

Treasurer's Report 2019-20

I must start out by welcoming Trevor Slaughter back to the Club, and more especially welcoming him (subject to your approval) to the role of Treasurer. While I have been happy to fill this role for too long now, I know it will benefit from a fresh approach and from the experience Trevor can bring to it.

If I had been writing this report back in May for a June AGM it would not have been a particularly cheerful one.

Although the (aborted) Abingdon Show appears to show a profit this illusory as a number of claims for reimbursement were not received until the current year. (Accrual accounting would have shown this, but my feeling is that the Charity Commission prefers cash accounting as being more straightforward and less subject to manipulation.)

In our first Accounting Year as a Charity we made a small surplus of £526, but the 2019-20 year shows a loss of £1,655. In normal times the results of the Abingdon Show would be included in these accounts, and a minimum profit of £2,000 would have brought us level with the first year's performance. After a profit of £400 in the previous year as we established the show in the new venue such a profit would be reasonable.

But in recognition of the difficulty organisations like ours have faced, and supported by our status as a charity, our financial position has been buttressed by grants totalling £10k!

These are strange times, and even we older members can hardly claim to have seen anything like it. Nevertheless in such times there are always advantages to be had.

The doubtful future of traditional retail means there may be more accessible premises on offer: the initiation of a wider public into shared video certainly means that we should consider how we establish ourselves in the virtual world – even a monthly video update on progress with projects could gain us a wider membership, and we have the cash to try different options.

*Andrew Skinner
Abingdon
10-Oct-20*