

# AGM REPORTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 AUGUST 2023

## Chair's report

This year for the first time the Chair's role has been held by co-chairs in rotation – Louise Brown and Anna Stickland, Jo Brooks and Anne Otley, Alison Dickens and Clare Revera and Geraldine Poore and me. This report started as an initial draft by me but now also includes additions and improvements from all my colleagues.

In preparing an initial draft I started by looking at past reports and was reminded what a turbulent time the last three or four years have been, for the BA as well as life in general, but thankfully this year seems to have been much more normal.

At our last AGM Geraldine commented that it was good to see “green shoots of basketry meetings and courses starting to grow”. We have built on this with the BA running a successful Spring School at Harrogate again, although sadly one tutor (Sue Kirk) was unable to teach due to Covid. Our remaining tutors (Rachael South, Clare Revera, Tim Johnson and Monica Guilera) generously agreed to each teach an additional student, and Eddie Glew agreed to take two additional students in his class. The event had a good buzz and beautiful baskets and chair seats were produced.

Autumn School was also well received, with three very different courses all fully subscribed from tutors Mel Bastier, Rosie Farey and Anna Turnbull. Unfortunately, the venue in Derbyshire is no longer able to offer us weekend bookings, and so we will need to try a new location for Autumn School in 2024.

Using the website for bookings helps a great deal with the organisation of the schools.

The BA's summer meeting built on last year's AGM theme of willow growing, with a visit to the National Willow Collection at Rothamsted. Members enjoyed a hot day in the willow fields with an interesting tour and talk from William MacAlpine, Rothamsted's willow breeder. Additionally, during the summer various local groups met up in local willow beds, to share experiences of willow growing or just enjoy meeting up.

Elsewhere the appetite for workshops remains unabated, with successful City and Guilds courses run at Westhope and workshops run by individual members often fully subscribed with waiting lists.

After two successful cohorts of Basketmakers' Professional Development Programmes which have supported 35 basketmakers to take part in this excellent business development programme offered by Cockpit, this year we are supporting two basketmakers to take part in a mixed craft discipline programme which commenced in August this year. Both programmes will be evaluated by participants in all three programmes early next year to guide us as to how best to support basketmakers in the future.

The Traditional Basketry Project (TBP) has moved into Phase 2 after the completion of the Endangered Baskets report in conjunction with Heritage Crafts. The overall aim is to research and record traditional baskets of the UK. Dr. Stephanie Bunn has helped us with formulating an ongoing plan for the future, the aims of which are:

- to set up a website to record traditional baskets and information about them
- to engage a project officer to take the project forward
- to continue to work with volunteers from the TBP subcommittee; and
- to secure further funding to develop the project

Members will have seen that the Journal continues to go from strength to strength with great work from Kim Winter and Anita Lomas in editing and design. The BA was also involved in

the publishing of two books this year – reprints of Olivia Elton Barratt's *Rushwork* and the rush book *Weaving with eight makers*.

The BA's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is fast approaching. What should we do to mark the anniversary? A special commemorative edition of the Journal is planned, but what else do members think we should do; suggestions so far have included a party, an exhibition, but we would welcome ideas. Have a think. We have a suggestion box here for ideas – please put your ideas or preferences on a slip of paper and pop them in the box.

As you all know the BA is run by volunteers. There are twelve directors of the Board – Alison Dickens, Anna Stickland, Anne Otley, Clare Revera, Louise Brown, Geraldine Poore, Jo Brook, Pru Todd, Rae Gilliat, Sarah Hatton, Sue Higham, and me. We are very ably supported by others who provide a variety of invaluable help - Mel Hart, Geri Clarke, Iris Hawkes and Dawn Ohlson, Alisha Davidson although this group does change from time to time and I apologise if I have missed anyone out. We are very grateful for all support and I take this opportunity of thanking everyone involved in any way.

There are to be several departures from the Board this year, Alison, Clare, Geraldine, Sue and me. Our thanks go to them for all their efforts over the years. But we are very pleased that several members have expressed an interest in joining the Board or in helping in some way. It is vital to our organisation that we have a pool of willing and able volunteers to keep it alive. Thank you all.

