

Cirencester AGM – October 2020

Treasurer's Report

Last year when I presented my first treasurer's report to you, I spent some time describing the process that the Committee goes through in setting subscription levels.

I noted then that concert expenses form a large, and variable, part of our expenditure. Some years we budget for a loss, for example if the concert program includes larger works requiring more soloists and/or a larger orchestra. However, over the medium term we have to ensure that we can balance our books. Against that background, we set subscriptions at a level last year that I had expected to lead to a small deficit over the 2019/2020 season.

However, as you all know, the outbreak of COVID-19 this year has meant we have been unable to rehearse since March 2020, and that we had to cancel our planned spring concert. So instead of reporting a deficit, the accounts actually show a profit over the year of over £2,000 (since we didn't incur the loss we had anticipated from the spring concert). Given the extraordinary circumstances, the Committee decided to pay our music professionals in full for the rehearsals that were cancelled in Term 2.

As I write this, it is still unclear when and how we may be able to get back to singing together, let alone stage a concert. The Committee has therefore agreed that we should postpone setting subscription fees for this season until it is clearer what activities we are able to support.

In the meantime, we have planned to pay a reduced level of fees to our music professionals over the first term of the 2020/2021 season. We will continue to explore with them options for taking the Society forward in the unusual circumstances we find ourselves in.

2019–2020 Financial Results

Given the disruption to last year's season, the figures are clearly not directly comparable to those for the previous year, particularly for concert income and outgo.

The current year figures cover the period from June 2019 to May 2020, so they reflect:

- our normal autumn concert in Nov 2019,
- the charity concert on behalf of the Churn Project in Dec 2019, and
- a relatively low amount of unavoidable costs involved in cancelling our spring concert

In contrast, the previous year's accounts included the 'Come and Sing' Day in July 2018, as well as our normal spring and autumn concerts.

Given these differences, I don't propose to comment on every line in the accounts in detail, and will just focus on the sub-totals.

Statement of Financial Activities

The Society has two main sources of income:

- **Membership income:** which has increased by **£151** to **£11,080** (reflecting an increase in the annual subscription largely offset by a reduction in the number of members).
- **Concert receipts:** which have reduced by **£5,217** to **£7,271**. These figures are not directly comparable as noted above. In addition, the figures for 2018/2019 were boosted by a £600

grant from the Josephine Baker Trust. (As a reminder, this Trust provides grants for events which provide good experience for accredited soloists from the RAM or RCM.)

Other income: has reduced by £331 to **£667**, which remains a very useful addition to the Society's funds. I would like to thank those who support the various activities contributing to this, including the refreshment teams, bookstall team, staging team – as well as those who have made personal donations.

Turning now to the **expenditure** side:

- **Running costs** increased by £223 to **£9,941**. Last year I noted that there had been a substantial increase in the cost of hiring concert and rehearsal venues. Following the AGM last year we were able to negotiate a lower increase in the rate. Taken together with the lower number of rehearsals, this has led to a much more modest increase over the year than expected.
- **Concert expenses** reduced significantly due to the cancellation of the spring concert, from **£16,705** in 2018/19 to **£6,890** in 2019/2020. (It's also worth remembering that our concert programme for 2018/19 used an orchestra and soloists for both concerts, and that the soloist expenses were partially offset by a grant of £600 from the Josephine Baker Trust).
- **Donation to Churn Project:** The concert expenses for 2019-2020 include a donation of £1,300, which is the profit on our Christmas Concert. With everything that has happened this year, it is easy to forget about this significant donation that we were able to make to a well-deserving local charity.

Taking all these factors into account, the overall financial result for the year was a profit of **£2,187**.

Balance Sheet

Net Current assets are effectively our cash in the bank adjusted for income/expenses due but not physically paid at the year-end. The net current assets increased from **£9,029** at 31 May 2019 to **£11,517** at 31 May 2020, reflecting the profit of £2,187 during the year (after adjusting to strip out depreciation).

The **Total assets** figure of **£13,317** includes the net current assets plus a value of **£1,800** placed on our rehearsal piano for accounting purposes.

Final Remarks

I'd like to finish with my thanks to everyone who has helped to support me in the role of the society's treasurer over the last year – in particular:

- Jenny Hall for managing the subscriptions process
- Bob Merrill for managing the concert ticket process
- Ginny Ravenscroft for managing music hire and sales processes, and
- David Murray for reviewing the financial statements once again