

TREASURER'S REPORT – YEAR TO 31 OCTOBER 2021

Once again, the year has been very challenging, both logistically and financially due to Covid-19 rules. Secretary John Lassa and Treasurer Olive Allardyce continued hybrid working, partly from home and attending the office on a Tuesday when public transport was quieter to deal with telephone messages and mail.

The Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) held Webinar sessions which we joined to obtain advice on ways to fulfil our duties and to comply with OSCR Regulations.

Once again, many bowling clubs did not open at all during the year and the rest had restricted opening. The Trustees decided that the Membership Fee, which had been increased to £2.00 for 2020, should be treated as covering the two years to 2021 and requests were sent to Clubs accordingly. Towards the end of the season, more Clubs did make some payment towards Fees outstanding which is reflected in the Accounts.

At the start of 2020, there were 401 Clubs in Membership of the Fellowship. However, around 43 clubs have closed permanently or made no contact with the Fellowship over the past two years in spite of several letters to them. 21 Clubs have decided to make an annual donation to the Fellowship instead of taking Badges in future.

No games were held so no donations from that source. Over the years, the Fellowship Trustees have ensured that Funds were held in reserve to meet at least one year's financial commitments. However this has meant that the Fellowship did not qualify for any grant assistance from outside bodies although we did apply. With the Bank interest rate now at 0.01%, interest on our funds with National Savings & Investment has plummeted and I required to transfer £10,000 to General Funds to meet expected financial commitments. Our Property Bond continues to yield interest at 4%.

The Accounts for the year to 31 October 2021 show a net shortfall of £2,219, much reduced from the previous year's figure of £26,725. A copy of the Examined Accounts will be available on our website to download.

A new Badge has been commissioned for 2022 and the Fee will continue to be £2.00 per Member.

During the year, we continued to receive applications for assistance and President Kevin McKay travelled to Inverness Bowling Club to present a Para Handy wheelchair for use by their newly formed disabled group. Inverness Bowling Club and Langside Bowling Club also received Grants towards the purchase of Bella Bowling Seats. Other Grant Applications are under consideration but progress has been hampered by Covid-19 restrictions and Brexit which has interrupted the supply of raw materials. This has increased the cost of the wheelchairs and seats considerably.

Applications for help can be made at any time by those Clubs who have paid Membership Fees.

There will be no trip organised for 2022.

Olive A Allardyce, Treasurer