Sue Papworth

## **The Basketmakers' Association Ltd**

### **Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31st August 2023**

Becoming the BA Treasurer at the last AGM was a real honour. The support and encouragement from my fellow directors has been great and enabled me to overcome the many challenges faced. These included from becoming familiar with the range of BA activities and its various systems to the drawn out difficulties with our online banking provider.

Our finances show a trend towards growth. Included in this years accounts is a 3 year comparison to highlight both the extent of this growth and the impact of the pandemic in previous years. The financial review, recommended by the outgoing treasurer Selena Chandler, led to an increase in funds from members subscriptions and insurance payments. This has been a major contributing factor towards us becoming solvent and helped to secure the financial sustainability of the BA for years to come.

Our continued relationships with our donor partners, volunteers, publishers, our website host and great venues have enabled us to continue and improve our members services offer. This includes the many bursaries for members to attend our schools, and for professional development and Basketmaking groups' projects.

Looking to the coming year, I am excited to welcome Gill Jones to the 'finance team' and am looking forward to planning for the future. I'd like to make a special note of thanks to Katharine Woodward and Rae Gillott for their invaluable support and practical assistance over the past year.

Pru Todd

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AT 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2023

### CURRENT ASSETS

#### Cash in Bank/ at hand

Barclays Premium 10,852

Barclays Community 19,759

Aldermore Savings 36,000

#### Debtors

Autumn School deposit 1,015

WoCo Bursaries paid 22/23 5,100

**6,115**

**Total** **72,727**

#### Creditors

Autumn School prepayments 8,509

Bursaries/ Journal Staffing costs/

Honorarium Website support 3,650

**(12,159)**

**Net Current Assets** **60,568**

#### Ringfenced monies

Reserves 12,500

Traditional Basketry Project 4,000

Jubilee Fund 26,000

Exhibition Bursary 1,000

Christian Sands Bursary 1,000

Autumn School Costs 5,089

Tear Up Festival 2,000

**Total** **51,589**

# Profit and Loss

The Basketmakers' Association Limited  
For the year ended 31 August 2023

Account	2023	2022	2021	notes
<b>Turnover</b>				
Autumn School income received	8,508.78	2,475.00	0.00	1
Book Sales to members	4,566.04	4,287.11	3,837.98	
Enhanced Membership	3,811.09	1,513.00	1,519.00	
Interest Income	754.85	374.68	376.19	
Members Advertising in Newsletter	338.71	201.25	584.50	
Members' Subscriptions	27,923.70	21,448.45	20,118.07	
Other Revenue	130.00	539.57	2,396.00	
Spring Course Income received	23,202.74	17,027.30	0.00	
Worshipful Co Basketmakers Bursary	6,300.00	3,300.00	250.00	2
<b>Total Turnover</b>	<b>75,535.91</b>	<b>51,166.36</b>	<b>29,081.74</b>	
<b>Cost of Sales</b>				
Autumn School Costs	6,305.00	2,636.00	0.00	1
books postage	374.55	0.00	0.00	3
Cost of books sold	11,857.42	1,771.16	2,237.94	2
Enhanced Membership Premium	2,915.45	1,120.00	2,210.88	4
Indexing journal	747.00	0.00	0.00	5
Newsletter Postage	4,547.74	0.00	2,528.73	5
Newsletter Printing Costs	5,582.05	8,478.50	8,440.31	5
Newsletter staffing costs	2,500.00	1,000.00	0.00	5
Spring School Costs	22,367.49	17,625.50	0.00	
<b>Total Cost of Sales</b>	<b>57,196.70</b>	<b>32,631.16</b>	<b>15,417.86</b>	
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>18,339.21</b>	<b>18,535.20</b>	<b>13,663.88</b>	
<b>Administrative Costs</b>				
Advertising & Marketing	0.00	86.74	0.00	
AGM	0.00	1,876.26	0.00	6
Audit & Accountancy fees	554.43	588.93	558.50	
Bank Fees	70.98	61.89	421.11	
Basketmakers' Professional Development Course	0.00	2,990.00	3,680.00	7
Bursary	5,100.00	4,450.00	3,200.00	
Corporation Tax	0.00	0.00	71.48	
General Expenses	224.46	2,143.04	1,150.62	
Insurance	184.90	184.90	184.90	
IT Software and Consumables	713.86	259.92	0.00	8
Postage, Freight & Courier	40.23	242.21	363.83	
Printing & Stationery	31.11	164.45	148.91	
Rent	784.20	0.00	0.00	9
Subscriptions	0.00	0.00	40.00	
Summer Meeting Costs	331.90	0.00	302.48	
Travel - National	3,112.88	1,551.67	90.00	
Website costs	2,851.55	13,907.11	11,239.83	10
<b>Total Administrative Costs</b>	<b>14,000.50</b>	<b>28,507.12</b>	<b>21,451.66</b>	
<b>Operating Profit</b>	<b>4,338.71</b>	<b>(9,971.92)</b>	<b>(7,787.78)</b>	
<b>Other Income</b>				
Donations	500.00	409.50	1,114.76	
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>500.00</b>	<b>409.50</b>	<b>1,114.76</b>	
<b>Profit on Ordinary Activities Before Taxation</b>	<b>4,838.71</b>	<b>(9,562.42)</b>	<b>(6,673.02)</b>	
<b>Profit after Taxation</b>	<b>4,838.71</b>	<b>(9,562.42)</b>	<b>(6,673.02)</b>	

