

# BACL Congress Secretary's Report

## 2019 Event, 2020 Cancellation and Prospects

### 2019 Event

We had another good year, though not entirely without its problems. We had a very good turnout, with 176 players registered (though six no-shows reduced this to 170). We also had some excellent publicity in the Bury Free Press and on the website for ChessBase India. The new website for the event was well received.

We lost a sponsor a couple of years ago, who was last year replaced on a "one time only" basis. We couldn't find a replacement for this time. As a result, finances were relatively tight, and prizes couldn't be as generous as in previous years. We were expecting to approximately break even, but in the event we made a small surplus. This was due in large part to rebates from PayPal relating to overcharging in previous years, which the accounts simply record in the entry fees received via PayPal for this year.

### 2020 Cancellation and Prospects Going Forwards

While it has proved to be an excellent venue, the Apex does not come cheap, and we were facing large increases in venue hire costs for 2020. Between that and the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 the financial viability of the event was very much in question. As such we decided it was necessary to cancel the event. Fuller details of our reasoning can be found on the congress website.

Please see the table below, which shows a breakdown of costs at the Apex since 2015 when I took over from Bob. The 2020 figures could have been even higher, prior to cancelled we'd negotiated a waiver of the charge for PA equipment and a reduction in relation to the use of tables.

Year	Venue	Change	PA	Tables	Total	Total Change
2015	£ 2,060.40		£ -	£ -	£ 2,060.40	
2016	£ 2,124.00	3%	£ -	£ -	£ 2,124.03	3%
2017	£ 2,150.40	1%	£ 96.00	£ 198.00	£ 2,444.41	15%
2018	£ 2,214.91	3%	£ 96.00	£ 216.00	£ 2,526.94	3%
2019	£ 2,304.00	4%	£ 96.00	£ 252.00	£ 2,652.04	5%
2020	£ 2,958.00	28%	£ -	£ 216.00	£ 3,174.28	20%

These increases are clearly not sustainable for an event such as ours and as such in addition to cancelling the 2020 event, we'll be looking for an alternative venue for 2021.

### Approach to Financial Risk Going Forwards

We obviously hope to hold a congress in 2021. However, given the possibility of significant financial losses in the event of a cancelled congress, the Executive proposes that the congress team submit a business plan to the Executive. This plan should assess the level of financial risk and outline actions being taken to mitigate those risks. If the Executive approves the plan, either as submitted or with alterations, the congress team would then run the event in accordance with that plan.

### **Online 2020 Event**

I may run an online event around the time the congress would have taken place. Cheat detection has been a major concern, especially if prizes are offered. As this is not an area in which I have any great expertise, we'd need to get outside assistance which would come at a cost. We would prefer to invest such funds in future over the board events. If I run an event, it will therefore be free to enter and with no prize money, though we may be able to secure some non-monetary prizes.

Steve Lovell, July 2020

## Bury St Edmunds Chess Congress 2019 Statement of Accounts

<b>Opening Balance</b>		<b>£ 1,186.08</b>
<b>Opening Creditors / Debtors</b>		<b>£ 2.80</b>
<b>Opening Creditors</b>		
Engraving	£ 7.20	
<b>Opening Debtors</b>		
Walls Charts - Paid for last year	£ 10.00	
<b>Effective Opening Balance</b>		<b>£ 1,188.88</b>
<b>Income</b>		<b>£ 5,431.85</b>
<b>Sponsorship</b>	£ 900.00	
Music Sales	£ 500.00	
British Sugar	£ 200.00	
BACL	£ 200.00	
<b>Entry Fees</b>	£ 4,531.85	
PayPal (includes Fees and Donations)	£ 3,564.85	
Cash / Cheque / Bank Transfer (includes Donations)	£ 967.00	
<b>Expenditure</b>		<b>£ 5,275.25</b>
<b>Venue Hire</b>	£ 2,652.00	
Main Hall	£ 2,304.00	
Tables	£ 252.00	
PA System	£ 96.00	
<b>Prize Money</b>	£ 2,070.00	
Advertised Prize Fund	£ 1,830.00	
Enhancements	£ 250.00	
Donated Prize	-£ 10.00	
<b>ECF Pay to Play Fees</b>	£ 144.00	
16 @ £9	£ 144.00	
<b>Insurance</b>	£ 101.48	
Public Liability Cover (£5m)	£ 101.48	
<b>Printing</b>	£ 125.99	
Entry Forms	£ 49.99	
Other Printing	£ 76.00	
<b>Other</b>	£ 181.78	
Web Hosting (Net)	£ 13.00	
Wall Charts	£ 10.00	
Engraving	£ 10.00	
Banqueting Roll	£ 15.45	
Secretary's Expenses	£ 10.00	
Director's Expenses	£ 90.00	
Lamp x2	£ 33.33	
<b>Net Surplus / Deficit</b>		<b>£ 156.60</b>
<b>Effective Balance</b>		<b>£ 1,345.48</b>
<b>Closing Creditors / Debtors</b>		<b>£ 215.00</b>
<b>Creditors</b>	£ 227.00	
Bob Stephens (Entry fee retained against 2020)	£ 27.00	
British Sugar 2020 Sponsorship	£ 200.00	
<b>Debtors</b>	£ 12.00	
In year webhosting costs	£ 12.00	
<b>Actual Balance (as at 27 April 2020)</b>		<b>£ 1,560.48</b>