

SI Cheshire, North Wales & Wirral Finance Report

I cannot believe how quickly my first year, as a Regional Officer, has gone by. Now that the plans for the Change of Insignia, on 7th November, are taking shape I have been reflecting on the learning curve and, although still 'petrified' that things might go wrong, I can say I've enjoyed acquiring a new skill.

The Queen Hotel Chester was a popular venue, at £36.00, and we had the benefit of twenty-four hours free parking to go into Chester afterwards if we wished! The Queen Hotel is offering us the same package and perks for 2027 at the same price as this year. We have booked it!

Our summer meeting, in July, was at The White House, Rhualt. It was the first time we had been to this venue. The day was sunny and we took several group photographs in their tiered garden. We paid £33.00 for this event and we received good feed-back. It has been booked for next year. Two taxi firms regularly pick up and return customers to Rhyl railway station and I have been told they are reasonably priced if you can share with others.

We were lucky to have booked our three Regional Officers and Reps meetings, at Stamford Gate, before they had considered raising the room hire cost from £25.00 per session. It is unfortunate that the price will increase for next year and I am awaiting details. We meet here three times a year and the venue is ideally placed for the current group of Officers and Reps.

At present we are meeting our annual running costs by using our reserves from previous years. We have had fewer speakers this year, which has kept overhead venue costs as low as possible. Our Region President's Honorarium (split 50/50 for 2 presidents) together with the cost of Stamford Gate is currently met from the Region levies, with only a small residual balance left over.

Bank

Balances at the time of writing are £3755.62. Included in this figure are the following items to be resolved :-

£105.00 paid to this account by a member in error,

£84.00 paid in on 14th September, which appears to be in error and is being followed up and two transactions, £15.00 SIGBI insurance and £25.00 Stamford Gate, to be repaid to W. Thompson. The Region online BACS would not function on the day these were paid.

Accounts

The accounts for the year ended 31 July 2026 have been prepared and the review and sign off is booked for 7th October. The accounts will be circulated to clubs after this date, ready for approval at the AGM.

Banking arrangements

The bank signatories will need amending with the change of officers. This is all covered in the regional financial governance policy for regional bank accounts which was agreed in January 2022 when we decided to first use online banking.

A ballot form will be circulated to clubs covering the voting on the accounts, appointment of independent examiner and approval of bank signatories, in advance of the AGM.

Change of Insignia

Registration forms and buffet menu will be circulated for the next Regional Meeting, at the Imperial Hotel, Llandudno on Saturday 07th November, as soon as the Hotel can provide the Winter Menu. There won't be a requirement to make menu choices. Please advise if you want a sales table at this event.

Wendy Thompson

18th September 2026