

The joys of being NIS treasurer

I now understand why David Stewart gasped in amazement and enquired several times whether I was sure when I volunteered to take over as Treasurer on his elevation to Chairman.

Well, I'd been quite good at Maths at school, possess several calculators, and most of all, my husband is Assistant Manager of a team controlling a bank's financial information system and consequently understands money - or so he tells me!

What I was not reckoning on was the people I'd have to deal with - and that means YOU! Why can so few people make out cheques correctly?

NIS cheques should be made payable to: **LA MHWLG Nursing Information Sub-group**

That's what the bank likes them to say - yet less than 50% are made out correctly. Other people conveniently forget to sign cheques or simply insert the wrong amount. It also helps if you return the renewal reminder with the cheque, or at least quote the membership reference number. Interestingly, the cheques that came in really quickly as soon as the renewal notices were sent out, were more likely to be correct than those which were delayed.

Hospital finance departments are the worst - so often they do not make it clear **who** the subscription is for. My detective work has really improved (as David told me it would), but I have still had to return one or two mystery cheques. These same finance people make their cheques payable to anyone or anything rather than the correct name.

Another problem organisation to deal with is one of the large subscription agents (no names) who refuse to quote the membership references numbers, yet cannot cope if I do not quote all their references back at them.

As if this weren't enough, the bank is still sending all statements etc to David. As there have been other long-standing problems with our banking branch, the committee have agreed to transfer the account - so hopefully service from that side should soon improve.

After only four months as Treasurer I am almost a nervous wreck, but perhaps the last 25 of you who have still to renew your subscriptions will now get it right. Remember - make cheques payable to: **LA MHWLG Nursing Information Sub-group** and quote your membership reference number. My fingers are crossed!!

Trina Goddard

PS There is one good thing about being Treasurer - you get lots of post!!