responses were received during the period 25th April to 12th May 2014, a response rate of 38%.
- Where responses do not sum to 100% for single response questions, this is normally because the 'no replies' to individual questions are included in the calculations, but not displayed.
- Where these are obvious, spelling mistakes and grammatical errors to verbatim comments have been corrected.