

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2023

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity Name:	The Football Association Benevolent Fund
Legal Status:	The Charity was originally known as The Football National War Fund established on 12 December 1917 under the War Charities Act 1916. It ceased to operate as a War Charity on 25 February 1938 and the funds thereof continued to be applied under the name of The Football Association Benevolent Fund, which was formally established under a trust deed dated 13 October 1976. A revised trust deed was issued dated 10 March 1988. The Charity is registered with the Charity Commission (registration number 299012).
Address of Charity:	The Football Association Benevolent Fund Wembley Stadium Wembley Middlesex HA9 0WS
Trustees:	G Thompson M Leggett R Shah
Secretary to the Trustees:	R McDermott
Investment Advisors:	HSBC Global Asset Management
Bankers:	Barclays Bank Plc
Auditors:	Roddis Taylor Robinson Chartered Accountants Unit 6 Acorn Business Park Woodseats Close Sheffield S8 0TB

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to Charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare Financial Statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the Charity for that period. In preparing these Financial Statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the Financial Statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust Deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Trustees are usually recruited from the Football Association's Council Members, who are experienced in both the Football Association matters and of the objectives of the Charity. Trustees are also recruited for their varying professional skills.

Mr R McDermott, Secretary to the Trustees, is in charge of day to day administration matters.

The Trustees are aware of the major risks to which the Charity is exposed and can confirm that reasonable measures are being taken to mitigate the effect of these risks on the Charity.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Charity's principal objective is to provide support to persons, and their dependants, which is necessary by reason of poverty or age or physical or mental infirmity or disability, who are connected or previously have been connected to Association Football. The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives and in planning future activities and setting the grant making policy for the year.

Applications for assistance from the fund are made through County Football Associations and each and every application for assistance is considered by the Trustees.

This policy is consistent with previous years.

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Total grants payable has decreased by 4% to £82,597 (2022: £86,074). There were 46 beneficiaries in the year (2022: 32).

Investment income increased by 27% to £139,117 (2022: £109,622) and the value of investments increased by 9% to £5,723,783 (2022: £5,246,825).

The reserves policy aims to hold sufficient reserves to maintain the Charity's ability to fulfil its objectives in the long term. The Trustees are satisfied that the current level of reserves is adequate for this purpose.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

All assets are being held for the purpose of meeting the Charity's objective.

The principal objective of the Charity's investment policy is to earn the highest total return on the investment portfolio whilst accepting an overall medium level of risk. The Charity relies on specialists to advise on stock market investments and also secure havens for bank deposits.

All investments held by the Charity have been acquired in accordance with the powers available to Trustees.

Due to the strength of the balance sheet the Charity is independent of Football Association Limited.

The Charity's net assets amount to £5,885,357 and the Trustees believe them to be adequate to be able to fulfil the obligations of the Charity.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

The plans for the future are to continue to support, by way of grants, those beneficiaries whose application has been approved by the Trustees. A specific designation of £150,000 from the assets of the Benevolent Fund have been made available to support the players and families of the England 1966 World Cup squad who qualify as "beneficiaries" in accordance with the objectives of the Charity. Additionally, the definition of "beneficiaries" now includes individuals who are in need of support by reason of abuse, neglect or other trauma experienced through football.

Approved by the Trustees on 30 October 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



.....
G Thompson

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Football Association Benevolent Fund (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2023, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND (CONTINUED)

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- the charity has not kept adequate accounting records; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 2, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements and for being satisfied they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken based on these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND (CONTINUED)

The charity is subject to laws and regulations that directly and indirectly affect the financial statements. Based on our understanding of the charity and the environment in which it operates, we determined that the laws and regulations which were most significant included the Charities Act 2011. We considered the extent to which non-compliance with laws and regulations might have a material effect on the financial statements, including how fraud might occur. We evaluated the incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risk related to grants being paid to individuals who do not meet the stated objectives of the Charity.

Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

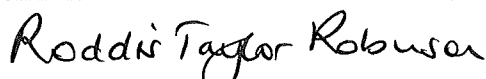
- Discussions with management to obtain an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the charity and how it ensures compliance, including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud;
- Reviewing documentation to ensure there is no evidence of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Reviewing minutes of Trustees meetings;
- Identifying and assessing the effectiveness of internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations which includes tests designed to ensure grant claims are properly vetted and appropriately authorised.
- Enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims;
- Identifying and testing journal entries, in particular any journal entries posted with unusual account combinations.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the more removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we are to become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentation or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Auditors.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Roddis Taylor Robinson
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor
Unit 6 Acorn Business Park
Woodseats Close
Sheffield
S8 0TB

