

ADMIN ISSUES – brainstorming workshop at 2015 National LETS Conference

We only had time to discuss a few issues.

It was noted that there's a Facebook page for LETS Admin – a national forum for admin issues, also another Facebook page as a national forum for all LETS members generally.

USERS WITH 2 ACCOUNTS

It's in the CES terms & conditions that users may only have 1 account, but does it matter? Some exchanges aren't strict about this, especially when a member belongs to more than one community eg alternating living in 2 places.

Tim & Annette said it's generally not a good idea. It can be a way for dishonest people to exploit the system (selling to themselves etc), should be discouraged.

Perhaps when registering new members the question could be asked, 'are you already a member of another exchange?'

When the new software is ready, the new database will check this and pick it up if someone already has an account anywhere.

WHAT TO DO WHEN A MEMBER HAS A BALANCE OF -2000 AND WANTS TO LEAVE?

Tableland LETS - admin contacts the member and asks them if possible to trade till balance is 0 before leaving.

CCELETS - the user agreement says the balance will be 0 when you leave, or pay out in \$ to bring it to 0, although this has never been enforced.

Sydney LETS – the account is frozen and no action taken

Suggestion that such people are informed that they're doing the wrong thing (unethical).

Often the accounts of people who left in credit will balance the negative ones.

BUT more often people don't formally leave, they just drop out of activity.

A renewal fee determines who is in or out, especially a fee in \$ that members must actively pay.

ADMIN IN DEBIT

Some groups just don't worry about Admin going into debit, saying it's an investment in the system, but usually there needs to be a plan for where the units are going to come from eventually.

CCELETS had a time when Admin dropped to -35 000 units, then it was written off and restarted at 0
Sydney LETS made a mistake with conference costs and dropped to -3000 which was written off as a learning experience and reset at 0.

By writing off a big debit, the rest of the system has to cover it somehow and this is inflationary (like printing money), as members have such high credit balances they'll pay any price for what they want, so prices go up.

Recommendation: don't let it get out of hand. Document some healthy case studies and share nationally.

With more members, the Admin debit will get paid off eventually.

Perhaps with a smaller number of members it is necessary to have a higher annual levy, eg Tableland LETS charged 20B/year until it was possible to drop to 15B/year. When the group is very big and active, members possibly are less concerned about fees and levies.

Discussion about % transaction fee eg 2.5% on each side in a trade (5% goes to CES). Does this penalise the more active traders, cf an annual levy which is equal for all members including those who rarely trade? Tim says not so. Remember the levy is not a tax, it's a service fee for work done, including running the CES website etc.