



BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

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SOCIETY INFORMATION

Officers and Advisers	Stuart Hatcher (Chair) Sharon Wright (Deputy Chair) Don Tanswell (Secretary) Graham Hanock (Treasurer) – appointed 23 January 2024 John Scott Christine Powell - resigned 23 January 2024 Ron Cooper - resigned 23 January 2024 Jon Gosling Chris Tate - resigned 23 January 2024 Fran Carroll Colleen Wong Keith MacInnes Jeff Dent James Walsh - resigned 23 January 2024
Secretary	Don Tanswell (Secretary)
Company Number	IP29244R
Registered Office	Amelia House Crescent Road Worthing BN11 1RL
Accountants	Carpenter Box Amelia House Crescent Road Worthing BN11 1RL
Bankers	The Co-operative Bank PO Box 250 Skelmersdale WN8 6WT

BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

CONTENTS

Page

Chair's Statement	1 - 4
Board Members' Report	5 - 6
Accountants Report	7
Income and Expenditure Account	8
Balance Sheet	9
Notes to the Financial Statements	10 - 12

The following pages do not form part of the statutory accounts

Detailed Income and Expenditure Account	13 – 14
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BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

CHAIR'S STATEMENT

Introduction

Having made my debut last year with my first report as Chair of Bees United – it would seem that I now face “second season syndrome” in having to report once again (although as Brentford fans we know that there is no such thing...).

I have to, of course, make the point clear – as indeed I do at every Bees United board meeting – that I must thank all members of the Bees United board for their contributions and efforts in respect of everything that we had done this year. Every member of the board is an unpaid volunteer who gives up their time to help keep the organisation running – so I am pleased to be able to publicly thank all of them for all they have done this year.

Membership

Bees United is first and foremost a members’ organisation. I will also risk repeating myself from my report last year, as I have to acknowledge that we are fortunate to benefit from a wide variety of contributions from members who help in many different ways and who also all have given their time and expertise freely in supporting the initiatives we have worked on through the year. We are a members’ organisation and we are grateful for all our members do for us in whatever capacity and in all the engagements that they have with us.

And why should our members care about Bees United? We are all undoubtedly aware of the debate and discussion regarding a new regulator for football – an independent football regulator created by Parliament that is intended to help prevent bad actors and unsavoury types from doing harm to the clubs we love, and it now appears certain that we will see the regulator come into play in the near future. However, we are perhaps fortunate that we saw off our dark days and ended up as owners of the club before agreeing to sell the club to Matthew Benham (nearly 20 years ago). As such we are a club that I think is the envy of the rest of the football world, and of other football fans, with the level of involvement that we have as the official supporters trust. We remain the sole Premier League football club with a supporter director on the board, continue to hold the “BU Special Share” (that protects the sale of the stadium) and also continue to have monies lent to the club interest free to continue that (at this point in our history now symbolic) financial connection between clubs and fans. Without you the members there is no Bees United and there would be no special share and no seat on the board. Some of these things may come to pass by legislation in creating the regulator – but I am proud that we as the official supporters’ trust have that engagement and role on the basis of trust and respect and valuing our input as opposed to it being dictated by statute.

In October 2023, we hit the target set in the previous AGM to reach 3,750 members and we then targeted 4,000 members by the next AGM. As of 30 June 2024, our membership stood at 3,808.

I will take just a moment here to thank John Scott for the work he does as Membership Secretary and the work he does to keep us compliant with data protection law.

Bees United Board - changes

At the last AGM we said farewells to a number of board members and welcomed Graham Hancock who accepted the task of picking up the Treasurer role – and as a result this is his first outing as Treasurer for completing these accounts, and some details on Finances are at the end of this report as well as there being a separate report from Graham, but I do have to say thank you to Jim Walsh for his assistance in transitioning the role to Graham and also a big thank you to Graham for taking the role on and getting these accounts completed!

