

# BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

# BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED SOCIETY INFORMATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

Officers and Advisers	Stuart Hatcher (Chairman) Sharon Wright (Deputy Chair) Don Tanswell (Secretary) James Walsh (Treasurer) John Scott Christine Powell Ron Cooper Jon Gosling Chris Tate Fran Carroll Jeffrey Roy (Resigned 23 June 2023) Colleen Wong Keith MacInnes Jeff Dent Stewart Purvis (Resigned 07 December 2022)
Secretary	Don Tanswell (Secretary)
Company Number	IP29244R
Registered Office	Amelia House Crescent Road Worthing BN11 1RL
Accountants	Carpenter Box Amelia House Crescent Road Worthing BN11 1RL
Bankers	The Co-operative Bank PO Box 250 Skelmersdale WN8 6WT
	Barclays Bank Plc United Kingdom House 180 Oxford Street London W1D 1EA

# BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

### Page

Chairman's Statement	1 - 4
Board Members' Report	5 - 6
Accountants Report	7
Income and Expenditure Account	8
Balance Sheet	9
Notes to the Financial Statements	10 - 12

# The following pages do not form part of the statutory accounts

Detailed Income and Expenditure Account	13 – 14
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# BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

#### Introduction

It is my pleasure to issue my first report as Chair of Brentford Football Community Society Limited ("Bees United") having taken on the mantle from Stewart Purvis during the financial year.

Our membership continues to increase as our plans and ambitions for Bees United grow over the coming years. I share some reflections and updates on all that we have achieved and what we are trying to achieve below.

We are uniquely the sole Premier League football club with a supporter director, and it is the membership and support of Bees United that ensures that fans are protecting the key asset of the Club (the stadium) and have a voice at BFC board meetings.

I would also like to thank every member of the Bees United Board for their contributions, every member of which is a volunteer and to thank those of our members who have also contributed their time and expertise to initiatives throughout the year.

#### Membership

Bees United is first and foremost a members' organisation. Without our members, we would have no pool of talent from which to elect our BU Board and most importantly, there would be no Bees United.

We remind ourselves that the BU Special Share in Brentford FC (which grants Bees United a veto over a sale of the stadium in certain circumstances) only subsists while Bees United exists. If Bees United were to cease to exist, the BU Special Share would disappear and so would those veto rights.

In October 2023 our 3,750<sup>th</sup> member joined Bees United which was the target set at the last AGM. While we think there is merit in every Brentford fan being a member (and we will continue to strive to show the benefits of being a member of Bees United), we will continue to our next target of 4,000 members and build from there. These numbers continue to reflect the fact that BU remains the largest Brentford, formally established supporters' group with a regulated and democratic structure.

Increasingly, with the Club's growing global profile through events like the Premier League US Summer Series this year, there is also a growing international membership. We thank Fran Carroll (Irish Bees) giving international representation on the Bees United Board and we have also made new global friends over the year with John Kenkel and Charlie Corr prominent as part of the growing US contingent and we continue to welcome all Brentford fans as Members.

I thank John Scott for the continued dedication to his role as Membership Secretary, for his personal connection to members and to ensure we remain in compliance with data protection law.

#### **Bees United Board - changes**

We started 2023 with a full board of 15 following the elections after our AGM and through the year there has been some change to the board composition, with Jeffrey Roy stepping down in June and we now have the end of tenure requirement for others. Our rules require that members stand down after a maximum period of 12 years consecutive service. Sadly, we are to bid farewell to Chris Tate who has worked tirelessly during his tenure in the key role of fan liaison, most recently, amongst many other roles during his time and to Ron Cooper who has been a passionate exponent of the heritage and history of the Club.

Chris is well known to many as a dedicated and long-term fan (having been one of the "Walk from Brighton" crew back in May 2007, when we weren't even sure we would have a football club to support) and we are grateful to have had all his experience and wise words. We look forward to continuing to chat on match days and remaining as a BU representative on the Fan Advisory Board.

Ron, meanwhile, will be well remembered by many for his key role in the "Farewell Griffin Park" exhibition and his drive to keep heritage at the heart of what we do. He is a passionate and committed fan who is steadfast in his wish for us to remember where we have come from as a club. I thank him for ensuring we have never lost sight of that.

