

Treasurer's Report to the Annual Conference of Local Dental Committees 2007

An interesting year for me personally, and I'm sure future years will be more challenging if the DoH and WAG cannot fulfil their pre-contract pledges in relation to the collection of levies. Fortunately, Conference maintains a good reserve of funds which does allow me some leeway in not pushing struggling LDCs too hard when they cannot pay their subscriptions to Conference because their own levies are not being collected. The actual accounts will be tabled at Conference because at the time of writing this report they have not been audited. However I can say that income and expenditure are reasonably constant and once again, we have made a small surplus due to the support of our sponsors, for which I would like to thank them on behalf of Conference.

Subscriptions:

This time last year, John Crocker reported that not all LDCs had paid their previous year's subscriptions. I can report that not only were those subscriptions collected, but all the 2006 subscriptions were collected before the end of 2006. The bank balance at 31st October 2006 was £70,171. This is approximately £1000 less than the accounts last year, but is due to the fact that although there was a surplus last year, not all the subscriptions were paid before the end of the financial year. Could I please ask all LDCs to pay their invoices promptly upon receipt, or at least contact me if you are having difficulties in paying on time. The large reserve does enable the Agenda Committee to fund a special Conference if required.

LDC Official's Day:

I have been processing the expense claims for the Official's Day in December, where Conference reimburses the travelling expenses of one delegate per LDC. To date I have paid out over £7500, yet £1850 of this was for overnight accommodation. It has always been my understanding that the Official's Day started late to avoid the need for overnight stays for most delegates. The Agenda Committee has therefore determined that overnight accommodation costs would normally only be reimbursed if a delegate needs to start their journey before 6:30am. It would also help Conference if those delegates, who were staying overnight, booked their train tickets in advance to take advantage of lower fares.

Website:

As you are aware, the Agenda Committee has started its own website to facilitate the flow of information and reduce stationery and mailing costs. The website has already attracted 3 sponsors in its first year, so we are covering the initial set-up costs. It is the Agenda Committee's intention to use the website for the bulk of future mailings, and if you have not already registered I encourage you to do so at www.ldcuk.org The claim form for this conference can be downloaded from the website, and if you do this before Conference, it will not delay the reimbursement of your expenses.

Hotel Accommodation:

Despite our best efforts we were unable to negotiate a room rate that matched our budget. For this year only, the Agenda Committee has increased the maximum allowance for hotel accommodation to £120. Conference only settles accounts directly for LDC Representatives, as last year 20 Observers were added to our bill and I had to write to the LDCs concerned to claim refund for the hotel bill I settled on their behalf. Please ensure that your status at the hotel is clear as I have instructed the hotel that Conference will only be settling the accounts of LDC representatives.

I will be happy to take questions on the day, and I will be honoured to continue as Treasurer if duly elected by Conference.



Tim Harker

Conference Treasurer

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