

BMVA News

The Newsletter of the British Machine Vision Association and
Society for Pattern Recognition

Volume 13 Number 1
September 2002

Editor: Professor Roy Davies
Department of Physics
Royal Holloway, University of London
Egham, Surrey, TW20 0EX
tel: +44(0)1784 443497
fax: +44(0)1784 472794
email: e.r.davies@rhul.ac.uk

<http://www.bmva.ac.uk/>

BMVA News¹ is published every three months. Contributions on any activity related to machine vision or pattern recognition are eagerly sought. These could include reports on technical activities such as conferences, workshops or other meetings. Items of timely or topical interest are also particularly welcome; these might include details of funding initiatives, programmatic reports from ongoing projects and standards activities. Items for the next edition should reach the editor by 30 November 2002.

Contents

Editorial.....	1
Annual Report of Activities.....	2
New BMVA Executive Committee	2
Prizes at BMVC 2002.....	3
Sullivan Doctoral Thesis Prize	3
BMVA Distinguished Fellow 2002	3
IEE Conference – VIE 2003.....	4
Mike Brady gets his Award!.....	4
Be In*spire*d – Come to BMVC 2003.....	5
IPOT 2003 – Call for Demonstrations!	5

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Message from Richard Bowden.....	5
ICPR 2004	6

Editorial

In BMVA we have fought long and hard to ensure that Machine Vision is centre stage, so that there are many opportunities for workers to get together to present their work and to discuss the important issues of the day. We hold an annual conference and a good number of 1-day meetings during the year. We also have ‘offshoot’ meetings such as the Medical Image Understanding and Analysis (MIUA) series of 2-day conferences, and the latter have by now become nearly free-standing. In addition, we try to promote some events via collaborations (as with the RSS), and last but not least we set the scene and encourage other bodies such as the IEE to put on further conferences. In this last case we feel we can take some credit for the fact that after the demise of the earlier IPA series of conferences, the IEE is at last putting on a new-style Visual Information Engineering Conference next July (see announcement inside).

As I have remarked several times on these pages, there is a need to hold several conferences in the vision area, as BMVC is a single track conference and there simply isn’t the time to allow all topics to be aired: important areas such as image coding, image processing, image acquisition and real-time hardware don’t get a proper look in, and the VIE conference should at least ease the situation. However, this is not the end of our successes, and we have recently been successful in bringing ICPR to these shores. This has been a long battle dating back at least to

the 1980s, and it is very laudable that our standing in the world has now permitted this to happen.

These developments mean that there is suddenly a plethora of conferences that we will be able to attend in the UK over the next 2–3 years: let's hope we will be able to take good advantage of this and produce enough home-grown papers to populate them all. Equally important, let's hope we will obtain sufficient funding to attend them.

Interestingly, one might think that it would be difficult to find enough impressive venues to house all these conferences. However, this has not proved a problem: Cardiff, Guildford, Norwich and Cambridge all have their fair share of splendid architecture, including an impressive number of domes and dreamy spires, so we can be happy on that score as well as academically.

Professor Roy Davies
Editor, BMVA News
email: e.r.davies@rhul.ac.uk

Annual Report of Activities

Last year was another successful year for BMVA. Things went smoothly and we maintained the level of our membership (600) as well as the level of our activities. Our finances have been very healthy, so we are able to maintain our subscription rate at £20 and £10 for students.

Our presence in IPOT was again well organised with demos presented by our members. In addition, reports and articles were written on behalf of BMVA, for promoting computer vision among users, commissioned for example by DTI. BMVA participated actively in the Outreach programme of DTI with several members giving presentations, and BMVA contributing to the publicity material.

Three successful technical meetings were organised by Dr Daniel Alexander, our technical meetings organiser:

Date: 23/1/02. Mathematical Models in Computer Vision. Chair: Maria Petrou. Location: RSS. Attendance: 85 participants.

Date: 6/3/02. Advanced Biometric Technology. Chairs: Josef Kittler and Mark Nixon. Location: RSS. Attendance: 70 participants.

Date: 8/5/02. Machine Vision and Photogrammetry – a case for multiple viewpoints? Chairs: Tim Ellis

and Stuart Robson. Location: RSS. Attendance: 30 participants.

Two meetings for the forthcoming year have already been underway:

Date: 27/11/02. Designing Vision Systems. Chairs: Adrian Clark and Aaron Sloman. Location: RSS.

Date: 29/1/03. Reverse Engineering the human vision system. Biologically inspired vision approaches. Chair: Maria Petrou. Location: RSS.

Preliminary preparations for ICPR 2004 in Cambridge are well under way.

