

UKUUG Treasurer Report

Sam Smith and Howard Thomson

UKUUG AGM 2008

The year-end accounts for 2007 have been published on the UKUUG website.

In advance of standing down from UKUUG council at this AGM, Sam Smith submitted his resignation as treasurer and Director of UKUUG on the 6th July 2008, with the a new treasurer being appointed on 24th July when Howard Thomson took over. Handover will have taken place by the time you read this.

The accounts show UKUUG overall made a small profit, although it should be borne in mind that the profit of 722 on the year was the total of an operating deficit hidden by a 4,000 profit from the most successful Linux Conference UKUUG has ever run.

Alasdair Kergon deserves significant credit for running the Linux conference, which being attached to the worldwide Linux Developer Summit, hosted many of the luminaries of the linux world, including Linus himself. Alasdair is once again owed a continuing debt of immense and increasing gratitude for the work he puts in, every year, without fail. The impact of the Linux conference on the UKUUG membership can be seen by the apparent reduction in members for this calendar year - as the linux conference is not until November (so August comparative figures don't yet include the boost from conference derived memberships).

Over the last months, UKUUG has felt the loss of Mike Banahan's presence on Council due to pressures of other work. His input was always valuable and often uniquely insightful.

The position of "UKUUG General Manager" discussed at the 2007 AGM has been significantly altered to work effectively based on initial experiences. While some poorly defined areas were not likely to become viable in or beyond the medium term, Sunil had very great and immediate success in liaising with sponsoring members of UKUUG. This was recognised, greatly appreciated, and the role modified to be "UKUUG Liaison Officer". The significant ongoing success of that activity is reflected by the fact that UKUUG now has 3 sponsoring members - IBM, Novell and Sun. We thank them for their support, and Sunil for his work as Liaison Officer, which enables UKUUG to continue and strengthen the whole range of its activities

One attempt this year was to run more events by appointing an events manager to develop and run a series of 1 day seminars on a range of areas (which ended up being: Files & Backup, "Databases and the web"). This was not a financially successful endeavour and cost a significant amount of, most importantly, time, and additionally resources with events that should have made a significant profit barely breaking even,

and should not be repeated. While one day seminars work, there needs to be a level of interest in the events themselves from the organiser, whose motivations should be aligned with UKUUG's medium and longer term interests. Simply paying someone to run events doesn't necessarily lead to events which enhance UKUUG.

Other events included the extremely well received OpenTech (coming again in 2009), and the first in a series of one day tutorials organised jointly with O'Reilly where profit and efforts are shared. This should help raise UKUUG's profile and revenues without significant extra effort, as UKUUG's main problem with most things we do is publicity. The 2008 spring conference was organised by John Pinner had a side event of the UK PostgreSQL conference organised by the UK postgres community. We will also be hosting EuroBSDCon 2009 next September in Cambridge.

In 2008, UKUUG has also switched to using a VOIP system (freeswitch run by Phil Hands) for regular council conference calls, which saves us a significant sum of money. Phil's setup also allows Council members who are not in front of a computer to be able to join the call by dialing a normal phone line. Thanks to Phil for this facility which has proved repeatedly very useful.

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, 2007 was a mixed year for UKUUG, although the group remains in a healthy financial position for the long term with reserves at or around their current levels.