

Treasurers Report

September 2009

The past year has seen major changes to the financial administration of the organisation.

The period from the last AGM to the end of March 2009 was under the 'old' Ecsite-Uk arrangements with the British Science Association. At this time the organisation was not a legal entity and did not produce independent accounts. I would like to thank the British Science Association and John Gagg in particular for their excellent support.

From 1st April, the ASDC was formally constituted, with new entirely financial arrangements. I would like to welcome Chris Godden who has been contracted to support ASDC's financial controls and reporting. Taken together, the new arrangements are robust and provide appropriate reporting and control arrangements for the organisation going forward.

ASDC's financial year will now run from 1st April to 31st March, and normal audit procedures and annual reporting will take place.

Turning to the finances themselves. The latest management accounts have been provided, together with a summary of figures for the period since the last AGM. The transfer of £217,620 from the British Science Association provides a useful indicator of the reserves at the start of the year.

Penny is to be congratulated for securing a larger grant from government this year and for her general control of costs, however we are not breaking even. The cash flow forecast for the year shows cash reserves could be at around £150,000 at the end of the year in March 2010.

Membership fees are clearly an important income stream, however the process of setting up ASDC and its relationship with Ecsite means that membership fees are a particularly sensitive area, and I have been happy to support the board in their thinking on this and the need to keep fees at moderate levels.

In the short term, the financial position is satisfactory, however there is considerable uncertainty in the medium and long term. The government grant received this year may not be provided next year. The new ASDC board must continue to look at income and costs and work towards a sustainable financial model.

Peter Trevitt

Treasurer