

Finance Report for 2023 - 2024

The Financial Accounts for the year ended 30 September 2024 are attached in draft form and will be examined and confirmed in the next couple of weeks

Once again we have made a deficit for the year totalling £2,765. This is due to a number of reasons as highlighted below:

- Investment of £2,500 in the new Online Membership App
- £1,400 contribution to the accommodation expenses for the White Rose team at Leamington
- An unadvised reduction of £430 in the Bowls England payment for Leamington player expenses

This season we also saw an increase of 40% in the Bowls England Affiliation fees for members, from £5.00 per person to £7.00 but we maintained the County fee at £2.50. Bowls England has advised that a further CPI inflation linked increase will be charged in 2025. The details of the new cost have not yet been announced. We will, once again, leave our County fee unchanged next year but with our continuing losses we will have no option other than to increase the figure in 2026 and more details will follow. We have maintained the present fee at the same figure since we unified in 2010

Bowls England also announced in July that the cost of their Championship fees will increase from £2.50 to £4.00 in 2025. We have charged £4.00 for several years and the additional cost has enabled us to pay prize money, a contribution to player expenses at Leamington, green fees and umpire fees for area and county finals, trophy engraving and badges for winners and Last Eights badges for first time qualifiers. We had no warning of this increase, and all Counties will have no vote against the decision. To add this extra charge from Bowls England onto the current fee would increase competition fees to £5.50 but we will hold this figure at £5.00 in 2025 to try and minimise the additional fee. We are going to change the fees however for the County Inter Club Competitions and in 2025 the entries for the County Club Championship, Thornbery Trophy and Mixed Top Club will all be £20.00

We will also review all the competition expenses to try and negate further increases although Bowls England has confirmed that they plan to impose CPI inflation linked additions in their fees in future years

This is the third consecutive year we have incurred a loss and clearly this situation is not something we can allow to continue unchecked. We will continue to review all our expenses in an effort to reverse these deficits

The Benevolent Fund made just one significant grant this year of £1,500 which helped a bowler who had unexpectedly run into severe financial difficulties. Clubs once again made generous donations, and we continue to have in excess of £8,000 available for worthy causes

Please contact me or your area Secretary if you are aware of anyone in need of assistance

Carl Taylor
Treasurer