

Hon. Treasurer Report

Membership

Membership for 2025: 198 (2024: 227, 2023: 237, 2022: 247, 2021: 258)– a slight decrease from last year, but importantly the first to be below 200. On a positive point, we have received 7 new members already this year (2026).

Finances

As far as finances are concerned, this has undoubtedly been another year of the National Collection! With moving it from Shropshire to a storage unit in Bucks three years ago, we have reduced the costs involved in storage this year by moving to a smaller room and have held an auction to dispose of the vast majority of the Toy Soldier element the main aim has been to ensuring that we have enough cash flow to keep us going throughout the coming years. The result has been that this year's figures show an indicated profit of approximately £8,900 (2024 profit £1,600, 2023 profit £700, 2022 profit £1,600) Subscriptions and income from Bulletin advertising has been almost equal the cost of the Bulletins. The increase in subscriptions for 2025 did address the issue of Subscriptions not matching the Bulletin cost. However, we still must pay to keep the society running and costs for items such as postage and advertising have increased. We were able to hold the Annual Show again this year, with some increased expenses and costs (Advertising, trophies, food and the "Goodie bags" etc.) to be had, I am happy to report a healthy profit on the day of over £400. We had a small income from an auction held in March and a bigger profit from the November auction (The sale of some of the National Collection), which have helped enormously with running costs. We have been able to put some of the money into a Savings Account, the first time in many years, and to buy some more shares, putting back stock into the previous years' sales. Note that we are still spending a fair bit on advertising in modelling magazines (Which is a good thing for the Society.)

The figures for Support Services shows a small profit, but that was investments into items that covered the year, like the Christmas cards and Special figure, which showed that they had a good year, costs covered with some profit made.

As mentioned earlier, we have an investment in shares, and our financial position has meant that we could buy sell some this year, with the intention to invest in a few more shares next year. With the price of the shares slightly up in value this year, we are now £33k (2024: £25.7k, 2023: £27.4k)

So, we do have more than enough cash flow at the end of the year to enable the financial continuation of our Society throughout 2026, but we could do with the auctions and the Annual Show (April 18th) to be a success again this year! As Hon. Treasurer, I will endeavour to find the most economical means of ensuring the Society's continuation into the long term, but the best way for us to succeed as a Society is for us to have more members.

Please do everything you can to encourage others!

Paul Newman