

Financial Report for Council Meeting – 30 April 2011

All Scottish Chess Leagues have affiliated and, with the exception of Glasgow, all are showing an increase in the numbers playing or have maintained the same numbers as the previous year. Four associations have also affiliated to date and a fifth has indicated they will be affiliating shortly. However, no fee was received from The British Universities Chess Association despite repeatedly intimating they wished to affiliate. A total of 38 clubs have affiliated for current season with one club's fee still outstanding.

Grading fees are overdue from a number of events and one club has yet to pay their tournament entry fees. Once again we have received a number of donations with some of the donors wishing to remain anonymous. Overall our income for the same period is lower than last year but hopefully this should change once I have the full year's figures. Expenditure for most areas will be in line with budget expectations except for two areas, Schools and Insurance, where costs were lower than anticipated. This has allowed the re-allocation of some of the money to include giving assistance to Alan Tate with his tournament entry fees for two events. Despite requests to FIDE no refund was received for the additional travel costs incurred to the Olympiad last year. The Law Society of Scotland continued their sponsorship of the Secondary Allegro Team Championships, which took place last month. I have still to receive costs for the Richardson and Spens and April, being the end of the fiscal period is normally a month when I receive many expense claims but I'm not aware of any nasty surprises.

Despite the support from Lanarkshire Council, Lord Kirkwood and other donations last year's Scottish Chess Championships in Hamilton, was not a financial success. Although costs were kept to a minimum there was a deficit of over £1,600. We did have reserves to cover this amount but it is essential that we try to find a generous sponsor to allow this to be the prestigious event it should be.

The Management Board decided that we should not replace two trophies, at least not in the meantime, the MacIsaac and Nancy Elder trophies. The Elder trophy was taken out of the country by a previous winner who can't now be traced and the MacIsaac which has no space for any further engraving and is missing the engraved plinth. A further two trophies have been missing for some time and so far have not be traced, the Murray Johnstone Lightning Trophy and the Scottish Girls Championship Cup. Chess Scotland also hold a number old clocks Garde, Coldfield and Russian, that haven't been used for some time and a decision should be made as to how they could be utilised.

During the year I submitted reports, including our grant application, to the Scottish Government and I'm pleased to report that they have agreed to continue our grant at the same level for the next financial period.

Last year I looked into the possibility of subscriptions being paid by monthly direct debits. Although there are additional costs and work for somebody it is a possibility if the numbers justified it, at least 100 would be required. The figure of 100 might not be so easy to achieve as we have about 150 basic members plus junior members where it isn't really practical to pay by monthly DD. Any decision on this was put on hold until we knew if our grant application was going to be accepted.

Budget

Based on the estimated expenditure required by the various directors for next season I think we can limit any increases to the adult membership and the MacIsaac/Elder fee which was reduced last year. I therefore propose that the adult membership fee and MacIsaac/Elder fee should be increased by one pound with Life increasing in line. Junior subscriptions and all other fees to remain unchanged.

However one anomaly has come to light over the past year regarding the Adult/Junior membership fee. This fee was meant to encourage all the juniors in a family into chess and was based on one adult plus any number of juniors living at the same address. Somewhere along the line it has been interpreted to include any number of adults from the same address. This means that 2 adults are paying £3.50 less if they take out an Adult/Junior subscription and any juniors have free membership. I would like to limit the Family/Junior subscription to 1 adult plus any juniors as originally intended. If more than one adult is included in this type of membership then I think we should substantially increase this fee but I think that would be unfair on those where there is only one adult. Currently this affects about ten households but this is going to increase as more and more juniors change from junior to adult players.

Unfortunately two funds which have been used to award prizes over many years are becoming depleted. The Walter Munn Fund which supports the Junior Grand Prix has only funds for a further year. The MacDonald Fund which supports the Player of the Year has funds for about three further years. Chess Scotland continues to support the Grand Prix financially with monetary prizes and engraving and postage costs.

The proposed budget and fees for 2011-12 follow and I put these forward for acceptance by the Council.

Mac McKenzie