Christine Powell is also standing down who many of you will know personally or through her husband Bruce (himself heavily involved in the initial years of Bees United) as keen, committed, passionate Brentford fans and regular away match travellers. Having served on the board and contributed consistently, she feels it is time to stand down to let others come forward and offer their own insight and energy. We thank Christine for her contribution, and I have no doubt we will see her and Bruce cheering the Bees on every week!

We also have come to say a farewell to Jim Walsh, also standing down from the BU Board and as Bees United Treasurer. Jim has diligently managed our BU finances professionally and has ensured our smooth and effective accounting process. Jim will also be well known to a many as a regular home and away fan, in fact the minutes of the first BU AGM meeting in 2001, recorded that Jim was one of those in attendance! The words of thanks we give to Jim can only scratch the surface of what he has brought to Bees United with his knowledge, balance, and contribution.

With Jim asking to stand down as Treasurer we required to replace his skills to ensure continued good financial management. We have therefore been fortunate that Graham Hancock put himself forward to take on that role and he has been working with Jim – having been co-opted on to the Board – to provide a seamless transition. With Graham up for election to the Board at the AGM I hope that by the time these accounts are filed that he will have been confirmed formally as a member of the Board and that we might look forward to him taking on this important role.

There has also been one other change to the Bees United Board. We agreed that we should appoint a Deputy Chair, so it is with my personal thanks and gratitude that Sharon Wright agreed to take on that role, unanimously endorsed by the rest of the board. Bees United will be the richer and my thanks go to to Sharon.

#### Fan Engagement

Following completion of the 'Fan-Led Review' in 2022 conducted on behalf of the Government by Tracey Crouch MP, the recommendation to set up an independent regulator for football was adopted in February 2023. While we await much of the detail as to the exact remit of a regulator and the role it will play in football, I am heartened by the fact that Brentford FC and the engagement it has with Bees United and its wider fan groups, has been seen as a beacon of how good governance and care for a unique community asset such as a football club, can work collaboratively.

The "BU Special Share" that we have in Brentford FC Ltd., has been particularly noted as being a practical, real world approach as a practical way to balance of fans interests with that of the owners who put the money and capital into clubs.

We may see soon, the detail about the independent regulator but the Premier League has already implemented the creation of Fan Advisory Boards (FAB) which is now established at BFC and is jointly Chaired by Bees United and BIAS. A Fan Engagement Plan has also been published outlining BFC's approach to fan engagement in more detail including the ways in which fans are involved in key decisions at the Club and priorities for the season.

#### **Bees United Communications and events**

Our monthly newsletter has continued to be the core of our communications with our members, and we have developed new features, begun member surveys and strengthened our output on social media for which I would like to thank Colleen Wong for her experience and energy in this regard. Our website has new functionality and a search engine which means our extensive library is now accessible for all to read. BU events continue to be virtual as we engage with more and more Bees supporters worldwide and those not in reach of London TW8. Last year at the AGM, we had the privilege of Stewart Purvis hosting a fantastic live interview with Thomas Frank and this year we are thankful to welcome Christian Norgaard, Brentford Club Captain to a live audience in January for our AGM.

I would also like to thank Matthew Benham for giving up his time to grant us an exclusive interview on his time at FC Midtjylland. It will be no surprise to Members that any interview with Matthew is amongst the most read (if not the most read) items we have produced. It is testament to his continued support of the Club and his understanding of it as a fan, that he makes himself available for such interviews.

A core part of the Bees United strategy during 2023 was to ensure that we are seen, as an organisation, as a true participant in the local Brentford community. With that in mind, the Board approved us joining the West London Chamber and Brentford Voice as well as contributing to the BFC Appreciation Day at the Steam Museum and the Canal Festival. We have also sponsored the Summer Camp of the dynamic and growing charity, Planet Penguin and announced a partnership with HerGameToo. My thanks go to our Deputy Chair, Sharon Wright for taking the lead on so many of these community events.

#### **Compliance and BU Governance**

Led by our Secretary Don Tanswell, BU continues to meet the high levels of compliance required of a Community Benefit Society registered under the Co-operative and Community Societies Act 2014. One of the four pillars of the BU Vision is Management which states as its ambition "Maintaining first class governance and financial management of Bees United with a view to growing the membership." With thanks to Don for all his hard work in ensuring that we are meeting our ambition of first class governance as a board and organisation.

