

Treasurer's Statement for the 2017 AGM

The last twelve months since I was first elected Treasurer have certainly been a very steep learning curve for me. Bearing in mind that I don't even do the accounts in my own house, to do two sets of accounts in my first year has been quite testing at times. However with a good deal of help from former Treasurer Jim Hickie, I have got through it, and can now present the accounts summary for both 2015 – 2016 and 2016 – 2017.

In 2015 we organised the British Fell and Hill Relays and this had a distorting effect on the usual look of our accounts with higher income and expenditure figures than normal. However it did put a useful sum of money into our pot and helped us with the overall position. The figures did highlight that just £4.00 a year for junior membership was simply too low, and at an EGM in December 2016, the junior subs were increased to £12.00. Remember that of the £12.00 subscription, we give £14.00 (!) of it to England Athletics, and we register all of our 11 years and over juniors.

The committee has a policy of giving a free club vest to all our new junior members and a replacement vest to those juniors who have outgrown their original vest. However by the end of 2016, the funds earmarked for this were all but gone, and so I wrote to all our over 50's members asking if they would kindly donate the £15.00 cost of a new vest. The response was such that once the Gift Aid has been reclaimed, the appeal will have raised over £2000.00, a fantastic response from our over 50 members. A huge thanks to everyone who contributed, and remember the appeal is not closed: anyone can donate at any time, and support the development of our junior runners.

Finally on the juniors, their accounts have been boosted this past season by several of our club race organisers asking that some of the profits from the races they have organised be donated specifically to help the juniors and this, along with the increased subscription fee, has put the junior accounts into the black, from the loss making position of the previous year.

As for the seniors, subs have remained unchanged at £25.00 for some years now, and I have no desire to be the Treasurer who has to propose an increase. However as mentioned above with the juniors, all our senior members are registered with England Athletics at a cost of £14.00 each (to increase to £15.00 each in 2018) so that accounts for most of the annual subscription. The remaining £10.00 in 2018 will not be enough to do everything we want to do, and so the financial input of organising our races is absolutely critical. Massive thanks are due to our team of fantastic race organisers, especially those who are new to it: without the money they generate for the club the subs would have to go up. The club's remit is to promote and encourage athletic activity (ie races) and in doing this in 2016-17, we spent almost £3000.00 on race entry fees right across the disciplines for both seniors and juniors.

The club also provides a good range of branded running clothing, and although the committee's objective is not to provide a huge surplus, the small profits raised are most welcome and all help to keep the subs down at their current competitive level. My thanks go to both Deb and Michelle for all the post training session sales they make, when it would be far easier to drive home rather than sell stuff out of the boot of a car on a cold and wet Tuesday night.

Peter Browning

Treasurer