

Suffolk Festival 2022/23 Income and Expenditure Account Commentary

During the financial year ending in March 2023 we were able to run two sections of the Festival, Speech and Drama and Dance, generating revenue of £8,690. Other sections were unable to run due to lack of Section heads and Festival volunteers. Following a significant loss in the 2021/22 financial year, we were able to return to breaking even.

1. The Festival continues to aim to cover all costs and make a small return to meet the increasing costs of each subsequent year's Festival.
2. Donations continued at a similar high level to 2021/22, providing a very significant contribution to the running of the Festival. We would again like to thank a small number of benefactors, for their continued generosity.
3. Following 21/22 when we were awarded an exemption by the local council wrt Child Licensing on the basis that we did not charge for entry, we were able this year to be awarded a BOPA, thanks to much hard work by our Dance secretary, and were therefore able to generate Gate income contributing significantly to our break even position. We intend to review our charges for future years to increase our profitability. The Speech section did not charge for entry but in future years will also need to apply for a BOPA and thus be able to generate Gate income.
4. The Syllabus was not printed again to minimize costs, but it was decided to print a Dance Programme to generate additional income (before we were aware that we could charge for entry). This is likely to be a worthwhile option going forward. The Dance section also generated advertising in the Programme, which easily covered the printing costs, in addition to additional Dance section bursaries.
5. Adjudicator costs are significant, but the Speech Section costs were reduced by asking the adjudicator to travel on the day rather than incurring an overnight stay.
6. Venue costs and technician fees continue to make up a significant proportion of overall expenditure.
7. Medal and Ribbon costs were offset by the sale of Lanyards for Dance medals, which proved popular. The expenditure was not completely covered but we retain a stock of lanyards for next year.
8. Lunch expenditure was reduced by a third this year by buying in buffet style lunches for the Adjudicator and volunteers. We should continue this policy going forward.
9. No Concerts were held.

Conclusions:

The 2022/23 balance sheet shows a small profit – essentially breakeven. The Festival continues to be dependent upon the generous donations we receive in addition to tight cost control, for which I would like to thank the committee and section specialists for their efforts.

It should be noted that the Festival has more than halved in size in revenue terms since 2018, and that all the sections with the exception of Dance are struggling to make a return or even run at all. This is, in part due to the lack of Section leads and Volunteers willing to commit time and effort to both the promotion and the running of the Festival. Without significant progress in this area it is difficult to see how the Festival can continue in its current form.

Wendy Shorrocks
Treasurer
4th April 2023