Ponies Association (UK) - Treasurers Report
Presented by Acting Treasurer Mr Graham Leney

I was invited to take over the position of acting Treasurer for Ponies Association (UK) by Carol Cooper following the resignation of the former Treasurer Mrs Frances Sheffield, at an extraordinary Board meeting held on the 4th June 2018. Following this, a meeting was arranged with Mrs Sheffield whereby it was agreed to work through the accounts so that I had a good picture of the financial status of the Association. Unfortunately the handover was incredibly brief and the information that I was presented with was not without issues.

On inspection of the Accounts for the year ended 30th September 2017, as prepared by Whiting & Partners together with Mrs Sheffield, it was immediately clear that there were discrepancies in the figures and when I approached Whiting & Partners they were unable to clarify the allocation of certain funds. For example in the administration expenses, the figure of £14,105.00 allocated as entertainment could not be clarified as to how this figure was achieved as there were no invoices or receipts available. There is also a discrepancy in the profit and loss figures where a figure of £6,705 was shown as a profit from the Winter Show, but was actually a loss and is shown as such on a previous section.

Furthermore Whiting & Partners must adhere to confidentiality of their clients, and when questioned regarding this by myself, Ponies Association (UK) immediately received their letter of resignation. No further information on the part of Whiting & Partners was forthcoming, and hence the 2017 Accounts were never signed off. At the time of stepping into this role, the financial stability of the Association was very uncertain, as in the previous eighteen months there had been a decline in the bank balance from £55,000 down to just £346.00. It was clear that close monitoring of expenditure was required and the introduction of a simple Board approval and Order Number system was put in place, and the Association has seen a gradual growth in our bank balance which the Association can now continue to build upon.

For the year ended 30th September 2018 an initial set of Micro Entity Accounts have been submitted and signed off with a full set of Accounts to follow. This was due to the need to conform with Companies House in submitting a set of Accounts and an exemption to supply Micro Accounts was granted by Companies House.

On a more positive note the past twelve months has seen a healthy increase in membership numbers of both competitors and judges. The Association has received a greatly improved number of shows wishing to affiliate to Ponies (UK) for the 2020 season, which clearly demonstrates that as an Association, Ponies (UK) are moving in the right direction. With our enthusiastic Board members working together, our members can look forward to Ponies Association (UK) once again being the Association for Everyone.

Graham Leney
14th November 2019