The IUCr first created a Finance Committee in 1981, thirty-three years after the Union was created. Michael Wolfson as its Convenor and its role was to advise the Executive Committee on the running of the Union’s finances. Prior to that the first Executive Secretary, Jim King, who was appointed in 1969 and the first General Secretary and Treasurer, Durward Cruickshank, who was appointed in 1970 were the only ones with overall oversight of the IUCr’s business. The Finance Committee was established under the tenure of Professor Kaarle Kurki-Suonio, as General Secretary and Treasurer, to advise him on the Union’s finances. It is the profitability or otherwise of the journals which dictates the extent to which the organisation can sponsor its good works in the crystallographic community; subscriptions from adhering body countries and sales of volumes of International Tables constitute a very minor part of the Union’s turnover. It was during the period of office of the second Convenor, Bob Diamond, that the idea of maintaining a healthy excess of journal income over expenditure not only to sponsor its good works but also to build up investment reserves for times when journals were not profitable gained currency. Over the years problems occurred, for example, due to rises in printing costs, adverse changes in currency exchange rate movements or because expensive investment was needed to transform the publishing process to become electronic. The members of the Finance Committee tend to serve a longer term than members of the Executive in order to develop long term oversight of the business and there have been relatively few Convenors over the years. The role and composition of the Finance Committee and some of the challenges that it currently faces will be discussed in this presentation.