Onto departures and I am reminded that our rules require that board members stand down after a maximum period of 12 years consecutive service on the board. And so this means that we are obliged to say goodbye to Jon Gosling. I am not sure how I can properly pay tribute to Jon’s involvement with Bees United and Brentford as he starts his 55th year as a Brentford fan. Jon has been as passionate about the club off the field as on the field in my experience. He has been involved with fans groups since their inception, he has served on the BU Board, he was elected to be the

BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

supporter director on the club's board (2006-2009) and even appears in a pre-season squad photo! Jon truly plays the conscience of the fan and will never shy from asking the difficult question or of making sure that we stick to the values we set ourselves and always, always improves any consideration of procedures, processes and protocols (and spent untold hours refreshing the BU Rules a number of years ago). The Board loses a true fan, who is a dedicated proponent of supporters' rights and of doing the right thing – and of asking the right questions of ourselves.

We also co-opted Jonathan Burchill on to the BU Board in the year – and many of you will know of Jonathan by following his regular stats updates on social media and also on the Beesotted podcast. Jonathan has been involved in a number of history and heritage projects and we will be asking members to confirm his appointment as a director at the AGM.

With the recent changes and retirements to the BU Board, as a board we will be considering the need for a refresh and the identification of skills gaps and experience that might benefit Bees United with our next challenges and to help us achieve the things we want to do next. Our Deputy Chair, Sharon Wright, will help lead on this exercise.

Fan Engagement

The Fan Advisory Board has now completed its first half dozen meetings and has been another important step in fan engagement. The FAB is jointly Chaired by Bees United and BIAS and I'd encourage you all to ensure that you do follow the summary of the meetings that the club publishes¹.

Bees United Communications and events

Our monthly newsletter has continued to be the core of our communications with our Members.

Our members survey earlier in the year (which over 800 of our members completed) gave us interesting insight into our members views on a number of topics – including any pricing of tickets (which remains a hot topic of debate – perhaps more so at other clubs than at Brentford, but we will not be complacent). Watch this space for future members surveys and also the possibility of some more specific member events.

I'd also like to thank Colleen Wong for continuing to lead on our social media presence and we will continue to work on bringing you interesting insights and thoughts and updates on matters affecting you as fans and as members of Bees United.

Compliance and BU Governance

One of the four pillars of the BU Vision² is Management which states as its ambition "Maintaining first class governance and financial management of Bees United with a view to growing the membership."

I have to make special mention here of Don Tanswell without whom much of what Bees United does (and wants to do) would not happen, or would stall and not get completed (including this AGM report...!). Don keeps everything on track and somehow keeps all the plates spinning without fail. Thank you Don for all that you do!

History and Heritage

We continue to do a lot of work in respect of one of BU's "Four Pillars" ("To Promote and protect the history and heritage of the Club").

Having become the owners of the club's memorabilia and archive we continue to work to organise, catalogue, repair and conserve all of the items that we have taken ownership of so that they can be maintained for future fans. Our

¹ <https://www.brentfordfc.com/en/the-fan-advisory-board>

² <https://www.beesunited.org.uk/vision/>

BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

plans remain to digitise as much of this as we can and ultimately have a comprehensive catalogue of items and enable us to undertake “pop up” events and in the longer term hopefully work closely with the Brentford FC Community Sports Trust³ to create environments for experience and learning based around the club and its history.

Our next challenge is to ensure that the collection stays refreshed and updated and we are working with the club to ensure that we can capture new items for the collection – and also ensure that this includes the exciting history to date and the progressing journey that the women’s team are on! I want to make special recognition here of Paul Stembridge, Jonathan Burchill and Sian Allpress for their efforts in ensuring that we maintain compliance with museum standards for our collection and for their uncounted hours of work curating, identifying and cataloguing the collection.

It remains a core part of our strategy that we are a true participant in the local Brentford community and we continue to contribute to community events. We launched the BU Community Fund – which we plan to continue this year – which allowed us to make donations such as to The Musical Museum in Brentford and the Brentford Penguins. Additionally, we have been responsible for leading on some more plaque commemoration – with a plaque being placed at Harry Curtis’ old house (so, just a warning for you Thomas....) and of course most memorably and most recently the unveiling of the Remembrance plaque to honour those former-players who lost their lives in conflict⁴. One dedicated fan in particular needs to be thanked for enabling us to have this record of those we have lost, Paul Briers. Without Paul’s tireless dedication and thorough, detailed research over the years we would not have been able to recognise those 31 players whose names are commemorated in that plaque. We thank you Paul for all of that work and commitment.