#### **History and Heritage**

When I became Chair of Bees United, the Board agreed that it was timely to consider a fresh the purpose of Bees United today. Our Vision is now summarised as our "Four Pillars" on our website which are of Management, Representation, Sharing, and "To Promote and protect the history and heritage of the Club."

There was keen support amongst the Board to see how we could give meaningful expression to, and a definition of, promoting the heritage of Brentford FC. We did indeed participate in the BFC Appreciation Day at the Steam Museum this year and soon after we were at the Brentford Canal Festival which celebrated the journey from Griffin Park to the GTech in a healthy way for children to have fun and exercise too.

Importantly, we set about a more serious and longer-term project when we became custodian of the BFC archive, respecting this collection as a small museum with standards of protection and recording compliance recognised in that sector. We are blessed to have a committed, dedicated, and expert team of Brentford historians who have willingly given their time to share their knowledge of the Club and to help us build a new, comprehensive catalogue of all the heritage items that we have.

This is the start of a more ambitious project to digitise the entire archive and create an online, accessible, searchable database of our memorabilia.

Finally, we also brought history alive on the ground, literally, in Brentford TW8, in November when when we mounted and unveiled a plaque to celebrate the location of those meetings which took place, to agree the foundation of Brentford FC. This was preceded by a stunning event at the stadium celebrating the heritage of the Bees in a variety of ways before an audience of 150, treated to an insight on the Club's history by Jonathan Burchill and the history of the club's shirts from Brendan Nevin, as well as speeches from myself, Club Chair, Cliff Crown, and the mayor.

#### Finance

Our Treasurer, Jim Walsh has reported to our members, how BU has managed its finances this year. Jim stated, "In June, the Football Club repaid BU £180k of unsecured loans". The Board had discussed during the year the fact that BU was about to undertake some extensive expenditure in the context of its heritage projects and that it would make sense to enter discussions with the Club to have some of the outstanding unsecured BU loan balance repaid, so those monies could contribute towards these projects. Reduction of our loan balance was discussed with the Club – and the Club readily agreed on the repayment of £180k so that the outstanding balance owed to Bees United by the Club is reduced to c. £500k. The BU Board feel that this strikes a sensible balance of continuing the financial ties with the Club and keeping the link back to the days when it was BU monies that helped keep the Club afloat. We are in an entirely different financial universe now but retaining that connection we feel remains important.

#### **Finance - treasury**

The decision has also been taken by the board to implement a simple treasury plan where we have placed tranches of monies (with ethical providers offering savings options for organisations such as ours) on different fixed term deposits to maximise the amount of interest that we can generate from reserves.

Our strong financial position is only possible because of the donations which our members make, and everyone at BU thanks each member who can continue to financially support our work with regular donations. We have also continued to highlight a relatively simple and cost-free way that members might also support BU by giving via retail purchases through the Easyfundraising website. I will close by thanking again all who have served on the BU Board this year, and also to thank all of those Members who have supported BU either through a donation or by giving their time to help with our campaigns and initiatives, and also to thank BFC for the continued engagement it has with fans through the FAB, and of course to wish Thomas Frank and his coaching team the best of luck for the rest of the Premier League season, and Brendan Macfarlane and his B team our full support as he and his coaches work with the B team players to try to add more names to the Robert Rowan First Team Debut Board and finally we will continue to cheer Karleigh Osborne and the BFC Women's team on to what we hope will be a successful promotion season!

Stuart Hatcher Chair Date 23 January 2024

# BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED BOARD MEMBERS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

The Board Members present their report with the financial statements of the Society for the year ended 30 June 2023.

### **Principal activities**

The Society's principal activity during the year continued to be that of a football supporter society.

### Constitution

The Society is registered under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014.

### **Guiding Principles:**

The Society is run on the following fundamental principles:

- Accountability - through annual elections to the Society Board in line with Supporters' Direct recommended practice;

- Democracy by fully involving members in key decisions of the society and operating in an engaging manner;
- Inclusive by agreeing a membership fee that is affordable to all and open to all;
- Open by being transparent in all our activities.

