

Isles of Darkness Annual Report 2014 - 2015

This report covers the period from the last AGM (29th August 2014) until June 2015. The reporting period is shorter than the usual 12 months, due to the timings of the AGMs.

Board Membership 2014 - 2015

Lizz Jennings (Elected Board member and Chair)

Irina Goodwin (Elected Board member and Deputy Chair)

Boyd Evans (Selected Board member)

Raye Millington (Selected Board member)

Betty Osthoff (Co-opted Board member) (Stepped down)

Ian Fergusson (Co-opted Board member) (Stepped down)

The 2014 Board election failed to elect any additional members. We had two co-opted members of the Board step down in January – Betty Osthoff and Ian Fergusson.

The Board have met seven times in the period this report covers (October 2014, November 2014, December 2014, January 2015, March 2015 and April 2015).

As per the constitution, Lizz Jennings and Irina Goodwin will be stepping down and four new Board members will be elected in June. These new Board members will take office at the 2015 AGM.

Foreword

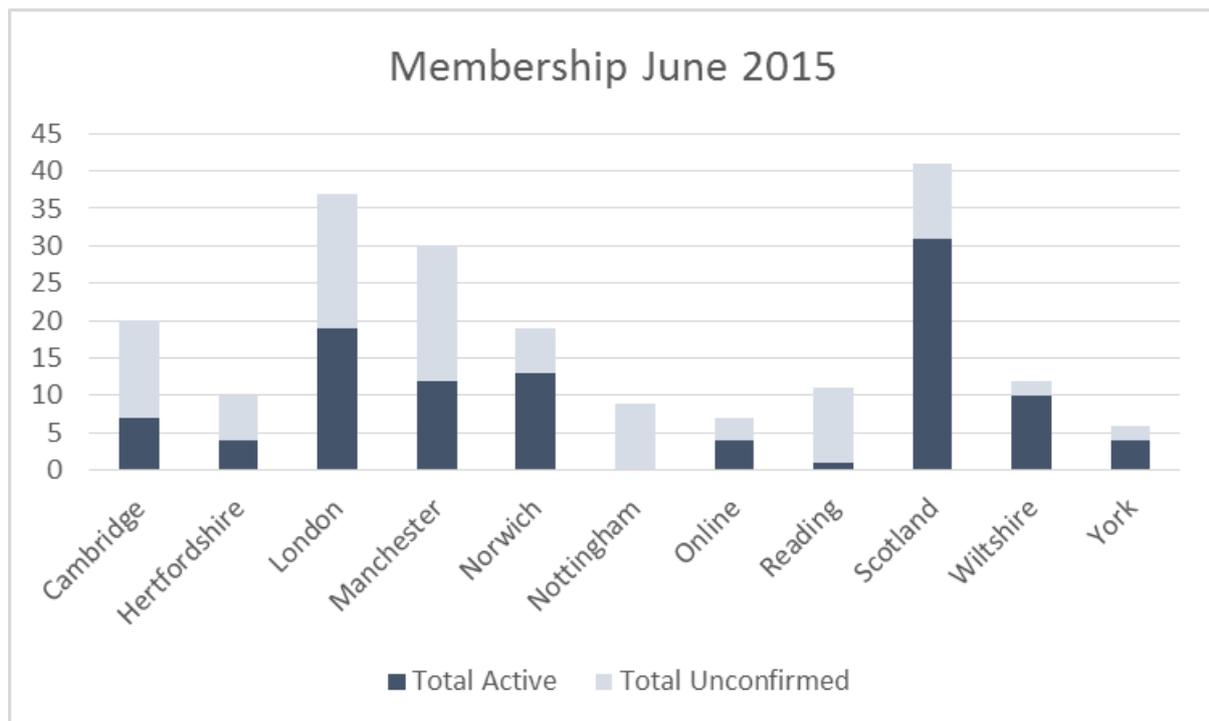
This year has seen huge changes in the Society, catalysed by the reset that formally started in May 2015, but which also generated a swathe of other changes in our structure and organisation.

Sadly Birmingham, Kent and Wakefield Domains chose not to continue with Isles of Darkness games following the reset, but York has returned.

Isles of Darkness Performance

Membership Numbers

To report on membership numbers during the renewal period is a risky business at best. As there are (at the time of writing) still two weeks to renew on time, figures below are probably not a realistic representation of the membership. The graph shows the split between confirmed 2015-16 membership and those still in current membership, but who have not confirmed their renewal.



