Officer Report – Treasurer 2021-22

This year saw some sort of return to normalcy after Covid, and we were able to resume some activity.

Budget 2021-22

As part of the budget cycle, we were given the option to use the same as our submission for 2020-21. We agreed to this. Unfortunately, due to our misunderstanding, what BCS had meant was if we wanted the same as our 2020-21 allocation, not submission. Since we knew that there will be no significant activity in 2020-21, I had not closely scrutinised our budget allocation. It turned out that BCS were expecting us to generate a surplus of £3837.59, rather than the normal scenario of having around £3000 to spend.

I raised this with Sarah Brice, our BCS liaison, on 19-Oct-2021 as soon as I became aware of it. It took a lot of time to discuss this with different people at BCS including a phone conversation with the Chair of the Community Board of Finance Committee on Sun 6-Mar-2022. In the end, we put in a Supplementary Funding Request to cover some travel expenses and decided to just let the year run its course, and apply correctly for the following (i.e. 2022-23) financial year.

Running Costs 2021-22

Our running costs for 2021-22 were £434.50 comprising travel expenses.

AGM and Annual Conference + Education Day 2021

We had a net expenditure of £2995.07 across the Education Day, AGM and Annual Conference. We raised £7432.39 from delegates and £2700 from sponsors. However, our expenditure was £13127.46. The main part of that was venue cost of £9346.15 across all 3 events. Huge congratulations to everyone on the committee who worked hard to make the conference such a success in terms of attendance and finance. Everyone appreciated seeing people face-to-face after such a long time.

Budget 2022-23

For the financial year 2022-23, we submitted a budget requesting an allocation of £8652 from the BCS covering £4400 for committee meetings, £700 for JGPTC/FCI meetings, £1500 for 3 ClicSIGs, £500 for John Perry Prize and £415 for Early Career Prize and BCS memberships for the winner/finalists, nothing else for the AGM and Annual Conference, and £1137 for the Education Day. We have been given an allocation of £1258.27! Part of the rationale is that most Specialist Groups and Branches tend not to spend all their allocation, and hence they want to hold a central pot that we can apply to using Supplementary Funding Requests for specific events.

The reduction was achieved through slashing travel for committee/JGPTC/FCI meetings and venue expenditure for the Education Day/Annual Conference while still expecting us to generate the budgeted income. We applied for funding for the Education Day, but that was turned down on the basis that it is a joint event with the Annual Conference which is chargeable, there is a single EventBrite registration portal and BCS has signed a single contract for the venue. We will keep a close eye on this event, and apply for additional funding for ClicSIGs and other events through the year.

Nilesh Jain, DSc MBCS CITP

October 2022