BMVA covered a significant part of the expenses of producing a software programme for conference organisation. The programme is called CAWS and it was developed by the Manchester University team. It can be freely downloaded for use by our members. For more information please contact Prof Chris Taylor (chris.taylor@man.ac.uk).

Last year during the Annual General Meeting our members requested a web site aimed at attracting undergraduate students for doing research in Computer Vision. The web page has now been created and people can inspect it as part of the main BMVA web page, and send their feedback comments to Dr Majid Mirmehdi (m.mirmehdi@cs.bris.ac.uk), our publicity officer.

During the past year we have also lobbied EPSRC for allowing student grants to be filled by EU citizens, so that we have more flexibility in the choice of students.

Now, with another successful BMVC behind us, we are all looking ahead now to a new successful academic year!

Professor Maria Petrou
BMVA Chairman
email: m.petrou@surrey.ac.uk

New BMVA Executive Committee

The executive committee of BMVA consists of ten members, five of which are elected every year with a two-year rotation period. This year there were five nominations for the five positions that became vacant and so no election took place. So, the elected members of the new committee are:

Dr R Bowden, Dr M Chantler, Dr A Clark, Dr T Cootes, Prof R Davies, Dr T Ellis, Prof J Kittler, Dr D Marshall, Prof M Petrou and Dr Charles Taylor.

Prof Chris Taylor remains as the ex-officio secretary of the BMVA Company, and Dr Majid Mirmehdi the co-opted publicity officer.

In its efforts to broaden its basis, BMVA, in addition to the elected members of the committee, it also co-opts certain other members. So, in addition to the above names, the executive committee also includes Dr Courtney from VAL of Manchester University, Dr Gilby from Sira, Dr Pollard from Hewlett Packard, Dr Fitzgibbon and Dr Siebert, who represents the Scottish Chapter and the Imaging Faraday partnership.

Prizes at BMVC 2002

Over the years BMVA has created a series of prizes for the BMVC papers in order to stimulate and encourage high quality submissions and presentations. Six such prizes were distributed this year. The prizes for BMVC 2002, which were awarded during the banquet, are listed below.

The best poster prize went to M Brown and D Lowe from the University of British Columbia, for their poster "Invariant features from Interest Point Groups". The prize is worth £250 and is awarded to the best poster judged by members of the programme committee for its aesthetic appearance, clarity and content.

The best demonstration prize was awarded to F Jurie and M Dhome from Blaise Pascal University, for their demo on "Real time robust template matching". The prize is worth £250.

For the second year running Image Metrics plc sponsored a prize for the best Model-Based Vision paper. It is worth £500 and this year it was awarded to R Lockton and A Fitzgibbon from Oxford University, for their paper "Real time gesture recognition using deterministic boosting".

The Industry prize is awarded to the paper that is most industrially relevant and is sponsored by CRS (Computer Recognition Systems). It was increased to £600 this year and it was awarded to G S W Klein and T W Drummond from Cambridge University for their paper "Tightly integrated sensor fusion for robust visual tracking". CRS has been sponsoring this prize for several years now.

The Science prize, awarded to the best paper from the scientific point of view, also worth £600, was this year awarded to J Matas, O Chum, M Urban and T Pajdla from Czech Technical University in Prague, for their paper "Wide baseline stereo from maximally stable extremal regions".

Finally, this year we had another prize, generously offered by the Imaging Faraday Partnership, for the work that most deserves help with exploitation. It is worth £500 and it was awarded to A J Fitch, A Kadyrov, W J Christmas and J Kittler from Surrey University, for their work on "Orientation correlation". At the banquet the prize was presented by Dr Andrew Crookell of Sira (see photograph overleaf).

Sullivan Doctoral Thesis Prize

The Sullivan doctoral thesis prize this year was awarded to **Chi Shing Chung** for his PhD thesis entitled "Vessel and Aneurysm Reconstruction using Speed and Flow Coherence Information in Phase Contrast Magnetic Resonance Angiograms". This was a thesis from Oxford University, supervised by Dr Alison Noble.

The prize is awarded to the best thesis that has been examined during the calendar year prior to the BMVC at which it is awarded and it is given, with a cheque for £300, during the BMVC banquet. BMVA is already soliciting nominations for next year's prize among theses that have been examined during the calendar year 2002.

BMVA Distinguished Fellow 2002

BMVA created this special award in order to honour some of the most prominent members of our community in recognition of their services. It was decided that every year, one person, and only one person, will be awarded the title of the BMVA Distinguished Fellow. BMVA is very pleased to announce that this year's Distinguished Fellow is Professor Josef Kittler from Surrey University.