We have been grateful to receive generous donations of memorabilia and archive items – and we thank all of those fans who have given items to us, you make the archive richer and will help tell the story of our history as a club for generations to come. We would call on any fans who have collections or items that they want to ensure has a good Brentford dedicated and committed home to reach out to us as we are happy to accept gifts of collections or items.

Finance

Our financial position is possible because of the donations which our members make, and everyone at BU thanks each member who continues to financially support our work with regular donations. We have also continued with a cost-free way that members can support BU by giving via retail purchases through the Easyfundraising website⁵, this is shown as other operating income.

During the year the board has completed the implementation of a treasury plan where we have placed tranches of monies on different fixed term deposits to maximise the amount of interest that we can generate from reserves. This has resulted in a significant increase in interest earned during the year and is likely to increase further over 2024/25 which will reflect a full year’s interest on such deposits.

As a result of the increased interest income, this year we have been able to increase considerably our expenditure and still record a small surplus. The majority of the increase relates to specific projects classified as heritage expenditure, these are in line with expectations and include installing plaques marking events in Brentford’s history, repairs to artefacts and scanning and storage of archives.

I will finish by reflecting back on the Jon Gosling article where he mentions the 2008-2009 season and ends with the statement: “That season was the start of the Club’s rise to better things and who knows where it may lead us next”.

³ <https://www.brentfordfcst.com/en>

⁴ <https://www.beesunited.org.uk/news/event-scrapbook/>

⁵ <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/panel/>

BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

I doubt Jon – or indeed any of us – would have guessed where it would lead Brentford FC to next and I also know that it is good practice for all of us at Bees United to challenge ourselves as to how we also build on from where we have come as an organisation from those different days.

Stuart Hatcher

Stuart Hatcher

Chair

Dated: 18 December 2024

BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

BOARD MEMBERS' REPORT

The Board Members present their report with the financial statements of the Society for the year ended 30 June 2024.

Principal activities

The Society's principal activity during the year continued to be that of a football supporter society.

Constitution

The Society is registered under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014.

Guiding Principles:

The Society is run on the following fundamental principles:

- Accountability - through annual elections to the Society Board in line with Supporters' Direct recommended practice;
- Democracy - by fully involving members in key decisions of the society and operating in an engaging manner;
- Inclusive - by agreeing a membership fee that is affordable to all and open to all;
- Open - by being transparent in all our activities.

Principal Aims:

The Society was set up with the following principal aims:

- To maintain a senior Professional football club in the local community;
- To bring the benefits of football closer to the community;
- To have elected supporter representation on the Board of the Club;
- To raise sufficient funds to invest in the club in pursuance of the above.

Board Members

Currently Serving

Elected Directors

Stuart Hatcher (Chair)

Sharon Wright (Deputy Chair)

Don Tanswell (Secretary)

Graham Hancock (Treasurer) – appointed 23 January 2024

John Scott

Christine Powell - resigned 23 January 2024

Ron Cooper - resigned 23 January 2024

Jon Gosling

Chris Tate - resigned 23 January 2024

Fran Carroll

Colleen Wong

Keith MacInnes

Jeff Dent

James Walsh - resigned 23 January 2024

BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

BOARD MEMBERS' REPORT

Statement of Board Members' Responsibilities

The board members are responsible for preparing the Annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The board members are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the society and of the surplus or deficit for that year. In preparing those financial statements, the board members are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that Society will continue in business.

The board members are responsible for maintaining satisfactory systems of internal control and keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the society and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the society and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The board members are responsible for maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the society's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provision applicable to societies entitled to the small companies exemption.

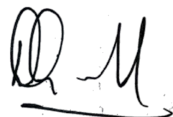
This report was approved by the board on 18 December 2024.

