

Treasurer's Report 1st June 2024 – 31st May 2025

The balance sheet is shown in the second table. The large sums under miscellaneous expenses and miscellaneous income refer to a scam. The money was refunded by the bank, and nothing was lost from the Happy Herts account.

The overall sum carried over from the financial year 2023-2024 was £22,979.26 and the closing balance on 31/5/2025 equalled £25,614.79, an increase of £2635.53. This consisted of £544.13 interest in the Skipton deposit account and a current account surplus of £2091.40 from the various events during the year.

The following items have not been included in the accounts:

- 1) The remaining stock of O-Kit, bought in July 2024, was valued at £959 at the end of the financial year.
- 2) Liabilities of £360 (paid in June 2025) were owed for medical services at the Ace of Herts as the invoice went astray.
- 3) The accounts show unpaid entry fees of £908 for the Compass Sport Cup, JK and British relays. The sum of £242 is still outstanding.

Some differences in the totals of various categories between the two years are of note. The higher figure for the previous year's expenditure on capital equipment is largely explained by the five-yearly purchase of a licence to use Sport-Ident timing equipment (£739.20) and a new battery (£699). The greater expenditure on map surveys in the current financial year reflects the BOF-subsidised "Find Your Way" programme. The total BOF grant of £2457.25, combined with increased interest from the deposit account and two dividends from the North London SI Consortium accounts for much of the increased income. The apparent difference in membership subscriptions is caused by a change in how the SEOA contribution has been applied. HH membership in the calendar years 2023, 2024 and 2025 (to date) were 199, 205 and 193, respectively.

A breakdown of the various activities in which Happy Herts took part are shown in the first table. Significant profits arose from our three major events: Ace of Herts, Jack of Herts and the Yvette Baker Trophy for junior orienteers. The Ace of Herts surplus does not include the £360 expense for medical services which was invoiced late and paid after the end of the financial year.

The Saturday series made a small profit. We charge the same for each event but sometimes pay for the venue and for land access. If we pay for both we can make substantial losses; if we pay for neither we gain. We now have the extra expense of a bureaucratic levy from Welwyn Hatfield Council for both Mardley Heath and Sherrardspark Woods resulting in ~ £100 losses.

With David Dixon printing the maps for Street-O, we usually make a profit of a few pounds per event. Although we use expensive waterproof paper, he can often use the blank side of old Saturday Series maps. Since Street-O is a purely summer activity, most of events covered by this report were actually in 2024. I have, therefore, split them into two (Street-O = 2024). The events in 2024 made a loss and the entrance fees were increased for 2025. The apparently large surplus in 2025 can partly be attributed to the introduction of season tickets which were paid in the 2024-2025 year, whereas most of the events were in 2025-2026. The only "minor HH" event was the combined LOK / HH Boxing Day score race.

The second part of the table covers income and expenditure which are not directly related to HH orienteering events. We aim for the income from membership and financing to roughly correspond to the total of the other activities. This does not appear to be the case because of the large loss from “Away Events”. These are events which the Club enters on behalf of its members and include the Compass Sport Cup as well as the British and JK relays. The junior events are 100% subsidised (£265) by the club. Senior runners are expected to pay for their entries; at the end of the financial year £908 was outstanding, explaining the apparent loss. Most of this has since been recovered (£666).

“Attraction and Retention” consists mainly of the purchase and sale of the Club’s orienteering kit but also includes buying medals and the purchase and engraving of trophies. “Coaching” is orienteering training as distinct from the training of officials. The expenditure for the past year (£270) can be accounted for by map-printing and the cost of various venues used. “Officials’ Training” is subsidised by the Club in the expectation that the newly qualified members will become effective organisers, planners, controllers, safety officers and first-aiders. “Social events” include the annual Club Dinner and any summer and Christmas social training exercises. A Club subsidy of these events of around £400 is considered suitable. Find Your Way was a BOF-sponsored initiative to increase interest in orienteering. Most of the grant was spent on map-surveys and there was a small surplus (7%) for HH.

With a healthy surplus from this year’s events, we do not see any reason to increase our membership fees of £10, £7 and £5 for seniors, young adults and juniors, respectively, though the modest increase in BOF fees for all grades other than juniors (e.g. +£1 for seniors) means that most members will see a slightly higher 2026 membership fee.