At the time of taking this snapshot (6th June 2015), we had 104 confirmed members, and a further 97 members who have not yet renewed.

From April 2014 – March 2015, we gained 21 new members, of whom 5 have become full members, and 3 are still in their trial period. However, it's also worth noting that a further 15 new members have joined since April 2015, and Scotland deserve a special mention for recruiting over a third of these.

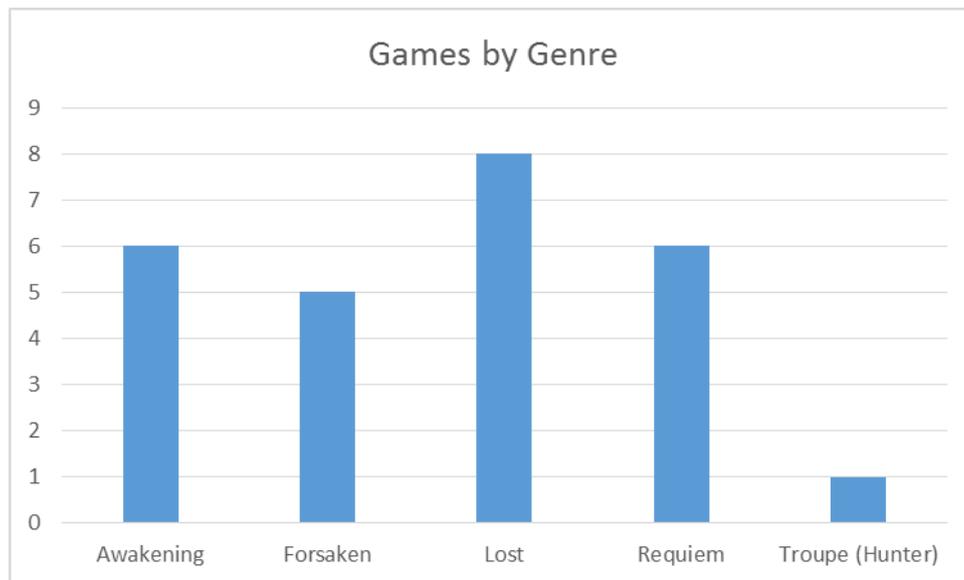
71 members did not renew last year.

As mentioned above, several Domains decided not to continue with games, and so their active members have transferred to other Domains. This means that comparisons of Domain membership are not useful this year.

Game and Domain Numbers

The reset has caused most Domains to consider their options, consolidating games in some areas. As a result we are running fewer games, and the reduction in the number of Domains has also had a negative impact in this area.

As of the last set of complete data, we have 26 games currently sanctioned, relatively evenly spread amongst the 4 main genres:



Volunteer Performance

As none of the post-reset games has run often enough to have a status, there is no report on Volunteer Performance at a Game or Domain level.

Report from the GM team

GM: GM: Fran Bleach & Pam Mellen Legacy: Ross Elmslie	UST: UST: Kat Abercrombie Legacy and aUST: Mark Quennell Addenda: Mark Quennell & Roderick Easton Inferno: Jodika Ripley
Lost: Lead: Bob Faulkner Legacy and aGST: Ross Howard Markets: Abi Brown Dreams: Becky Moody	Awakening: Lead: Cherrelle Clayton Legacy and aGST: James Moody aGST: Neill Cram
Forsaken: Lead: Jamie Smith & Paul King Legacy: Pending	Requiem: Lead: Hannah Bridgeman Legacy and aGST: Dani Blears

States of the Society since the last annual report:

