

TREASURER'S REPORT – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, OXFORD 2014

Membership

At last year's AGM the Society had **767** active members. Since then, we have had 92 new members whilst 69 members have either cancelled their membership or their membership lapsed at the end of 2013. This yields a net increase in membership of 23, making current membership **792**.

Of these 792, 55 have not paid for 2014 as yet (despite numerous chasers). HG3 will be chasing again this month and each effort tends to get positive responses from around 10-15 members, though we may need to lapse some of these at the end of 2014.

We currently have 61 members recorded as ECRs. These data have been collated from the abstract data from the previous 4 years and from information gleaned as new members are joining. Hopefully, when members renew their membership in January and we nudge people to update their details, this may give a better picture as there may well be more ECRs than we currently know about.

Additionally, we offered Honorary Membership to 6 people at the beginning of this year, who all accepted: John Ashton, Nick Black, Diana Kuh, Nick Mays, Jon Nicolls, Margaret Thorogood.

Finances

In the calendar year 2013, the Society made a small loss of £835. This can be understood for a number of reasons:

- We started the move of all clerical and administrative support for the Society to HG3, with setup costs incurred over 2013 and 2014. There were additional costs during a handover period and there had been a reduction of support costs in 2012 compared to previous years, which is why the 2012-13 difference looks large this time round.
- In 2013, the committee embarked upon some changes, such a rebranding and revamping of our website, which incurred additional operational charges. These costs were non-recurring but continued into 2014 and will therefore impact upon next year's finances slightly.
- We made a small loss on a one-day event. The Society has always underwritten one-day events and losses are rare though occasional.

The Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM), held in Brighton, made a surplus £8,056 (excluding the investment in free places). Anjum Memon is to be congratulated for making the annual conference a success and operating within budget and creating a healthy surplus.

The Society's balance sheet is healthy. On 31st August 2014, the Society's bank balance was **£113,150**. As well as ASM abstract submission and registration, Society's membership management, support and administration are all now managed by HG3. This provides an integrated oversight of our operations and business. This will incur modest overall increased operational costs but provide much greater efficiency and streamlining in how the Society functions. In tandem, we have grown the Society's main committee as well as supported focussed subcommittees, with designated roles for each main committee member and subcommittee. This has strengthened the Society's governance and made it more proactive and (hopefully) more engaging to its members. While these changes, along with a continued investment in ECRs and associated activities, has resulted in a modest increase in costs, we have partially off-set this by holding more meetings by teleconference and our membership is slowly increasing again, with overall membership strong enough to support this investment whilst maintaining a strong balance sheet.

Succession planning

As part of the decennial evaluation and refresh of the Society and its operations, the committee decided to be more prepared for the succession of key roles on the committee and, similar to having a President Elect, to prepare for succession to the roles of Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer one year ahead of the post-holder stepping down. I am therefore delighted to welcome my successor, Dr Peter Tennant, who will shadow me as Honorary Treasurer through my final year in office.

Prof Mark S Gilthorpe, Honorary Treasurer (m.s.gilthorpe@leeds.ac.uk)

11th Sept 2014