Professor Maria Petrou
BMVA Chairman
email: m.petrou@surrey.ac.uk



International Conference on Visual Information Engineering – VIE 2003

Ideas, Applications, Experience

7–9 July 2003, University of Surrey, Guildford, UK
<http://conferences.iee.org.uk/VIE2003>

VIE 2003 is the first in a new series of conferences addressing the converging areas that together make the field of visual information engineering. The conference brings together researchers, developers, creators, educators, and practitioners in image processing, machine vision, computer graphics and visual communications to share their latest achievements and explore future directions and synergies in these exciting areas.

Click on the web link above to see how you can submit a paper and be a part of VIE 2003.

Organised by the Visual Information Engineering Professional Network (PN). Find out more and register now at <http://www.iee.org/pn>

IEE
 Savoy Place, London, WC2R 0BL
 email: emaycock@iee.org.uk

Mike Brady gets his Award!

At last we have been able to make a presentation to our 2001 Distinguished Fellow, Professor Mike Brady. Above you will see Maria Petrou making the award, with Mike quizzically wondering how many bottles of champagne will be required to fill it! More seriously, Mike made one of his exemplary speeches after the dinner. One point that stuck in my mind was his memory that in the ‘olden days’ processing a single image was sufficient to get you an MSc, while two images were sufficient for a PhD. Nowadays our guidelines to BMVC referees indicate that 100 or so images may be sufficient for a single paper, though Mike didn’t actually mention a number. No doubt it depends on whether your research involves monitoring rare events, which in medical imagery (Mike’s specialty) could happen once in 100,000 images.

Professor Roy Davies
 Editor, BMVA News
 email: e.r.davies@rhul.ac.uk



Be In*spire*d – Come to BMVC 2003

BMVC comes to the University of East Anglia in Norwich in 2003. As usual we shall be looking for high quality substantial submissions. The website is <http://www.sys.uea.ac.uk/bmvc2003/> where you can follow announcements about invited speakers and special events. The conference will be held on 9–11 September 2003 with a tutorial day on Monday 8 September. Norwich is a popular holiday destination and you can extend your stay over the weekend – the website contains travel details and other venue information.

Dr Richard Harvey
University of East Anglia
email: r.w.harvey@uea.ac.uk

IPOT 2003 – Call for Demonstrations!

Every year, the Image Processing and Optical Technology (IPOT) exhibition takes place in the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham. In recent years, it has run concurrently with the Machine Vision Exhibition, and the next event will be on 12–13 February 2003. This exhibition brings together manufacturers and potential users of image processing and vision systems.

BMVA supports this event and all our members receive a ticket for free entry distributed with the December issue of the Newsletter. BMVA also has a

stand at IPOT and the opportunity is given to our members to demonstrate their work there. BMVA covers the travel expenses for participation to IPOT, as well as some modest expenses for transporting equipment there if necessary. Up to four demos will be accepted, which will run for at least half a day each. If you are interested in showing your work at IPOT 2003, please contact me at the address below to register your interest. You may also find it useful to refer to IPOT's website:

IPOT: <http://www.ipot.com>

Dr Majid Mirmehdi
BMVA Publicity Officer
University of Bristol
email: majid@cs.bris.ac.uk

Message from Richard Bowden

Dear BMVA member

Most of you should be aware of the BMVA mailbase that we run in order to keep you up to date with last minute news about meetings and BMVA news. However, sometimes people join and fall through the net (so to speak) and therefore some may not be aware of this service. It is also worth noting that should problems arise with your email, the system will automatically remove you after prolonged delivery failures. If you're not currently a member of the mailbase we would urge you to visit <http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/bmva.html> and join today. We're all wary of subscribing to spam so we keep mail to an absolute minimum with typically



only 2–3 postings per month. The list is moderated so you are assured of only receiving official postings.

Many thanks
Rich

Dr Richard Bowden
University of Surrey
email: r.bowden@surrey.ac.uk

ICPR 2004

The ICPR conference takes place every two years and is attended by an average of 1000 leading scientists and industrialists in the field. ICPR 2004, the next one in the series, will be in Cambridge, UK from 23 to 26 August 2004. Many companies in the past have sponsored ICPR conferences, such as: Microsoft Research, Hewlett Packard, Matrox Imaging, Coreco Imaging, Bell Canada, nationally local companies, and local state or city councils.

If your organisation is interested in sponsoring the conference please contact:

For further details see the Conference website at:
<http://www.ee.surrey.ac.uk/icpr04/>

Dr Majid Mirmehdi
ICPR 2004 Publicity Chair
email: m.mirmehdi@cs.bris.ac.uk

Last view of Cardiff after leaving BMVC 2002.
This picture displays the City Hall with its famous clock tower, and the National Museum of Wales, a magnificent marble building, on the right.

See the BMVA website for further up-to-date information on BMVA activities:

<http://www.bmva.ac.uk/>