

LANCASTER BOWLING LEAGUE

TREASURER'S RPORT - DECEMBER 2024

When I took on the role of treasurer in January 2024, there was very little in the way of accounts. At the 2024 AGM a Treasurer's report was not presented and the accounts for the year had not be audited. There was no mention of how much the LBL held in their accounts.

On the evening of the AGM I was handed an envelope with cash from the previous Presentation Evening raffle, no receipts or accounts – there was nothing to work from.

In the weeks that followed I was given a carrier bag of some statements, paying in books and one cheque book but no current cheque book. I was not given a balance of the accounts or even a full set of statements for 2023. It was difficult to make sense of the accounts and so I was unable to see and understand what was expected in the way of expenditure or income.

I made suggestions to the new committee that we open a new bank account, transfer all funds from the previous bank account, and start afresh. After sifting through notes, cheque book stubs, scraps of paper, and a handful of statements, I managed to start the new financial year with a clearer picture of how much the Lancaster Bowling League held in their account and what income to expect. I did not however, have any understanding of the expenditure.

There were no clear records to show the trends of expenditure over the years, and no way of gauging Profit and Loss, or Assets and Liabilities. I suggested to the committee that we use Club Treasurer to manage and monitor LBL's finances. This is a software package that is designed specifically for small clubs and charities, and although this is an added cost to the league, its reporting tools and ease of use ensure that the accounts are monitored effectively.

Now, having worked through a full year as treasurer, I have a clearer understanding of the income and expenditure, and feel well placed to make recommendations for the coming year.

LBL's CURRENT FINANCIAL STATE

The Lancaster Bowling League currently has 36 teams across 4 divisions, with each team paying an annual membership fee of £55. The income from league fees amounts to **£1980**

Total expenditure for the year amounts to **£1964**

The £55 annual membership fee last season only just covered League costs. In fact the total cost per team equated to £54.57 - just bringing us within budget. That was down to luck not judgement.

WHERE INCOME FROM LEAGUE FEES ARE SPENT

League fees are used to cover insurance fees, affiliation fees, online bowling fees etc.

They also cover the League Division Winners and Merit Winners prize money, the purchase of trophies and pay for the engraving of cup trophies.

Historically, £3 per team has also been allocated towards the Lancaster League Trophy (played last year at Highfield). Last season, the Lancaster Trophy cost closer to £7 per team. Clearly if we want the League Cup to continue in its current form, this increase in costs need to be factored in to the League fees.

Last season, the committee introduced the new Division 3 and 4 President's Trophy as a way of investing in the two lower divisions and encouraging less confident, newer bowlers to get involved in competition play. This was largely well-received by lower division bowlers with a good uptake for its first year. This is a new cost to the League.

RECOMMENDATION

That the League fees in the next season increase to £60 per team. This should ensure that League running costs would be covered within the same financial year without having to seek subsidy from the League reserve fund.

It would also be prudent to identify ways in which the League's financial reserve could be allocated to strengthen the League (e.g. through bowls development, match funding, purchase of resources etc.).