Signed on behalf of the board

Stuart Hatcher

Stuart Hatcher (Chair)

Don Tanswell



Don Tanswell (Secretary)

Graham Hancock

Graham Hancock (Treasurer)

BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON THE PREPARATION OF THE UNAUDITED STATUTORY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

In order to assist you to fulfil your duties under the Companies Act 2006, we have prepared for your approval the financial statements of Brentford Football Community Society Limited for the year ended 30 June 2024 which comprise the income and expenditure account, the balance sheet and the related notes from the society's accounting records and from information and explanations you have given us.

As a practising member firm of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), we are subject to its ethical and other professional requirements which are detailed at <http://www.icaew.com/en/members/regulations-standards-and-guidance>.

This report is made solely to the Board Members of Brentford Football Community Society Limited, as a body, in accordance with the terms of our engagement. Our work has been undertaken solely to prepare for your approval the financial statements of Brentford Football Community Society Limited and state those matters that we have agreed to state to the Board of Members of Brentford Football Community Society Limited, as a body, in this report in accordance with ICAEW Technical Release 07/16 AAF. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Brentford Football Community Society Limited and its Board Members as a body, for our work or for this report.

It is your duty to ensure that Brentford Football Community Society Limited has kept adequate accounting records and to prepare statutory financial statements that give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and result of Brentford Football Community Society Limited. You consider that Brentford Football Community Society Limited is exempt from the statutory audit requirement for the year.

We have not been instructed to carry out an audit or a review of the financial statements of Brentford Football Community Society Limited. For this reason, we have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations you have given to us and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the statutory financial statements.

Carpenter Box

Carpenter Box
Chartered Accountants

19 December 2024

Amelia House
Crescent Road
Worthing
BN11 1RL

BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Income			
Donations	3	19,489	21,483
Other operating income	3	<u>325</u>	<u>333</u>
Total income		19,814	21,816
Expenditure			
Heritage		14,432	3,026
Non-heritage		<u>15,885</u>	<u>13,603</u>
Total expenditure		(30,317)	(16,629)
Operating (deficit)/surplus		<u>(10,503)</u>	<u>5,187</u>
Interest receivable		13,813	1,203
Surplus for the year		<u>3,310</u>	<u>6,390</u>
Taxation	4	(2,624)	(229)
Net surplus for the year	7	<u>686</u>	<u>6,161</u>

BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

BALANCE SHEET

	Notes	£	2024 £	£	2023 £
Current assets					
Debtors and prepayments	5	514,699		511,087	
Cash at bank and in hand		500,633		500,434	
Total current assets			1,015,332		1,011,521
Current liabilities					
Creditors: due within one year	6	12,364	(12,364)	9,239	(9,239)
Net assets			<u>1,002,968</u>		<u>1,002,282</u>
Capital and reserves					
Share capital	7		3,808		3,670
Income and expenditure account	7		999,160		998,612
Members' funds			<u>1,002,968</u>		<u>1,002,282</u>

The shareholders have voted at the Annual General Meeting to remove the requirement for the accounts for the year ended 30 June 2024 to be audited, in accordance with the Society's articles.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to societies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

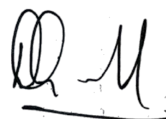
The financial statements were approved by the Board of Members and authorised for issue on 18 December 2024, and are signed on its behalf by:

Stuart Hatcher

Stuart Hatcher
Chair

Don Tanswell

Don Tanswell
Secretary



Graham Hancock

Graham Hancock
Treasurer

Company registration number IP29244R

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Accounting policies

1.1. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' ("FRS 102") and the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 as applicable to entities subject to the small companies regime. The disclosure requirements of section 1A of FRS 102 have been applied other than where additional disclosure is required to show a true and fair view.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the society. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £1.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2. Members' income

Members' subscriptions and donations for annual memberships are recognised as income on a receipts basis.

1.3. Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The board members have considered relevant information, including the annual budget and the impact of subsequent events in making their assessment. The society is financially strong with results since the year-end being satisfactory.

1.4. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are basic financial assets and include current accounts and deposits held with banks.

