

HRGB Treasurer Report – AGM 12/04/2025

The HRGB accounts for the year ending 31st December 2023 have been available on the HRGB website (<https://handbells.org.uk/hrgb-accounts>), Charity Commission website and a shortened version was printed in the 2024 Autumn / Winter edition of Reverberations.

In summary, HRGB had a net surplus for the year before revaluation of assets of £29,808. This is somewhat on par with 2022 but has primarily come about due to a swing of the value of the HRGB investments from 2022 to 2023

The revenue (and expenditure) has remained high due to the two main events being held, the National Rally and National Residential Ringing Week, and bank interest has also increased significantly given the trend of interest rates being increased and subsequently passed on by both CAF and CCLA.

Day to day expenses are still having to be paid, but we have seen a drop on these where savings can be made. The publication of Reverberations still remains one of the societies biggest yearly expense (mainly due to postage costs) something no doubt the regions would have felt too. We have also seen considerable expense in 2023 as we update the HRGB website.

The balance sheet for the charity remains strong and we are managing and monitoring as needed.

HRGB Promotions Ltd posted a deficit for the year of £622 which is based around general administration costs for the charity / company. No further costs have been allocated to the International Symposium in 2026 to be held in the UK during 2023 but the deposit for the venue was paid in 2023 and this has been deferred now (by prepayment) until 2026 to be offset with income streams.

These accounts were approved by the external examiner, accepted by the members of the NEC in June 2024 and were submitted successfully to the Charity Commission for England and Wales and OSCR for Scotland soon afterwards.

The overall picture for the 2023 accounts is one of a strong, sound running charity.

2024 Review (HRGB Accounts)

As I am writing this report the 2024 accounts at National level are very near to being completed and will be passed to our external examiner as soon as possible. So this report for the 2024 accounts is classed as an un-examined assessment based on the National Accounts only (so no regional consolidation at this point).

The 2024 accounts continue to be comparable to 2023 in the income and expenditure figures, but we have noted considerable donations of bells this year that will push up our total income. This will leave us with a notable surplus reported for 2024

Savings have continued to be made where possible and we are still being prudent with stock provisions to ensure keeping risk to a minimum.

The 2024 accounts, once approved by our (new) examiner will be submitted to the NEC in June for approval, and then will be made available on the website and in Reverberations.

As always I just want to pass my thanks on to the Regional Treasurers for all their hard work in keeping to the tight deadlines I have to impose on them.

Further to the Treasurer's report this year I want to add a note regarding the proposed changes noted for the HRGB rules:

"Proposal: The South West Region to move and The National Treasurer to second: That the proportion of membership subscriptions that the National Treasurer shall account to Regional Treasurers as referred to in rule 30 shall be increased from 25% to 50% with effect from 1st January 2025."

This was (after some clarification on the rules and the wording used) approved by the NEC in October 2024 to bring to the AGM to ask the membership to also agree to the proposal. The current 25% may not seem much in the grand scheme of things as this money would normally cover day to day regional expenses, newsletters and general administration costs, with rallies and events to hopefully break even or make a small surplus. The proposal to increase the subscriptions rate from 25% to 50% will allow the regions to potentially subsidise / put on more events that will be then cheaper for the membership and hopefully encourage more people who might be put off by the costs to attend. Each region has its own set of challenges and we are hoping that this will (at least) take any financial ones out of the equation

If anyone has any questions please feel free to get in touch with me along my normal communication channels.

Thank-you

Anthony Hayes
26th March 2025