

UKUUG Treasurer Report

Howard Thomson

UKUUG AGM September 24th 2009

The draft accounts for the year to 31 December 2008 have been made available on the website.

The accounts show a loss this year of around £20k, essentially all of which derives from the Council's decision to pursue a Judicial Review of the BSI's support for the OOXML fast track standardisation process, despite the lack of real consensus from BSI's Technical Committee.

The decision to apply for Judicial Review is more contentious in retrospect than it appeared to be at the time, and lessons have been learned in the areas of legal costs, unanimity of all Council Members rather than all those present, and the need for the involvement of and comment from the wider membership on this type of action, although noting that time was of the essence for this matter.

We have plans on which some, albeit limited, progress has been made, to substantially improve our website, to enable better member and community involvement in, and comment on, what we do. We would welcome suggestions as to how UKUUG's website could better serve the membership, our sponsors and the wider community, noting that we currently have one vacant place on the Council.

We held several events during the year, starting with Files and Backup in February, our Spring conference in Birmingham covering sysadmin tasks and scripting languages, run in conjunction with PostgreSQL, OpenTech in London in July, and our Linux technical conference, somewhat later in the year than usual, at Manchester in November. We also ran talks and tutorials on OpenMoko, Moodle and PF.

Attendance at conferences during the Credit Crunch year was down, particularly in November, but we have seen a recovery since in 2009, particularly at tutorials.

Membership numbers continue to be fairly stable at 342 as at September 2008 versus 338 (2007) and 329 (2009).

We continue to be supported by our sponsors, Novell, Sun and IBM, and thank other conference specific sponsors including Google, Transitive, Init Marketing, Osmosoft (BT), Bytemark and Competa IT for their help with events in 2008.

Phil Hands' VoIP system continues to benefit Council members for our phone conferences; thanks Phil !

As last year, UKUUG remains committed to investing its funds wisely and looking after the reserves for the benefit of its members and the long term interests of the group, whilst also looking at new projects. Long term stability is important, but we must also invest time and effort in adapting and improving our services to members to maintain our core aims as set out in the Memorandum of Association, including the advance and development of open computing systems, facilitating interaction between developers, and users, and helping to inform a wider audience.

My thanks to my fellow Council Members, Sunil Das and Jane Morrison for their efforts in the last year.