

UKUUG Treasurer's Report - AGM 2007

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The year-end accounts for 2006 have been published on the UKUUG website.

The accounts for 2006 show UKUUG made a small but not insignificant loss. Council explicitly decided to invest in a new position of UKUUG General Manager, to do more efficiently and effectively some of the actions previously done by Council. Calendar year 2006 incurred all the setup and initial expenses, although it was (and is) intended to be a self-funding position, raising more corporate and sponsoring memberships to cover costs and spend a substantial chunk of time working on improving and maintaining relationships with those contacts. This will, and evidence from the early part of 2007 has shown does, bring significant benefits to UKUUG. This position and method should be reviewed by the new Council as a matter of course, not to make substantial changes, but to look at what hasn't worked, what has, and do more of the latter and less of the former.

2006 again included a highly successful Winter Conference primarily organised by Ray Miller and another well attended Linux conference, once again organised by Alasdair Kergon, to whom UKUUG owes a continuing debt of immense and increasing gratitude for the work he puts in, every year, without fail.

UKUUG Council is committed to investing the UKUUG funds wisely and looking after the reserves for the benefit of members and the long term interest of the group, whilst also looking at new projects. While investment in the setup up of ongoing projects is vital, they must be self-financing in the medium term through direct or indirect income. Overall, 2006 was a mixed year for UKUUG, although the group remains in a healthy financial position.

At the very end of 2006, we were exceptionally unfortunate to lose Ray Miller from Council and his work as Chair. His activities for the Group over the last years have been of outstanding quality, and it was a pleasure to work alongside him. His departure left a unfilled hole in the Council.

1 Some comments about 2007

Fewer Council meetings again reduced our Council travel bill, however the value of such meetings is high, and, especially given the coming handover.

UKUUG has an extremely rich history since it was founded in 1976. Much of that history is contained in paper proceedings and presentations kept at the UKUUG office. Using these papers as reference is only currently possible by individual photocopies of documents specifically requested (there have been some). Putting this incredibly valuable and useful resource online for the community as a record of both UKUUG and Unix history should become a project to be completed before AGM 2008. However, funding this scanning process is likely to be a substantial project and not something that UKUUG is likely to be able to afford alone.

2 Future

This is likely to be my last report to the Group as Treasurer, as this time next year, Alain Williams, and I both reach our term limits and stand down from Council after two terms on Council. This constitutes a loss to Council in terms of seniority, experience, time and direction. It would denote a substantial failure on the part of myself and Alain to do this handover abruptly in September 2008. After each new Council is elected, a Chairman and Treasurer are selected from Council. Staggering the Chairman and Treasurer handover should hopefully minimise impact on UKUUG activities. We expect that Jane will continue to do her usual outstanding job of ensuring that UKUUG activities happen - the vast majority of what works well and is good about UKUUG has her fingerprints all over it.

And finally, it has been a great pleasure to serve the Group on Council for the past 6 years. For those with any interest in UNIX or the related world and technologies, which are far broader now than they were 6 years ago, UKUUG is a fantastic opportunity to engage in areas of mutual interest, and develop a vast amount of goodwill and contacts to further those interests and aims.