

To: Lock, Mick
Cc: Bodenitz, Elaine
Subject: LSSC Budget Request - Armchair Treasure Hunt - Xmas <YYYY>

Hello Mick,

I'd like to put in an LSSC budget request for the annual Armchair Treasure Hunt which will be taking place as usual over Xmas <YYYY>. I believe this annual event has been funded through Misc for the last couple of years, without having to go before the Committee (a club in its own right), however I don't like to make any presumptions as things may have changed.

The request is for £650 which is the same again as the last few years. This amount is predominantly to cover the prize fund (purchased vouchers), but also includes a small amount to have the Pablo Memorial ATH Trophy engraved with the winning team name. Any incidental costs incurred by the setter are excluded.

The usual summary of the Armchair Treasure Hunt is provided below, and further information can be found at <http://public.logica.com/~ath/>. Publicity material will be submitted to Elaine shortly for circulation.

Kind regards,
Mark Abbott

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Logica Armchair Treasure Hunt

The Armchair Treasure Hunt is now in its 23rd year. It is open to everyone in Logica UK to enter. It typically consists of a series of puzzles, picture clues, general knowledge questions, coded messages and other clues which, if solved, leads to a hidden treasure box physically buried somewhere in South-East England. This box contains numbered tickets which enables the setter to establish the order in which teams discovered the treasure.

There is always a theme to the quiz: recent examples have included the novels of Raymond Chandler, snakes and ladders, and time. Typically there are a number of sub-themes and these are cunningly interlinked with a good measure of red herrings thrown in to add to the entertainment.

Questions can usually be answered by research in the library, on the internet and amongst ones family and friends and aim to include something for every generation plus at least one that relates to Logica specifically. The setter aims to have questions that people want to find the answer to and/or that relate to an interesting fact. These are much more fun and more difficult than the typical pub quiz!

The answers are scored according to a scheme that awards the most marks to the most difficult questions and there are bonus points for uncovering the treasure. This produces a league table of winners. As most of the points are awarded for solving the puzzles, answering the questions or cracking the codes, it is not necessary to locate the treasure to be a winner.

Typically prizes are awarded for

- * first, second, third to the treasure
- * first, second and third best scores
- * best score by an 'ATH Virgin' (ie not entered before)
- * other category eg wooden spoon, most amusing answers

In the last few years there have been about ten prizes in all ranging from £25 to £150 in vouchers. Anyone can enter, but to be awarded a prize, you have to have a Logica captain.

The quiz and any up-to-the-minute information are published on the web site at <http://public.logica.com/~ath/>. At this site, there one can also find an archive of all past quizzes and results at <http://public.logica.com/~ath/archive/>.

Typically the quiz runs from mid December to mid January. It is a great company institution, and the last five Hunts have all seen between 20 and 30 teams actually submit an entry, not to mention those who just dabble idly with the questions or puzzles over the Christmas holiday. On average, teams will consist of 4-6 people, with many other friends and relatives roped in to answer questions or solve particular puzzles.

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