

AFOCC
AGM Sunday 6 November 2022
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Every Chairman's Riding Report for the past few years has started with "it has been a challenging year".

This is no exception!

We welcomed new PGM's from Yorkshire West and Yorkshire North and East Riding; we also welcomed a new Treasurer, David Wadsworth and a new Manager for Connaught Court. Marinda.

Sadly, we said "goodbye" to Victoria Wilson after many years of outstanding service.

We were looking forward to our first Summer Fair in three years but, alas, circumstances prevented that at the last minute.

Our thanks go out to all those involved in preparing for the Summer Fair; including the staff at CC for cake-making, marquee-erecting, arranging refrigeration and generator equipment, press liaison, raffle prize donations, purchasing the drinks, etc. Plus much more effort from many people.

A special thank-you to Kevin Priestley for booking nearly 30 stalls and events.

I am very sorry that the Fair was cancelled with very short notice but it was the right decision.

The AFOCC has continued to raise funds and support Connaught Court in many ways, including 2 "Kurten" chairs (Marinda will explain what they are!), cinema screen, portable screens, 4 new marquees, 12 indoor/outdoor tables, plus the usual support for entertainments, Christmas and Birthday presents and trips for the residents.

But this is what we are for!

We have been investigating some larger projects which hopefully, will be approved at our next committee meeting.

New storage area for marquees, chairs, tables, etc.

A replacement Mini-bus; the existing one requires a special licence for the driver and is too large for CC staff to drive.

Replacing the front and rear conservatories due to poor condition; unusable in hot or cold weather.

The original plan was to build an Orangery at the front of the Home but several factors necessitated a re-think !

An Orangery would require planning permission which is unlikely to be granted by the City of York Planning Department, I have also discussed with Mark Nelson-Smith at RMBI and he will see final plans before we start any work.

So, we have received quotations for removing the tops of the existing conservatories; retaining the dwarf walls and fitting new units with modern insulation materials.

The advantages are many, the total cost for the two units is less than one Orangery, no planning permission and completed with 2-3 weeks so minor disruption to the Home.

If we succeed in implementing these projects, it will bring the funding from AFOCC over the past 14 years to well-over £400,000.

One of the methods we have brought in to maintain our fund-raising is to ask our Brethren and Friends to pledge an annual Standing Order to AFOCC and have suggested a figure of £5.00 per year (more if they wish)

If every Freemason in our 3 Provinces pledged just £5.00 each, we would raise over £60,000 every year plus Gift Aid.

We feel that this is a better way to secure long-term regular income rather than the current Membership scheme which charges a minimum of £10 for life-time membership. This would mean that all Brethren who subscribe to the annual Standing Order would become Members of AFOCC,, existing Members would still retain their life-time Membership.

We have about 100 contributors at present with around £1500 plus Gift Aid being pledged.

As part of our Constitution, we can only remove the existing Membership Scheme with a vote at our AGM.

A little can go a very long way in supporting our wonderful Connaught Court!

I thank the Committee for all their hard work and support; especially our hard-working Secretary, I also thank the many Freemasons in our Provinces for their generosity and continued support, both individually and especially at Provincial level, we cannot manage without you!

We hope to see a lot of them on Saturday 10 June next year when we really hope to have our Summer Fair!

Chris J Turner

Chairman

AFOCC

Treasurers Report

Despite the ongoing issues with COVID and the unfortunate necessity to cancel the Summer Fair, I am pleased to report another successful if frustrating year for the Association, with a small decrease in total funds of £165 in the year compared with an increase of £19,852 in 2021. Income for the year was £30,033, with expenditure £30,198. The COVID restrictions affecting Connaught Court meant that we were not able to make progress on our major projects as quickly as we would have liked, but with the situation now improving, we are looking forward to getting on with implementing those projects over the next few months.

	2022	2021	2022 movement Increase/(Decrease)
	£	£	£
NatWest General Account	64,788.36	73,783.08	(8,994.72)
NatWest Deposit Account	25,011.30	10,238.28	14,773.02
NSI Account	67,507.73	67,500.98	6.75
HSBC Bond	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00
Accruals	(9,150.00)	(3,200.00)	(5,950.00)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Funds	150,657.39	150,822.34	(164.95)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Represented by :-			
General Fund	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00
Mini-bus/Special Projects Fund	58,149.66	58,321.36	(171.70)
Owen Brooks Duxbury Legacy	67,507.73	67,500.98	6.75
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	150,657.39	150,822.34	(164.95)
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During the year we moved our banking from HSBC to NatWest, as HSBC began charging the account and NatWest still provide free banking at present. Natwest also provide online banking facilities, which HSBC would not provide.

Treasurers Report

INCOME

Income at £30,033 (2021: £35,764) shows a decrease compared to last year of £5,731 as analysed below:-

		Increase/ (Decrease) £
General Donations	Lodges	777.73
	Provinces	(12,000.00)
	Individuals	(1,075.43)
Shop Sales		504.00
Summer Fair Flyers		5,913.62
Badges		469.00
Interest		(347.29)
Investment Income		12.71
Membership		15.00
		<u>(5,730.66)</u>

We fully expected to hold our Summer Fair this year, and consequently the donations from Provinces were down by £12,000. The Summer Fair Flyers generated almost £6,000, with an increase in donations from lodges and a reduction in individual donations largely offsetting each other.

The easing of COVID restrictions meant that shop sales resumed, much to the delight of the residents.

The donations in the year were £22,826, a decrease from 2021 of £12,297.

The Provincial Donations are analysed as follows

	£
WRMCL	5,000.00
Lincolnshire	<u>3,000.00</u>
	<u>8,000.00</u>

These were boosted by a spendid £11,361 from Lodges and £3,465 from Individuals.

