

Treasurer's Financial Report 2024

North Midlands Society of Rugby Football Referees Limited remains financially secure and the accounts to the 31st May 2024 reflect this. These accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments bases covering a period of twelve months.

The Society is a 'not for profit' Company. The policy of the Board is to ensure that if called upon reserves are available to support its financial obligations for a minimum period of twelve months. As previously documented, having changed our operating model several years ago there is no longer a need to hold substantial reserves and thus the aim of the treasurer has been to steadily reduce these and going forward to maintain them at below £30k which is considered a prudent reserve.

The two principal sources of Society income are from members subscriptions and match fees charged to the clubs.

Membership income remains steady, but this year has again highlighted significant anomalies in the make-up of this, as it continues to derive mainly from the historic membership. Not all members are referees or now play any active role in the society but remain happy to make an annual contribution. These tend to be former referees and / or administrators. This highlights the need for a society to recruit a Membership Secretary to ensure that going forward income from this source remains robust and all members fees are correctly collected.

The other main source of income are the match fees we charge clubs and again this remained as expected and in line with the number of games the society appointed to over the season. In previous years the society has waived some end of season match fees but this season this was not the case. As at the 31st May there were club invoices outstanding totalling £2,720 which is not reflected in these accounts.

Income from Rugby Football Referees Union (RFRU) Training and Development fund and the RFU ticket exchange programme is no longer available.

Expenditure remained as expected. At the beginning of season 2022/23 the society increased its referees travel allowance to 45p per mile to come in line with most other societies. This has meant over the last two seasons there has been a steady increase in travelling costs, plus in 2023/24 more referees than in the previous season decided to claim their travelling expenses.

The society decided at the beginning of the season to allow referees and performance reviewers to claim the cost of kit, primarily a shirt or jacket. Take up was not as great as expected and I propose to continue this into season 2024/25.

There was a marginal increase in other operating costs as the Appointment Officers claimed in full or in part the financial allowances agreed.

Last season has again seen a steady reduction in society cash reserves and is in line with the agreed policy of the Directors. As at the 31st May 2024 these stood at £30,355.

During 2023/24 the Directors recognised the need for additional administrative support. Various options were discussed and support from the membership sort. Unfortunately, none was forthcoming so the Directors have appointed a self-employed Administration Officer. Some of the costs of this position will have to be met by an increase in club Match Fees.

My personal thanks to the Directors and Management committee who besides generously donating their time continue to personally absorb some of the costs associated with running the organisation.

Ian Moreton
Treasurer
03/07/2024.