



## **ACTING TREASURER'S COMMENTS ON 31 DECEMBER 2009 ACCOUNTS**

I have pleasure in circulating a narrative report prior to the 2010 County AGM in June – at the AGM we will be noting the contents of the 2009 County Accounts. The principal part of the work undertaken in maintaining the accounts and other records was undertaken by my predecessor Jim Gilbert. The County Executive was advised by him late in 2009 that he wished to step down at a mutually convenient date. He did continue in the role of County Treasurer up until 30<sup>th</sup> April 2010. Since that date I have undertaken the role on an acting basis. I am standing for election at the Annual General meeting in June.

So please bear with me as I address some of the issues surrounding the County's finances and to attempt to provide you all with an overview of them. What I will say is that against a background of severe financial uncertainty the County's financial situation remains as good as can be reasonably expected.

The following points may be of assistance to you in attempting to assimilate the many pages of accounts and accompanying notes.

1. Membership Fees at £168,221 (gross) and £29,367 (net) reflect the fact that there were increases both in the numbers of members and also the costs per head charged at both National & County levels.
2. Interest received has decreased significantly as was expected. The rates available to investors fell spectacularly as the global recession kicked in. After taking advice the reserve funds were spread across a number of clearing banks so as to minimise our risks. We will be maintaining a review of our funds in the coming year so as to ensure that the best returns available are achieved after taking into account risks.
3. Abington Campsite income at £11,264 has held up well. But against this significant amounts of costs have been of necessity incurred. Some of these were to bring the existing facilities into line whereas other sums were spent on furthering the plan to redevelop a proportion of the site to provide 3 homes. Since the year end a formal planning application was submitted to South Cambs District Council.
4. Income from Events and costs thereof arises principally from activities promoted by the Core Team. Essentially they are planned to be run on a balanced budget, but as with everything they are at the mercy of outside factors such as numbers attending and climatic conditions. The Top Awards event is however put on to recognise high achievements amongst the County's youth membership and its underlying costs are met from County funds.

5. In the course of the year the previously designated Cub Scout funds were transferred into the County's general funds. Since the year end the Scout Activity fund has also been merged into General funds. A similar process is also underway in respect of the Network Section's funds. The County Executive remains fully aware of the origins of these amounts and will respond positively to bids made by the respective sections for making use of the accumulated reserves.

6. Premises Grants. The County Commissioner secured a grant of £6,417 from Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) to assist Scouts who met in school premises with their hire charges. Of this £6252 was distributed to eligible Scout Groups and Units. CCC has advised that it will not be making sums available in 2010 due to severe budgetary cutbacks. The residue has been retained for now within general reserves.

7. Noticeboard. This publication remains as a continuing and integral part of the County's communications strategy. Costs of this include printing and distribution across the County to adult members. It can also be viewed on the County's website.

8. Annual Report and publication of accounts. In 2009 this was made available to members via the County's website. A similar process will occur for this year. But hard copies will be made and distributed in response to specific requests from members.

9. Radio Equipment. A complete replacement of the batteries and other associated equipment was needed in 2009.

10. The Grant of £600 was made to 2 sets of Explorer Scouts from the Gill Andreyev Eastern Bloc Fund to assist with their expedition costs.

11. The fees paid to the then County Treasurer reflect the fact that increased amounts were agreed to by the County Executive. I can reassure members that I will, in common with the other trustees, undertake my role on a voluntary basis. Repayment of certain necessarily incurred expenses will however be sought from time to time.

12. Accountancy Fees for 2009 reflect the fact that previously given discounts on fees charged have diminished. For 2010 onwards it has been agreed (in line with guidelines laid down by both the Scout Association and the Charity Commission) that the records will be instead subjected to an independent examination. It is anticipated that the costs involved should fall back towards the level paid in 2008 and earlier years.

Finally:

If you would like further information relating to the details contained within the accounts please get in touch with me. I will endeavour to provide the answers promptly.

Malcolm J Robinson  
a/ County Treasurer  
May 2010