Treasurers Report

EXPENDITURE

Expenditure at £30,198 (2021: £15,912) was £14,286 higher than last year, as analysed below:-

	(Increase)/ Decrease £
Anniversary Tea Party	5,615.00
Website	(23.98)
Amenity Fund	(600.00)
Amenities	(13,267.36)
Summer Fair Expenses	(5,660.28)
Sundry	(349.96)
	<u>(14,286.58)</u>

The net spend on Amenities at (£11,828)(2021: £1,439) are distorted by the adding back of unused provisions from prior years, and if these are eliminated for both years, then the actual spend is £13,328 (2021: £8,561).

Spend in the Year	£	£
2 BOSE speakers	359.90	
Isolation Boxes	413.66	
2 Kurten Chairs	4,140.00	
Active Hurricane Column	964.80	
Security Building	4,900.00	
Canal Boat Trip	250.00	
Screens	300.00	
Servicing of Sound Systems	<u>2,000.00</u>	
		13,328.36
		<u>13,328.36</u>

These items were all provided at the request of the home managers for the benefit of the residents, and are in addition to the regular payments totalling £12,100 (2021: £11,500) provided to the Amenity Fund which cover regular outgoings on concerts, entertainment, craft, hospitality, birthdays etc.

The HSBC Bond at a cost of £2,500 continues to show a positive return in terms of both interest and appreciation value.

The General Fund has been retained at the previous years level of £25,000, as I am confident such an amount is sufficient capital in the General Fund to cover over 2 years expenditure at present levels or to meet further enhancements as required. This sum was transferred into the deposit account when we moved our accounts from HSBC to NatWest.

The Summer Fair expenses of £5,660 were mainly capital items (marquees, tables, catering supplies, water boilers) which can be stored for use at future Fairs. Receipts from Flyers of £5,914 more than offset these costs.

The Association's finances remain on a sound footing and with the continuing support of the membership of our three Provinces we will continue to provide that welcome additional support for both current and future residents.

David Wadsworth

Treasurer

Independent Examiner's Report
to The Association of Friends of Connaught Court

I have examined the attached account and statement for the year ended 30th September 2022

Respective responsibilities of director and auditors

The trustees of the Charity are responsible for the preparation of accounts; they consider that the audit requirement under the Charities Act 2011 does not apply. I have been appointed under the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under that Act. It is my responsibility to

examine accounts,
to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission
Commission, and
to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Examiner's Statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention.

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
 - proper accounting records are kept; and
 - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed  Date 10th October, 2022

David Arthur Taylor FCA
Beech House
4 Wentworth Street
Wakefield
WF1 2RX

Association of Friends of Connaught Court
Year ending 30 September 2022

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNT FUNDS

	September 2022	September 2021
Assets	£	£
NatWest General Account (2021 - HSBC)	64,788.36	73,783.08
NatWest Deposit Account (2021 - HSBC)	25,011.30	10,238.28
National Savings - Owen Brooks Duxbury	67,507.73	67,500.98
Investment at Cost - HSBC Bond	2,500.00	2,500.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<u>159,807.39</u>	<u>154,022.34</u>
Liabilities	£	£
Accruals		
Re: Isolation Boxes	0.00	(500.00)
Re: Secure Outbuilding	(6,500.00)	(1,600.00)
CDs	(100.00)	(100.00)
M Payne Sponsorship	0.00	(1,000.00)
Boat Trip	(250.00)	-
Screens	(300.00)	-
Servicing Sound Systems	(2,000.00)	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<u>(9,150.00)</u>	<u>(3,200.00)</u>
Net Assets	<hr/> <u>150,657.39</u>	<hr/> <u>150,822.34</u>
Represented by :-	£	£
General Fund	25,000.00	25,000.00
Mini Bus/Special Projects Fund	58,149.66	58,321.36
Owen Brooks Duxbury Fund	67,507.73	67,500.98
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As at 30/09/2022

Association of Friends of Connaught Court

Consolidated Income and Expenditure Account Year ending 30 September 2022

INCOME	Year to September 2022		Year to 30 September 2021	
	£	£	£	£
General Donations	11,361.51		10,583.78	
Lodges	3,000.00		20,000.00	
Provinces	5,000.00		0.00	
WRMCL	3,464.57		4,540.00	
Individuals	504.00		0.00	
Shop Sales	0.00		0.00	
Summer Fair	5,913.62		0.00	
Summer Fair Flyers	469.00		0.00	
Badges	18.67		365.96	
Interest	147.26		134.55	
Investment Income	155.00		140.00	
Membership				
		30,033.63		35,764.29
EXPENDITURE				
Amenity Fund	(12,100.00)		(11,500.00)	
Summer Fair Expenses	(5,660.28)			
Less Sponsorship	0.00		0.00	
Anniversary/Tea Party	0.00		(5,765.00)	
Less Sale of Badges	0.00		150.00	
Website	(239.98)		(5,615.00)	
Amenities	0.00		(216.00)	
Write back 2021 provision	(11,828.36)		1,439.20	
Sundry	(369.96)		(20.00)	
		(30,198.58)		(15,911.80)

Net Income/(Expenditure)

(164.95)

19,852.49

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Accruals		
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Re: Secure Outbuilding	(6,500.00)	(1,600.00)
CDs	(100.00)	(100.00)
M Payne Sponsorship	0.00	(1,000.00)
Boat Trip	(250.00)	-
Screens	(300.00)	-
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Sundry	1,500.00	10,000.00	1,439.20	
		(369.96)	(20.00)	
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Net Income/(Expenditure)

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