

Open Morris Treasurer's Report 2021-22

This is my fifth year as Treasurer, and the revised format of the accounts continue to work well. I have included the full accounts to show detailed income and expenditure, see Appendix 1

1. Expenditure.

As in the previous year the main expenditure in 2021-22 has been Public Liability Insurance, there has been a modest increase of £15.58 over the previous payment. The reduction of £361.37 in subs refunds perhaps reflects that most of our members have finally adapted their payment systems and there have been few duplicate payments, three in total.

The other main item of expenditure related to Officers' expenses for attendance to the Annual Ring Meeting (ARM) in Cannock and the Joint Morris Organisations (JMO) day of dance in Liverpool.

The payment for our Performing Rights Society (PRS) license to play music was for two financial years, 2020-21 and 2021-22.

There has been no expenditure on the magazine, Dancing On. The last magazine print run was in financial year 2017-18 when the printing and postage cost £1023.26. since when there has been no expenditure

It was necessary to purchase additional software for the website, hence the doubling in expenditure from the previous year.

There were no entrants for the Sue Dyke Award (SDA) in 2021 so there was no expenditure. There have been no entrants this year and the competition is to be reviewed.

One grant has been made from the Doug Pickering Memorial Fund (DPMF) to Camp Clog for straps for their floor. This fund offers grants for practical items, sticks, bells etc that sides have difficulty in funding.

Overall expenditure increased £102.77, excluding the SDA..

2. Income

It was agreed at the 2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM) that the normal subs would be charged for 2022, but teams could make representation to the Chair and Treasurer for a reduction in cases of hardship. No such representations were received and all renewing teams paid their membership subs.

The income of £4,216.00 included a £10 donation and £105.00 of overpayments.

3. Financial Out-turn

The amount of £20,530.53 shown as the balance on the account at 31st August 2022 including the SDA and DPMF, matches the amount shown in the August bank statement, see Appendix 2. The Independent Reviewer has signed off the accounts, see Appendix 3.

The total amount of OM funds, excluding SDA and DPMF has increased by £2238.08 over the financial year and is £1483.93 more than the balance at the end of 2019-20 the last year when subs were charged.

4. Bank Account Issues

There have been two attempts during the financial year to obtain money fraudulently from the OM bank account, and one since year end.

On 20th April 2021 a cheque for £900 was presented and immediately bounced by the bank. The same cheque was re-presented on 22 April and again bounced.

I have a photocopy of the cheque and it is a counterfeit with only one signature. The bank was able to identify it as fraudulent because our cheques require two signatures and the signature on the cheque was not recognised.

On 19th August £250 came out of the account in the form of a Standing Order (SO) to Runcorn Linnets FC for the Patrons Club. On 22nd August the £250 was paid back into the account as a direct credit from Isabel Mullen. OM officers were not aware that a SO had been set up until bank statements were received in the post.

As soon as we realised the SO was cancelled and the Treasurer and Chair spent many hours on the telephone to the bank to ascertain how a SO had been set up by someone not authorised to spend money.

In the end the bank admitted it was in the wrong, the SO should not have been set up and gave OM £100 compensation. We still do not know how it happened and how the money was paid back by someone called Isabel Mullen. The compensation was paid in September so it will appear in the accounts for 2022-23.

On 16th September the bank sent a letter asking for further information about a SO being set up from the OM account for £250 a month to The Thistleworth Tennis Club. This was another attempt to obtain money fraudulently, but the bank had picked it up immediately.

The problems were discussed with the Independent Reviewer who advised that the SO scam is a relatively common fraud. The fraudster will get the money transferred to a real sports club and then claim the money back from the club on the grounds they had changed their minds about membership. He also advised that it is possible to ask the bank to flag the account so that no SOs or Direct Debits can be set up and this has been done for the OM account.

5. Subscription Rates for 2022-23

OM is in a reasonably good financial position and the Officials are of the view that we are well placed to match the reduction in basic subscription rates agreed by the Morris Federation at its recent AGM.

It is proposed that the rate most teams pay, the “early bird rate”, should be reduced to £30.00, Junior sides should only pay £10 and Associate sides £10 to encourage increased membership in these categories. The Individual, Associate and Overseas rates do not include insurance cover.

Membership Category	Rate
Adult side ‘Early Bird’ rate	£30.00
Adult side full rate	£40.00
Junior side ‘Early Bird’ rate	£10.00
Junior side full rate	£20.00
Individual ‘rate	£5.00
Overseas side ‘Early Bird’ rate	£20.00
Overseas side full rate	£30.00
Associate side “Early Bird” rate	£10.00
Associate side full rate	£20.00

6. Mileage Rate.

The mileage rate for officials and others travelling on OM business has been set at £0.25 per mile for many years. It is proposed that, given many meetings are now on Zoom minimising travel expenses, the mileage rate should be increased to the HMRC recognised rate of £0.45 per mile.