Jul 2014 - http://wikis.islesofdarkness.com/index.php?title=NSTSummary_20140814

Aug 2014 - http://wikis.islesofdarkness.com/index.php?title=NSTSummary_20140909

Sep 2014 - http://wikis.islesofdarkness.com/index.php?title=NSTSummary_20141013

Oct 2014 - http://wikis.islesofdarkness.com/index.php?title=NSTMessage_20141108b

Nov 2014 - http://wikis.islesofdarkness.com/index.php?title=NSTSummary_20141211

Dec 2014 - http://wikis.islesofdarkness.com/index.php?title=NSTMessage_20150115

Jan 2015 - http://wikis.islesofdarkness.com/index.php?title=NSTSummary_20150212

Feb 2015 - http://wikis.islesofdarkness.com/index.php?title=NSTSummary_20150311

Mar 2015 - http://wikis.islesofdarkness.com/index.php?title=NSTSummary_20150402

Apr 2015 - http://wikis.islesofdarkness.com/index.php?title=NSTSummary_20150501

Timetable of New Chronicle – important dates for the rest of 2015

1st May – Start of New Chronicle

19th – 22nd June – 1st National of New Chronicle

28th - 30th August - Awakening Weekender

16th – 18th October – Lost Weekender

6 Month review:

We will be establishing a working group to build this in July.

This will be held in November/December. It has been agreed by the NC that the new GMs will be elected by November so that the review results can be gone through and decisions made with the new team in place.

Future projects:

We are working with a number of volunteers on game improvements and additional resources, as detailed in the SotS

Report from the NC

To follow.

Financial Report

It has been 10 months since the last report and much has changed with the old chronicle ending and the new one beginning. This has meant change in domains and many officers, and as such Domain Coordinators. Additionally it has been a successful year in planned venues for future Nationals and Weekenders, hence our deposits are a little down on last year, which also coincides with the inevitable slumping in membership as we transition to a new chronicle.

Since the last report I have now folded all the previous domain bank accounts, which had not been used extensively by most domains due to the high turnover in coordinators, the bank's unwillingness to issue anything beyond a cheque book (which are very infrequently accepted these days), and the lengthy bank administration in changing DC signatories.

However what I have now fully implemented is a simplified accounts system with 2 bank accounts: one National account for all things national such as events and membership fees, insurance etc, and one National Domain Account for all domain funds. The need for this is to create an audit trail and to keep funds safe for coordinators.

The next stage however is crucial now we are seeing Domain Coordinators in place in the new chronicle. That is to deposit funds into this domain account, and I will retain balances (as will future Treasurers) for each individual domain, as well as agreeing a cash float that is essential to practically administer takings from games. With the new National Domain Account I can and will make card payments for props and venues for coordinators and very happy to liaise direct with venues for this payment.

Balances (as at May 2015)

National Account: £10,823.30
National Domain Account: £3,109.09

Domain Balances:

Birmingham	431.00
Cambridge	1,100.00
Edinburgh	578.72
Reading	0.00
York	0.00
Hatfield	0.00
Kent	700.00
Manchester	0.00
Essex	0.00
Milton Keynes	0.00

Glasgow	183.72
London	115.65
Wakefield	0.00

Of course some of these Domains have now folded. If they are to re-open the funds are available to them. Otherwise they will be for the general benefit of the Domains, as opposed to national spending.

I have also been working very closely and in partnership with ANC Events, Caroline Feltham, so we can coordinate Events together to ensure the finances as well as administration of the events work well.

In summary the entire hard administrative changeover involving bank accounts has now been completed and the 2 bank accounts are supported by a bank card/ debit card. The final step is liaising with DCs on cash balances and administering their venue payments.

Andrew Porter
National Treasurer
May 2015

Strategic Plans

The Board have been focusing on the reset as the Strategic Plan for 2014-15.

The Reset as a whole has progressed very well, perhaps better than anticipated given that not only were we Resetting our entire chronicle, but we were also overhauling the Society structure, the rules systems and even the way we define ourselves within the Society, all in the hopes of making it much more functional and user-friendly. As a whole society, to achieve what we have in just a year has been phenomenal: there has been a tremendous amount of effort poured in by many different people and without their tireless energy, much of what has been achieved would not have been possible. We should all be extremely proud of what has occurred, but we cannot rest on our laurels now: much of what we have worked hard to create will only fall apart if we get lazy and take it for granted. That said, many members are enthused and invigorated by the fresh new start and we can be confident that the Reset thus far has instilled in many of the membership the necessity of working together consistently to make the games we love something we all enjoy.

There is still work to be done, on finalising and embedding the new chronicle, and on developing the infrastructure in which we operate. Much of our documentation needs to be rewritten or consolidate, and this may take several months more. A coordinated approach to recruitment and retention will be essential to ensure the Society grows and thrives in the future.

A review of the Reset is planned for the Autumn, and this will provide a great deal of information for future planning and adjustment of current activities.