

**TREASURERS REPORT 2018**

As mentioned by the Chairman, we have introduced the following financial controls and measures to ensure that Accessible Retail is best placed to meet the ongoing pressures being faced by the retail sector;

1. The most important element of the above was addressing the issue of membership fees which had not been raised for some considerable time. An initial fee increase was as you are all aware made with annual increases planned.
2. Contracts have now been issued to all those parties requiring them i.e. Louise’s team etc. This move whilst not of course being radical does ensure that further budgetary management can be put in place.
3. We have focused on the profitability of the events actually being organised and to that end we have ensured that an ‘overhead’ cost is realistically apportioned. This is showing very positive results and acts as a buffer against any unforeseen events i.e. withdrawal of sponsorship.
4. We have rescheduled capital projects such as the AR website etc and agreed with our accounts to write this down over the life time of the website itself (traditionally 5 years).
5. Weekly bank reconciliations and updates are now received. Whilst again not radical it does prompt a mindset change regarding financial controls.

Summary and the challenges ahead

AR faces a number of financial challenges over the coming years, these primarily being;

1. A reducing pool of members willing to offer sponsorship for events.
2. Increasing venue costs for events.
3. Planned Increases to membership fees
4. Diminishing profit gained from events

Andrew, Louise and I are working very hard to address the above whilst also seeking further opportunities to work in partnership with other retail organisations in order to drive down event / overhead costs etc. We are also reviewing the current membership profile with a view to expanding those companies who may be allowed to join AR either as a formal member or to attend events etc.

Finally I would like to thank Louise Oliver and her team for their outstanding support to AR and myself.

**Kevin Jarvis**

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**AR Treasurer**

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