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Subject: IIBA UK Chapter - July Update

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July 2008 Update

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Welcome to the IIBA UK Chapter - July Update

I've taken over responsibility for organising events for the IIBA UK chapter. As a BA working in local government it has been great working with the IIBA board as it's a good reflection of the diversity of the BA profession. We work in many different fields including investment banking, local government, automotive industry, IT software houses, education provider and the building industry. That diversity is also shown in the different range of skills we need to master.

The IIBA evening events show how much BA's have in common regardless of your industry. The events have informative talks, provide plenty of time for debate and discussion so you have an opportunity to relate your experiences and a great opportunity to meet people.

At the July meeting we will have the company of two great speakers. The internationally renowned requirements guru Suzanne Robertson from the [Atlantic Systems Guild](#) will talk about crucial factors that make a difference to your requirements effectiveness in her talk **"Requirements-the Seven Pillars of Wisdom"**.

Michael Brown, principal consultant at [Matchett's](#), will talk about **"Dealing with Conflict"**. Michael will be using the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator and is offering free tests to volunteers so he can discuss the results at the meeting. The first 5 people registered for the event that also email me (james_archer@uk.theiiba.org) will get to take the test for free. This meeting is likely to be over subscribed so please book now by following this link: [IIBA July event](#)

Future speakers include Neil Maiden, Head of Human-Computer Interface Design at City University talking about "Creativity in requirements gathering" and independent consultant and author Ian Alexander who describes his job as "I get people to tell the stories of what their systems are meant to do, so they build the right thing" will talk on "Discovering Requirements". There will also be some case studies and as always plenty of time for discussion.

As the UK chapter we have run a successful meeting in Cambridge but we want to see regular events around the country, if you are interested in an event in your city please contact me.

James Archer

July Networking Event in London

Wed 30th July 2008

Our next London event is going to be held at the British Computer Society in Covent Garden, London.

Event Agenda

6:30pm	Meet & greet
6:45pm	Welcome & Introduction
6:50pm	“Dealing with Conflict” <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Michael Brown (Matchett)
7:30pm	“Seven crucial factors that make a difference to requirements effectiveness” <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Suzanne Robertson (Atlantic Systems Guild)
8:10pm	Questions & answers
8:30pm	Networking opportunities

Register for this event now by going to the [Next Events](#) page on the IIBA UK Chapter website.

A CBAP story – experiences from the first UK exam

Like many of you, our UK Chapter president Martyn Wilson has recently gone through the CBAP application process – in fact he was one of the early pioneers that sat their CBAP exam on the 13th June in St Albans. To encourage other people to follow in his steps he’s written a short story telling you about his CBAP experience. This can be found on the [Resources](#) page of our website.

We’re pleased to say that Martyn did indeed pass the CBAP exam – if you’ve also recently sat your CBAP exam and wish to share your comments or your story please email info@uk.theiiba.org.

Finding Benefits in the IIBA

The following was written by Miles Barker, a member of the Chapter Board and advocate of the IIBA:

“I joined the IIBA in January of 2008, on the recommendation of a colleague who had been active in the IIBA in the US.

I have previously derived great benefits from BA forums within my company, as it’s great to discuss issues with someone who may have faced them before, but who can look at your department or project from the outside. The networking and discussion opportunities of the IIBA provide even more of this, and on a whole higher level.

A major part of my role is to bring BA best practices into Credit Suisse, and to evaluate training offerings against external benchmarks. In particular, I am responsible within my department for defining best practice, standardising across teams, and QAing analysis deliverables.

Through the IIBA I have already made a number of useful contacts, and seen some thought-provoking speakers and been able to quiz them first-hand. For example, I attended a talk from another institution which had re-built their BA organisation, and was able to discuss my situation with them and get tips on key problems to avoid.

More generally, participating in the IBA has opened my eyes to what’s out there, and to the degree of thought that has gone into the leading edge of the BA profession. For example, one speaker at a recent event referred to a paper from the MIT Sloan Review, which when I read the full text, gave me a powerful backing for some of the BA and project processes I am lobbying to introduce.

Another speaker with extensive experience in BA training gave me some powerful insights into the SFIA framework, which I have then been able to use to benchmark our internal career development standards.

Another part of my role has been to standardise interviewing of BA candidates within my department, and I have been able to validate my interview processes and standards with external recruiters, again through

contact made at the IIBA.

So, I can already say I've derived huge benefits from the IIBA in just six months, and I'm looking forward to further advances as I follow the leads I've already found, and explore new ones. You can do the same!"

Many thanks for reading

IIBA UK Chapter

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