31 October 2024

Roddis Taylor Robinson is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	<u>Notes</u>	Unrestricted Total <u>2023</u> £	Total <u>2022</u> £
INCOME			
Investment income	2	139,117	109,622
Donations		-	-
TOTAL INCOME		<u>139,117</u>	<u>109,622</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Cost of raising funds:			
Investment management fees		<u>40,546</u>	<u>43,427</u>
Charitable activities:			
Grants payable	3	<u>82,597</u>	<u>86,074</u>
Governance costs:			
Management and administration	4	<u>34,860</u>	<u>21,225</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>158,003</u>	<u>150,726</u>
NET EXPENDITURE BEFORE GAINS/(LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS		(18,886)	(41,104)
Net gains/(losses) on investment assets		<u>368,510</u>	<u>(489,799)</u>
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		349,624	(530,903)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Fund balances brought forward		<u>5,535,733</u>	<u>6,066,636</u>
Fund balances carried forward		<u><u>5,885,357</u></u>	<u><u>5,535,733</u></u>

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	<u>Notes</u>	Total Funds <u>2023</u> £	Total Funds <u>2022</u> £
FIXED ASSETS			
Investments	5	5,723,783	5,246,825
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	6	924	3,122
Cash at bank		184,650	308,232
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		185,574	311,354
CREDITORS: AMOUNTS DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	7	24,000	22,446
NET CURRENT ASSETS		161,574	288,908
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		5,885,357	5,535,733
NET ASSETS		5,885,357	5,535,733
FUNDS			
UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS			
General fund	8	5,885,357	5,535,733

The Financial Statements were approved by the Trustees on 30 October 2024 and were signed on their behalf by:



.....
G Thompson



.....
M Leggett

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the financial currency of the Charity and rounded to the nearest £1.

- a. All grants, donations and voluntary income are accounted for gross when receivable, as long as they are capable of financial measurement.
- b. All expenditure is accounted for gross, on an accrual's basis.
- c. Direct charitable expenditure includes the direct costs of the activities.
- d. Grants payable are recognised as expenditure when an application has been approved and the commitment is entered into. Where such a grant is to be paid over instalments, the outstanding balance is disclosed as a liability.
- e. Debtors and creditors are recorded at transaction value.
- f. Investments are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their market value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluation of disposals throughout the year.

The charity does not acquire, or use put options, derivatives or other complex financial investments.

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

2. INVESTMENT INCOME

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	£	£
Bank interest receivable	9,829	3,772
Income receivable from UK listed investments	9,665	9,116
Income receivable from UK unlisted investments	59,567	49,234
Income receivable from overseas listed investments	30,688	34,049
Income receivable from overseas unlisted investment	29,368	13,451
	<u>139,117</u>	<u>109,622</u>

3. GRANTS PAYABLE

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	£	£
Payable to individuals	<u>82,597</u>	<u>86,074</u>

All the grants are paid in accordance with the Charity's principal objective as set out in the Trustees Report.

4. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION COSTS

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	£	£
Bank charges	360	-
Audit fees	3,150	3,150
Other support costs	31,350	18,075
	<u>34,860</u>	<u>21,225</u>

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

5. INVESTMENTS

	<u>2023</u> £	<u>2022</u> £
Market value as at 1 January	5,246,825	5,571,413
Additions	2,667,131	2,634,388
Disposal proceeds	(2,558,683)	(2,469,177)
Net investment gains/(losses)	368,510	(489,799)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Market value as at 31 December	5,723,783	5,246,825
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Investments are represented by:

UK listed investments	273,369	278,731
UK unlisted investments	2,705,978	2,549,875
Overseas listed investments	2,110,718	1,821,297
Overseas unlisted investments	633,718	596,922
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	5,723,783	5,246,825
	<hr/>	<hr/>

6. DEBTORS

	<u>2023</u> £	<u>2022</u> £
Other debtors	800	-
Prepayments	-	2,812
Accrued income	124	310
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	924	3,122
	<hr/>	<hr/>

7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	<u>2023</u> £	<u>2022</u> £
Grants payable	250	4,984
Accruals	23,750	17,462
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	24,000	22,446
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THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

8. FUND RECONCILIATION

	Balance at 1 January 2023	Income	Expenditure	Gains/ (Losses)	Balance at 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted (General)	5,472,733	139,117	(158,003)	368,510	5,822,357
Designated	63,000	-	-	-	63,000
	<u>5,535,733</u>	<u>139,117</u>	<u>(158,003)</u>	<u>368,510</u>	<u>5,885,357</u>

Fund descriptions

Unrestricted (general)

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated

An amount of £150,000 was designated to support the players and families of the 1966 World Cup Squad who have encountered financial hardship. No grants were awarded during the year ended 31 December 2023 from these funds (2022: none) the total to date amounts to £87,000.

9. RELATED PARTIES

No Trustee or connected person received any remuneration either directly or indirectly.

No Trustee received any reimbursed expenses.

No indemnity insurance was purchased during the year.

There is no ultimate controlling party.

The Football Association Benevolent Fund and Football Association Limited are considered to be related parties due to having senior officials in common. There were no transactions with The Football Association Limited in the year.