

RAF Regiment Association National Treasurer Report 2024-25

The financial year 2024-25 was another period of change and re-appraisal of our services and spending. The aim has been to not increase the membership fee in these financially challenging times; but also, to maintain the services and charitable support we provide as an association.

The adoption of SAGE as our accounting process has impacted some of our recorded income due to the fact of how we register income and expenditure, for instance the figure shows a downturn in membership subscriptions that will balance in the coming year, as we change to an accrued accounts system. The way we display the performance of our funds will change due to be more descriptive about our financial performance using ledger codes. The SAGE system has enabled the association to budget more effectively and identify where we can be cost reduced and increase our charitable support whilst keeping subscription at £12 per year.

The investment portfolio performed very well and has continued to do so this year. The bank account continues to pay good interest and little in the way of service charges compared to the competition. Gift aid is a major passive income for the association, and I cannot emphasise too strongly how important it is for all our membership and donors register for Gift Aid. The income from donations this year have been very healthy, with a combination of personal contributions and fund raising at events (Scotland reunion doing a great job again).

The communication spending has been rationalised by several co-joined measures of cost-effective methods of internal and external communication. The NMC internally communicate by meeting only on Teams, WhatsApp and group calls. The communication to the wider membership utilises electronic methods, we have established a new Facebook group "The Flash Magazine" this is only available to members of the Association which includes live streaming of Association events. We have also reduced the service costs of our website by re-tendering the service provision reducing our monthly cost from £30 down to £12 per month.

The Associations' support of charitable causes has increased firstly to St Annes increased to £250 per year to pay for the upkeep of our chapel. We have also provided £500 to a support fund for Gunners that have fallen on hard times and need emergency help (administered by Band of Brothers) we also donate £250 to Help4 Homeless Veterans which supported a Gunner back into perminate accommodation this year. All the causes we donate to now must provide an end of year report to display how your donation has been used.

The financial position of the RAF Regiment Association is very strong, but we need to look to the future especially the upcoming 90th anniversary. The NMC and more importantly the branches will need to start to fund raise and plan, so the anniversary year is one to remember and support our serving and veteran Rock Apes and their families.

Per Ardua

Sean Linard

National Treasurer