## Notes

- 1 Autumn School income is for expenditure under the following financial year so does not show true profit/loss when compared
- 2 Includes £5,000 financial contribution from the Worshipful Company of Basket Makers for the cost of 'The Weaving with 8 Makers' book which totalled £10,000 this year
- 3 Books postage previously recorded elsewhere
- 4 Increase in members take up
- 5 Journal costs previously accounted differently
- 6 AGM was online in 2022
- 7 Not awarded this year
- 8 Increase reflects shift to IT streamlining of systems
- 9 Previously in general expenses
- 10 Last year had significant website development costs

## **Secretary's Report to the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Basketmakers' Association Ltd, 21 October 2023**

This has been another busy year for us all. We have held 4 full Board meetings – a mixture of face -to-face and online in addition to a few other ad hoc meetings as circumstances arose that required discussion at Board level.

Our website has proved a real success with initial glitches being quickly rectified and more features added. Sarah Hatton has taken over the day-to-day oversight and running of it and has lots of ideas for its future expansion. One particular introduction is our YouTube channel that enables members to view talks recorded at our events and where, in future, all the BA produced DVDs will be available to view.

As life returns to normal after Covid we have seen an increase in course participation and consequently there has been a good take up of the bursaries we offer. We are very grateful to the Worshipful Company of Basketmakers Charitable Trust for their continuing support in funding some of our bursaries.

Although I have only held the post of Secretary for a little over a year I am regretfully standing down from the Board today. It has been an enjoyable twelve months and I have learned so much and met many inspiring people who have given me invaluable support.

Thank you.

Sue Higham

### **Bursaries awarded during 2022/23**

***Spring School Bursaries, including the Fred Rogers Bursary (£350) (4 are funded by the Worshipful Company of Basketmakers Charitable Trust and the Fred Rogers bursary is funded by the BA)***

Geoff Addison, Helen Elvin, Sarah Hatton, Katharine Woodward and Ruby Taylor

***Autumn School Bursaries (£250) (all are funded by the Worshipful Company of Basketmakers Charitable Trust)***

Geri Clarke

Joe Gregory

***Course Subsidies for groups (£250)***

Caroline Horsington for Basketmakers Southwest

Anne Otley for Northumberland Basketry Group

Doon Brook for Herts Basketry Group

Christiane Gunzi and Sally Roach for the Basketry Collective

***Progressive Skills Development Bursaries (£350)***

Jules Wagstaff

Nichola Yardley

***Traditional Basketry Bursary (1 is funded by the Worshipful Company of Basketmakers Charitable Trust)***

Selena Chandler

***Exhibitions Bursary for groups (£1,000)***

Clare Revera for the Traditional Basketry Project Group

***Awards***

Christiane Sand Coiled Basketry Award (£250)

Halina Ward

Rosie King

***The Barbara Maynard Cup (for City Lit students) (£50)***

Awarded jointly for consistently producing good work in a quiet, conscientious way

Stephanie Yeomans

Megs Bellamy

***The Joy Viall Award (for Westhope students) (£50)***

Shirley George for outstanding innovation in design with her seed pods.

***The BA Professional Progress Award (for Westhope students) (£500)***

Vivienne Elliott