



Brethren

Please excuse the lack of a formal report this month, but the purpose of this email is to bring you all up to speed with what is happening with the Lodge accounts, and to address some “housekeeping”.

1. You will remember that as of January this year, the bank is charging us for running our two accounts. To minimise the cost to us, and with the GP Committee’s approval, I have opened and activated a Relief Chest with the MCF. This will replace the Benevolent Account, which will be closed, and all funds will be transferred to the Relief Chest. The Relief Chest will streamline our charitable donations to registered charities and also earn us a small amount of interest.
2. The request to make BACS payments from our accounts has been submitted to the bank, and I am waiting for them to confirm that the facility has been approved and activated.
3. Annual subscriptions were due on 1 January 2025, and there is the facility to pay monthly by standing order. So far, less than half the membership have paid their subscriptions or taken up the option of monthly payments.
4. To those members who have given me cheques, I apologise, but I have not been able to pay them into the bank yet. On the one occasion that I was able to get to the bank recently, their computers were down, and as Lloyds do not charge for cheques paid in via their automated tellers, I made the decision to delay paying them in rather than pay for the “privilege” of handing the cheques to a human being!
5. Please remember that if you order a Festive Board meal via the website and do not attend the Festive Board, you still need to pay for the meal. There

were several meals ordered and not taken at the last meeting, and the Lodge had to pay the caterer for them. Please ensure that you make a payment of £19.00 by BACS into the Lodge Account as soon as possible using the reference FEBFB.

6. In early February, I met with the Provincial Treasurer, and we now have a set of accounts for 2023 with which we are both happy! Of course, this means that the accounts for **last** year are delayed, but I will have them balanced and examined as soon as possible for presentation to you.

As always, if you have any queries or need any assistance with Lodge financial matters, please contact me, and I will get them sorted out for you.

Sincerely and fraternally

Paul

WBro Paul Speak PPAGDC
Treasurer at Alwarestoch Lodge No 7805, Gosport, Hants