### **Principal Aims:**

The Society was set up with the following principal aims:

- To maintain a senior Professional football club in the local community;
- To bring the benefits of football closer to the community;
- To have elected supporter representation on the Board of the Club;
- To raise sufficient funds to invest in the club in pursuance of the above.

### Board Members Currently Serving

### **Elected Directors**

Stuart Hatcher (Chairman) Sharon Wright (Deputy Chair) Don Tanswell (Secretary) James Walsh (Treasurer) John Scott Christine Powell Ron Cooper Jon Gosling Chris Tate Fran Carroll Colleen Wong Keith MacInnes Jeff Dent

# BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED BOARD MEMBERS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

#### Statement of Board Members' Responsibilities

The board members are responsible for preparing the Annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The board members are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the society and of the surplus or deficit for that year. In preparing those financial statements, the board members are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that Society will continue in business.

The board members are responsible for maintaining satisfactory systems of internal control and keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the society and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the society and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The board members are responsible for maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the society's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provision applicable to societies entitled to the small companies exemption.

This report was approved by the board on  $\frac{23 \text{ January } 2024}{2}$ 

Signed on behalf of the board

—Docusigned by: Stuart Hatcher

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Stuart Hatcher (Chairman)

—DocuSigned by: Don tanswell

**Don Tanswell (Secretary)** 

—Docusigned by: James Walsh

James Walsh (Treasurer)

# BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON THE PREPARATION OF THE UNAUDITED STATUTORY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

In order to assist you to fulfil your duties under the Companies Act 2006, we have prepared for your approval the financial statements of Brentford Football Community Society Limited for the year ended 30 June 2023 which comprise the income and expenditure account, the balance sheet and the related notes from the society's accounting records and from information and explanations you have given us.

As a practising member firm of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), we are subject to its ethical and other professional requirements which are detailed at http://www.icaew.com/en/members/regulations-standards-and-guidance.

This report is made solely to the Board Members of Brentford Football Community Society Limited, as a body, in accordance with the terms of our engagement. Our work has been undertaken solely to prepare for your approval the financial statements of Brentford Football Community Society Limited and state those matters that we have agreed to state to the Board of Members of Brentford Football Community Society Limited, as a body, in this report in accordance with ICAEW Technical Release 07/16 AAF. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Brentford Football Community Society Limited and its Board Members as a body, for our work or for this report.

It is your duty to ensure that Brentford Football Community Society Limited has kept adequate accounting records and to prepare statutory financial statements that give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and result of Brentford Football Community Society Limited. You consider that Brentford Football Community Society Limited is exempt from the statutory audit requirement for the year.

We have not been instructed to carry out an audit or a review of the financial statements of Brentford Football Community Society Limited. For this reason, we have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations you have given to us and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the statutory financial statements.

Carpenter Box

Carpenter Box Chartered Accountants

23 January 2024

Amelia House Crescent Road Worthing BN11 1RL

# BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

		2023	2022
	Notes	£	£
Income	3	21,483	22,068
Expenditure		(16,629)	(17,575)
Other Operating Income		333	569
Operating Surplus		5,187	5,062
Other Interest Receivable and similar		1 202	20
income		1,203	26
Surplus for the Year		6,390	5,088
Taxation	4	(229)	(25)
Net Surplus for the Year	8	6,161	5,063
Retained surplus brought forward		992,451	987,388
Retained surplus carried forward		998,612	992,451

### BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED BALANCE SHEET AT 30 JUNE 2023

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Current Assets					
Debtors and Prepayments	5	511,087		690,254	
Cash at bank and in hand		500,434		314,210	
		1,011,521		1,004,464	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one					
year	6	(9,239)		(8,715)	
Net Current Assets		1,0	02,282		995,749
Total assets less current liabilities		1,0	02,282		995,749
Net Assets		1,0	02,282	-	995,749
Capital and Reserves					
Share Capital	7		3,670		3,298
Income and Expenditure Account	8	9	98,612		992,451
Members Funds		1,0	02,282	_	995,749