1.5. Financial assets and liabilities

The society has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instrument Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include loans from related parties, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, such as loans and other accounts receivable and payable are initially measured at present value of the future payments and subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Debt instruments that are payable or receivable within one year are measured, initially and subsequently, at the undiscounted amount of the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received.

1.6. Taxation

The tax expense represents the tax payable and on interest earned in the year.

2. Employees

The average number of persons (including board members) employed by the society during the year was 0 (2023 - 0)

BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

3. Income

The total income of the society for the year has been derived from its principal activity wholly undertaken in the UK.

Donations are all received from members. Other operating income is from members via retail purchases through the Easyfundraising website.

4. Taxation

	2024	20223
	£	£
UK Corporation tax current year	2,624	229
	<u>2,624</u>	<u>229</u>

5. Debtors and prepayments

	2024	2023
	£	£
Secured loans to Brentford FC Ltd	402,000	402,000
Unsecured loans to Brentford FC Ltd	99,998	99,998
Brentford Holdings Ltd	8,166	8,166
Prepayments	4,535	923
	<u>514,699</u>	<u>511,087</u>

The £402,000 is secured against the new Community Trust Building being part of the Brentford stadium.

6. Creditors: due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Loan notes	8,000	7,000
Corporation tax	2,624	229
Accruals	1,740	2,010
	<u>12,364</u>	<u>9,239</u>

The loan notes are amounts loaned to BU by members past and present, interest free, issued in 2002, 2005 and 2008. There are five loans ranging from £1,000 to £4,000. The total has been adjusted since last year following a review of past records, with the difference shown as a cost within non-heritage expenditure.

BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

7. Share capital and reserves

	Share capital	Income and expenditure account	Share capital	Income and expenditure account
	2024	2024	2023	2023
	£	£	£	£
As at 1 July	3,670	998,612	3,298	992,451
Adjustment to share capital	138	(138)	372	-
Net surplus for the year	-	686	-	6,161
	<u>3,808</u>	<u>999,160</u>	<u>3,670</u>	<u>998,612</u>

The company does not have an authorised share capital. Each adult member owns one share in the society which is not transferrable. The share is cancelled if an individual ceases to be a member.

New members are not charged the £1 for their share, the addition to share capital is shown as a transfer from reserves (in 2022/23 the adjustment was reflected within the income and expenditure account for the year of £6,161).

BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

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DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	£	2024 £	£	2023 £
Income				
Members' donations	19,489		21,483	
Easyfundraising donations	325		333	
		19,814		21,816
Interest receivable				
Co-operative bank	-		-	
Barclays bank	575		1,203	
Hargreaves Lansdown	785		-	
Redwood	3,422		-	
UTB	3,689		-	
Charity	3,129		-	
Hampshire	1,221		-	
Unity	992		-	
		13,813		1,203
Income for the year		33,627		23,019
Heritage expenditure				
Storage	5,041		3,026	
Storage insurance	315		-	
Storage equipment	1,782		-	
Plaques	2,531		-	
Repairs – frames	939		-	
Repairs – ceramics	1,450		-	
Repairs – glass	610		-	
Scanning	293		-	
Travel and expenses	1,471		-	
		(14,432)		(3,026)
Non-heritage expenditure				
Website and newsletter	5,120		6,180	
Promotions	285		-	
Surveys	118		-	
Brentford Voice	245		-	
Social media	143		-	
Equipment, software and licences	273		588	
Database costs	835		770	
Professional fees - accounting	1,593		1,410	
Professional fees – legal	356		2,172	
Registered office costs	321		-	
Accounting software	900		-	
AGM costs	2,242		365	
Insurance	602		702	
Microsoft infrastructure	1,532		-	
Travel and expenses	133		522	
Community fund donations	105		521	
Adjustment to loan notes valuation	1,000		-	
Other costs	82		373	
		(15,885)		(13,603)

BRENTFORD FOOTBALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY LIMITED
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

Expenditure for the year	<u>(30,317)</u>	<u>(16,629)</u>
Pre-tax surplus for the year	3,310	6,390
Taxation	(2,624)	(229)
Net surplus for the year	<u>686</u>	<u>6,161</u>