

Reports on Committee Business

Date: 10am Tuesday 5th May 2020

Contributors: Lesley Allum-Jolly, Richard Clout, Alan Heyes, Delma Moore, Harry Reeves, Pene Stambollouian, Magda Sweetland (Chairman), Gill Walker, Christine Walls, Janet Willcox, Sharon Willmore

To record:

1. **Minutes of Meeting:** 3 March 2020

Pene

2. **Matters Arising, sign March Minutes when possible**

3. **Report on Finances and Accounts:**

Richard

The budget has been reworked, assuming we recommence in October giving five monthly meetings of which one will be the Open Afternoon. The revised base case budget shows a surplus of £1,675 so there is certainly scope to reduce the subscription. Here are three sensitivities with subscriptions of £8, £10 and £12. The surplus reduces to deficits of £2,325, £1,325 and £335 respectively. Basically every £2 we reduce our subscription by reduces our revenue by £1,000. Copies of the revised budget and sensitivities are attached.

Our main issue is that the majority of our costs are fixed or at least only variable with the number of members. The Third Age Trust costs, with 70% of members taking the magazine, amount to £6.60 per member on average.

On balance, as Treasurer I wouldn't be happy anticipating a deficit over £2,000 especially as we may find ourselves in the same position next year if there is a second corona virus "wave". A subscription of £12 creates the possibility of a surplus of more than £1,000 if we are not able to operate all year which may be unacceptable to members. So I would recommend a subscription of £10 to give the right balance between too large a deficit and not recognising the lower level of activity in the year.

4. **Communications:**

Alan

Alan reported that the May newsletter had been completed on time and would be available to send to members in early May. He had checked with the Printers and they were able to print the newsletter as normal and Vida Bird had agreed to distribute hard copies to those who have requested them. The newsletter is the usual size of 12 pages and reports how many of our groups are managing to continue their activities despite the lockdown. The newsletter also provides information on how members might wish to access online information about concerts and plays together with tips for keeping fit and enhancing well being through walking and nature study.

5. **Social Events:**

Janet

No meetings with refreshments, or Coffee Mornings, so activity suspended. Janet felt that the Group Contacts' lunch would not be well supported, even if the lockdown were lifted.

6. **Science Group:**

Christine

Accessibility

Under the rules for social distancing it will not be possible to offer a lift service. When the next U3A season starts in September the issue can be reconsidered in the light of recommended precautions at that time.

U3A Holiday

The U3A holiday to Bristol, Bath and Wells has been cancelled but Margaret Thorpe negotiated with Tailored Travel and agreed that the holiday can be re-booked next year and deposits carried forward to the new holiday. As a bonus, those who booked insurance through Tailored Travel can carry over insurance as well.

Science for All

The final 2 meetings for this season were cancelled as was the planned talk on computer modelling of Covid-19 infection rates. Plans for technical visits this summer have also been discontinued. It is hoped to re-book the cancelled speakers for next season.

Currently we hold £625.27 which should be an adequate float for a normal season. However there is a dilemma. Holmesdale is too small for people to maintain social distancing even if numbers drop, so a larger and more expensive venue will be required. It is probable that numbers will decrease over the 1920-21 season if older or more vulnerable members choose to self isolate or at least avoid gatherings and meetings. This will be disappointing for speakers and the money collected at the door may not cover hall hire let alone speaker costs. Our committee will meet in the next month or so to discuss options and decide how to plan for the next season.

7. Report on Study Groups: activity of members in lockdown **Delma**

To date we have 81 Groups and a new shared group with Sevenoaks – 'Nordic Walking'. After a recent email enquiry with all Group Contacts there was a very encouraging response regarding how they are managing to keep contact with their members during the Covid Lockdown.

Of course the Science, Walking Groups, Gardening, London Studies/Walk, Historic Houses, and Games groups have been particularly restricted. But I have been encouraged how they are adapting using regular communication to their members using emails, Whatapp, and Zoom, and exchanging information on Theatre and other performances that have opened up online. Some are sending quizzes relating to their group topic too. Knitting for Living are making items for the NHS.

I have encouraged our GC`s to keep in contact with their members.

8. Progress Report on New Study Groups: None to date **Sharon**

9. Membership: **Lesley**

There have been no newcomers since March. Consequently I am not sure about having an Open Day in September as I don't think that there will not be an influx of new members. Even when the lockdown is lifted I think that there will be several people who will choose very carefully when and if they go out! An Open Day in conditions that are not conducive to some sort of social distancing may not be a good idea.

As for the membership fee, I still think that we could waive it for a year because we have a very healthy balance.

Realistically, am not sure that the Contacts' lunch will happen - however the date is in the diary and to be fair from our point of view it could be a late decision if needed. However I totally understand that from Janet's / Wendy's point of view they will need some time to get it sorted. Is there mileage in splitting the Contacts lunch into smaller groups somehow?

10. Monthly Meetings: **Harry**

We still have a tentative arrangement for a June meeting, but that seems unlikely to happen. October and November bookings remain in place I'll confirm to them this week. I'll also see if I can re book cancelled speakers for January and February and make some approaches for later meetings in 2021, to book speakers in the hope things will be near normal.

11. Programme for the rest of 2020

1. Cancel June date at St Nicks
2. Book Sept, Oct, Nov at St Nicks in the hope we can meet in the church on those dates - but be prepared to cancel each as time goes by
3. Plan for a Monthly Meeting in Sept, AGM October, Monthly Meeting November - but also anticipate cancellations
4. Cancel the Group Contacts'/ Committee lunch in July
5. Newsletters sent in May, July (summer) and September. Handbook summer as usual. if at all possible
6. Send an email bulletin monthly to members, when there is no Newsletter

7. Membership renewal form included in summer mailing, with notice of a reduced fee of £10 for the year 2020-21 (to agree with the recommendation of the Treasurer)
8. Retiring committee to stand down at date of expected AGM on June 22 but all are ready to lend a hand if needed

12. **A.O.B.** None reported

13. **Date of next meeting or report:**
2020 July 7th

MAS 17/5/2020