

BIEN annual financial report to members, 2020

Submitted with this report:

- Annual report and accounts for the financial year 1st January to 31st December 2019. These have been agreed by the Executive Committee, signed by BIEN's officers, signed by the independent inspector, and submitted to the Charity Commission
- An income and expenditure account for the first half of the financial year 1st January to 31st December 2020.

Throughout this period BIEN's accounting processes, bank accounts and Paypal account in the UK have been running efficiently.

Members will see from the 2019 annual accounts that expenditure was approximately £1,000 more than income. The half-yearly accounts for the first half of 2020 show a small excess of income over expenditure, but because expenses such as insurance and website hosting fall in the second half of the year, a deficit is envisaged for the year as a whole. This would have been larger if the congress had been held this year.

In 2018 the General Assembly voted to implement annual memberships alongside life memberships, partly because some potential members were finding the life membership fees rather high, and partly in order to generate a regular income stream. Our experience since then is that the majority of new memberships have been life memberships, and that most annual memberships have been short-lived. Last year we suggested that it might be sensible to hold a discussion at the General Assembly this year to review memberships and membership fees, but because of the coronavirus pandemic both the congress and the General Assembly have been cancelled, so that discussion cannot take place. The Executive Committee will decide whether a discussion about memberships and membership fees should take place at the General Assembly next year. In the meantime, the annual deficits must be addressed. We therefore propose that the new Executive Committee soon to take office should

- hold a membership drive through the monthly BIEN bulletin. Both life and annual memberships should be encouraged;
- in an email to BIEN members, explain the problem of the annual deficits, and ask for regular monthly donations. There are currently two members who make monthly donations. In light of the fact that many BIEN members paid their life membership fees a long time ago, there might be quite a lot of memberships both able and willing to make regular monthly donations.

Mark Wadsworth, Treasurer

Jamie Cooke, Assistant Treasurer

Malcolm Torry, General Manager