

Treasurer's Report to the 2019 Bike Station AGM

My apologies for not delivering this in person, due to the pressure of other work.

The 2017-18 accounts show that the Bike Station had an operating surplus of £60.857 for that financial year. While this surplus is a welcome sign after the problems of previous years, it is still very important that the organisation develops a sufficient reserve fund in order to safeguard us against seasonal cash flow issues and to provide a buffer against any reductions in trading or grant income.

The managers and board continue to keep a close watch on income and expenditure against targets, and the performance in the first 9 months of the current financial year is satisfactory, although the next quarter is always our most challenging one.

In this connection during 2018 we started using new accounting software which should provide management information more readily, the EPOS computerised tills in Edinburgh that were destroyed in the fire have been restored and a new chief executive is in post.

Challenges during the year ahead include deciding whether to maintain the trading company alongside the charity and therefore keep completely separate accounts throughout the year. There is a continuing need to ensure that the organisation is not liable to charge VAT on any of our sales, to make sure that all our activities in Edinburgh and Perth are producing an appropriate margin while still operating in a charitable manner by providing affordable refurbished bikes and cycle training, and exploring new sources of finance including gift aid on donated items.

While I have been happy to act as treasurer on an interim basis, I look forward to handing over to someone else who can spend more time and has greater accountancy knowledge.

Ian Maxwell

10/1/19