

Furness and South Lakeland Astronomical Society – Treasurer's Report 2024

This accounting year we mostly held face-to-face meetings, with only two Zoom recordings taking place. The Society resources remain adequate, however the total funds available (Cash, Building Society plus PayPal) are less than last year, due to the purchase of the telescope mount (see below).

If you look through the Balance Sheet you will see that Membership Fees were significantly higher than the previous year (plus £95.00) and Meeting Fees collected also increased (plus £17.50). Lecturer Expenses were similar to last year. We did, however, have an excellent quality of speakers covering a wide range of subjects.

Room Hire costs were £80.00 more but did include payments for two meetings from last year noted in the previous report.

Income from the 'tea fund' was similar to last year (plus £7.41).

Once more I report that other costs, which should perhaps be chargeable to the Society, including when I entertain visiting lecturers, are not included in the accounts, and again this year, your committee costs have been zero.

Please remember that the Federation of Astronomical Societies' subscription includes our liability insurance, although the amount charged for this cost £21.00 more this year. The Federation financial year is different from ours and the amount shown in our accounts is for the period April 2024 to March 2025 and includes an early payment discount which we were able to take.

The Society for Popular Astronomy (which provides many of our news and information sheets) was again prepaid for one year.

During the year we were gifted a telescope tube and a few accessories. When a suitable mount became available at a very reasonable cost (from a member) we took advantage. This cost is shown under Instruments and Observatory in the balance sheet and includes a small credit for the accessories noted above that were re-saleable.

Once more our regular visitor Ian Palmer has audited these accounts – thank you.

Thanks also to Colin Taylor for providing the refreshments at the meetings.

The balance sheet remains satisfactory and I do NOT propose any fee increases.

I have no hesitation in saying again what I have said in previous years - increased membership and meeting attendance is the most effective method of providing the necessary funds to run the Society and again I urge every member to 'sell the Society' to relations, friends, or work colleagues. Your programme for this year (which is on our web-site or has been provided in printed form to our non-web members) again provides the basis of an interesting and informative year for the Society.

So, to those who have attended meetings - well done, but to all, please do make every effort to attend. Remember that most of our speakers will have travelled considerable distances to talk to us and it cannot be nice to see so few members at the meetings.

Richard Alldridge
Treasurer and Membership Secretary - FSLAS