

BIEN General Assembly 2023

Treasurer's report

Submitted with this report:

- Annual report and accounts for the financial year 1st January to 31st December 2022. 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 30th June 2023, along with a projection to June 2025 for hubs project income and expenditure.

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

BIEN now has grants agreed from the Mustardseed Trust and Lankelly Chase. These will enable the hubs project to run for the full three years originally planned, that is, to June 2025. The grants allow for the employment of a hubs coordinator and hub managers for Africa, Latin America, and Asia.

As noted in the half year accounts, the General Fund continues to run at a substantial annual deficit, and some of what is left in it might be needed to fill a small gap in the hubs project finances. At the bottom of every webpage members will find a link to the donations page where it is possible make regular as well as one-off donations. We would like to encourage better-off members to make sizeable regular donations if they are able to do so. General Assemblies have consistently agreed to retain life memberships, which means that every new member generates one initial contribution to BIEN's funds and then no more unless they choose to make donations. The few annual memberships that have been requested are often of short duration. It is clear that membership fees alone will never be sufficient to maintain BIEN's regular activity, which is increasingly expensive: for instance, the success of the news service means that the monthly Mailchimp emails now go to 14,000 individuals which locates BIEN's Mailchimp subscription in a higher cost bracket; the size of the website, and the number of visitors, also put us into a higher cost bracket; and the increasing number of email inboxes now required all have to be paid for.

BIEN is operating effectively, and the need for its activities is greater than ever. We believe that now is the time for BIEN's members to show their commitment to its future by providing financial support to the extent that they are able to do that.

The General Assembly

Unfortunately I shall not be able to attend the General Assembly this year as I shall be in a Welsh valley that does not have reliable wifi. Before the GA I would be happy to answer any questions about this report or the annual or half-year accounts sent to me by the 15th of August; and I would also be happy to answer questions put to me by email after the GA or conveyed to me by the secretary after the event.

I plan to be at the BIEN congress and GA in 2024.

On a more personal note

My current term as treasurer finishes at the 2024 General Assembly, and I don't intend to stand for a further three year term. I have managed BIEN's financial affairs as General Manager and Treasurer since 2016, and in various capacities I have managed Basic Income organisations since the mid-1980s. It's time to move on; and it is also time for a new generation of administrators to take responsibility.

I am therefore giving to BIEN's Executive Committee and members notice that by August 2024 a new treasurer must be found. Now that BIEN has a paid employee in the hubs coordinator, and hub managers working under contracts with BIEN, BIEN has significant financial responsibilities that must be carried out efficiently and in a timely manner. The new treasurer must already have been a BIEN member for a year (unless the Executive Committee chooses to waive that requirement in this particular case); they must be resident in the UK; and ideally they should have experience of managing organisations' financial affairs, and in particular the financial affairs of Charitable Incorporated Organisations registered in the UK. Above all, the new treasurer must be a highly efficient administrator. Whilst training and a handover can be organised, the dilemma for BIEN is that once a treasurer's term has ended he no longer has the authority to act as treasurer: so anyone standing for the post will need to be prepared to take responsibility for the whole of BIEN's financial affairs from the date of their election.

No organisation without an efficient treasurer can last for more than a year, which is why BIEN was on the point of closure in 2016. BIEN's new treasurer will not only bear substantial responsibility for ensuring the continuance of BIEN as a functioning organisation, but they will also know that the work that they are doing is ensuring that the global Basic Income debate continues to be served by the effective global organisation that it needs.

I would be happy to hold an informal discussion with anyone who might be both able and willing to function as BIEN's treasurer for at least three years, and preferably for longer, from August 2024.



Malcolm Torry, Treasurer

5th July 2023

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