

Guidelines for donations to Oxford Mac User Group when equipment and other items are donated by members or sold through the Group

(i) Items donated by members Members who benefit from items that have been donated are normally expected to make a token financial contribution to the running costs of the Oxford Mac User Group.

The recipient of the item is responsible for offering a suitable contribution to the Group by approaching the Treasurer (Barbara Summers).

The following factors, where relevant and appropriate, could be taken into consideration:

- the age of the item — how up to date or obsolete it is
- its condition (hardware: completeness and operational condition; software: with or without licence, documentation, etc.)
- its cost when new
- the purchaser's ability to pay (e.g., impecunious students need not expect to pay as much as bloated capitalists)
- any other factors that might be relevant for the particular item donated.

Here is a formula that can be used to give a suggested "ball-park" figure and a couple of examples to illustrate how it works — no-one will want to see the calculation, this is purely to provide a guideline if needed:

$$\text{Contribution} = \mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{C} \times \mathbf{D} / (\mathbf{1} + \mathbf{A})$$

where:

A is the age of the item in years

B is a physical-condition factor, varying from 0.5 for "as new" to 0.1 or less if old or particularly grubby, "untidy" or incomplete

C is the original cost of the item in £ or an estimate of its original cost

D is a wealth factor varying from 0.5 for professionals to perhaps 0.2 for students and 0.1 for unemployed.

Example 1

A 6 year old beige G3 desktop Mac, without monitor, keyboard or mouse, and missing some essential components (hard drive and modem), in good condition for its age, is bought by a retired professional. **A** = 6, **B** = 0.3, **C** = £1000, **D** = 0.4

$$\text{Contribution} = 0.3 \times \text{£}1000 \times 0.4 / 7 = \text{£}17$$

An appropriate round figure might therefore be £15 or £20.

Example 2

A 2 year old licensed copy of Virtual PC 5/Windows XP Home, with documentation, is bought by an undergraduate (needs £80 upgrade to VPC 6 for use with Panther). **A** = 2, **B** = 0.5, **C** = £170, **D** = 0.2

$$\text{Contribution} = 0.5 \times \text{£}170 \times 0.2 / 3 = \text{£}6$$

An appropriate round figure might therefore be about £5.

A small application, **OxMUG-calc**, can be downloaded from the Members log-in page of the OxMUG web site to make this calculation for you.

(ii) Items sold through the Group This section applies to items that have been sold by advertising on the Oxford Mac User Group web site, by using oxmacug e-mail or by any other communication between Group members.

The seller, who must be the rightful legal owner of the item, should make it clear in his/her advertisement how much he/she is asking for the item, whether the amount includes a contribution to the Oxford Mac User Group and how much the contribution will be. The transfer of ownership is a direct transaction between the buyer and seller, and the Oxford Mac User Group takes no responsibility regarding legal ownership.

A contribution of 5%-10% of the sale price would usually be appropriate and, in this case, it is the seller's responsibility to make the contribution on completion of the sale by approaching the Treasurer (Barbara Summers).

(iii) Gifts with reservation Some equipment donors may want to impose a kind of "restrictive covenant" on the items they are donating to ensure that they are used or disposed of in a particular way. In most circumstances, this will be accepted by the Oxford Mac User Group on the understanding that, if the terms of a covenant cannot easily be honoured, the item or items concerned can be returned to the donor or, if the donor does not want it returned, disposed of at a suitable recycling centre, such as the Redbridge Recycling Centre.

(iv) Dealing etiquette It must be understood, and accepted by all parties concerned, that any money contributed to the Oxford Mac User Group, either for donated items or for items sold through the Group, is a contribution for having a forum to make the deal possible. It is NOT a payment for the item itself, and the Oxford Mac User Group bears no responsibility for the condition or description of the item, for its legal ownership, for the amount of the contribution or for any consequence of the deal.

Queries and requests for clarification of these guidelines should be addressed to derek.stark@oxmug.org.

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