

## Treasurer's report to Annual Meeting 2012

Firstly, I would like to give you my apologies for not being available to give you this report in person: my work takes me abroad frequently and at short notice, and as I write this I am leaving for a week in Korea.

I have prepared two sheets for distribution at this meeting. One shows the number of paying adults at each of the events we have run during the four-year period that I have been treasurer. It shows that this year we had very similar attendances at the indoor events as last year, but a reduction of approx 10 in the average attendance at the events in Princes Street Gardens. The reasons for this will no doubt be debated elsewhere in the meeting.

The second sheet shows the formal accounts, with this year in the right hand column and 2011 shown for comparison in the left hand column. The accounts are not yet final, but I am not expecting them to change by more than a few pounds, so they provide a sound basis for any discussion you may wish to have.

I suggest you look first at the expenditure part of the accounts, which is the second block from the top. This shows that, as in previous years, almost all the expenditure is on venues and music. Unlike some other groups, we do not negotiate individually with bands and musicians, but offer a fixed amount of £250 to each band playing at PSG and £60 to each solo musician playing at the indoor events. We don't get the opportunity to negotiate the cost of hiring the Ross bandstand either, we get it at this price on a 'take it or leave it' basis, and the council says that we already get it at a reduced rate. None the less, the cost of hiring the bandstand is a very considerable part of our costs. In the event of wet weather, and providing we give enough notice, the cost of the Ross bandstand is reduced to £70 (apparently to pay for the technician).

The top section of the accounts gives our income. Most of this is from the £3.50 per adult gate money, but we have received 2 x £100 donations from other SCD groups in the neighbourhood, an anonymous donation of £20, and various small donations of the 'keep the change' variety.

Look now at the third section of the accounts. This gives the surplus or deficit from the various events. You will see that the events at the Ross bandstand lost some £1200 this year, due to a combination of insufficient attendances and high running costs. This is nothing new: these events have lost money every year for four years in my personal experience. However, the indoor events are much cheaper to run, and the halls are near full, resulting in a surplus over the year sufficient to cover the losses at the Ross and the other costs of running the organisation. Thus, discounting the donations, we had a surplus of £182 over the year. Counting the donations, the surplus is £417.

Thus, from a financial point of view, the year has been satisfactory.

The above figures allow for the costs of running the dancing after this meeting, and assume we will get no income from this evening – so not only are we in surplus, but we are providing a little bonus to our supporters.

The final section of the accounts deal with the reserves – the money we hold in the bank which allows us to take on commitments for the future and would allow us to ride out a really bad year or two if we had them. These reserves sit at approx £9100, or roughly the cost of running the events for 1½ years.

Finally, after four years as treasurer. I am not standing for re-election at this meeting, partially

because I am too busy, but also because an organisation needs some turn-over on the committee to stay fresh. I will, of course cooperate fully with the newly-elected treasurer to ensure a smooth hand-over.

J D Nuttall  
1 September 2012