The shareholders have voted at the Annual General Meeting to remove the requirement for the accounts for the year ended 30 June 2023 to be audited, in accordance with the Society's articles.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to societies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Members and authorised for issue on  $\frac{23 \text{ January } 2024}{2}$ , and are signed on its behalf by:

Stuart Hatcher

Docusigned by: Don tanswell

### Stuart Hatcher - Chairman

Don Tanswell - Secretary

DocuSigned by:			
James	Walsh		

### James Walsh - Treasurer

#### Company registration number IP29244R

The notes on pages 10 to 12 form an integral part of these financial statements

# BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

#### 1. Accounting policies

#### 1.1. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' ("FRS 102") and the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 as applicable to entities subject to the small companies regime. The disclosure requirements of section 1A of FRS 102 have been applied other than where additional disclosure is required to show a true and fair view.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the society. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £1.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

#### 1.2. Members income

Members subscriptions and donations for annual memberships are recognised as income on a receipts basis.

#### 1.3. Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The board members have considered relevant information, including the annual budget and the impact of subsequent events in making their assessment. . The society is financially strong with results since the year-end being satisfactory.

#### 1.4. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are basic financial assets and include deposits held at call with bank and cash in hand.

### 1.5. Financial assets and liabilities

The society has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instrument Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

#### **Basic financial assets**

Basic financial assets, which include loans from related parties, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost.

### Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, such as loans and other accounts receivable and payable are initially measured at present value of the future payments and subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Debt instruments that are payable or receivable within one year are measured, initially and subsequently, at the undiscounted amount of the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received.

#### 1.6. Taxation

The tax expense represents the sum of the tax currently payable.

#### 2. Employees

The average number of persons (including board members) employed by the society during the year was 0 (2022 - 0)

# BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

### 3. Income

The total income of the society for the year has been derived from its principal activity wholly undertaken in the UK.

### 4. Taxation

UK Current Year Taxation	2023 £	2022 £
UK Corporation Tax	229	5
Adjustments in respect of previous periods		20
	229	25
5. Debtors		
	2023	2022
		-
	£	£
Secured Loans to Brentford FC Limited	<b>£</b> 402,000	<b>f</b> 402,000
Secured Loans to Brentford FC Limited Unsecured Loans to Brentford FC Limited	-	_
	402,000	402,000
Unsecured Loans to Brentford FC Limited	- 402,000 99,998	402,000 279,909
Unsecured Loans to Brentford FC Limited Amounts owed by Brentford Holdings Limited	- 402,000 99,998 8,166	402,000 279,909 8,166

### 6. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Loan Notes	7,000	7,000
Corporation Tax	229	5
Accruals and Deferred Income	2,010	1,710
	9,239	8,715

# BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

#### 7. Share capital

The company does not have an authorised share capital. Each adult member owns one share in the society which is not transferrable. The share is cancelled if an individual ceases to be a member.

Movement in Shares	2023	2022	
	£	£	
As at 1 July	3,298	2,747	
Movements	372	551	
As at 30 June	3,670	3,298	
8. Reserves			
Income and Expenditure Account	2023	2022	
·	£	£	
Retained surplus as at 1 July	992,451	987,388	
Surplus for the Year	6,161	5,063	
Retained surplus as at 30 June	998,612	992,451	
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# BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED

The following pages do not form part of the statutory accounts.

# BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	2023		202	2022	
	£	£	£	£	
Income from Members	20 474		24.200		
Members' Standing Orders	20,471		21,296		
Other Donations	1,012	21 402	772		
		21,483		22,068	
Other Income					
Sundry Income	333		569		
,		333		569	
Interest Receivable	1,203		26		
		1,203		26	
	-		-		
Income for the year		23,019		22,663	
Deduct Expenses					
BU Website	6,180		4,932		
Heritage	3,026				
Legal and Professional	2,172		5,083		
Accountancy	1,410		1,410		
Database Costs	770		630		
Insurance	702		714		
Software & Licences	588		453		
General Expenses	522		394		
Other Costs	372		551		
AGM Costs	365		-		
Community	271				
Charitable Donations	250		-		
Book Publications	-		2,103		
Election Costs	-		960		
Audit	-		190		
Printing, Postage, Stationery		16 620	155	17 575	
	-	16,629	-	17,575	
Pre-Tax Surplus for the year	=	6,390	=	5,088	