

Treasurer's Report-Annual General Meeting of the Mariners Trust (Trading as The Grimsby Town Supporters Society) 30 October 2019.

Good Evening Everyone,

It is my privilege to provide the Treasurer's Report for the financial year ending 30 April 2019.

The headline figures show that once again we made a loss on the year. As always this carries the caveat that it is only the payment of funds to the club as part of the (now former) agreement by which the Trust held a place on the board of the football club which means that we sustain a loss.

By far the largest source of regular income for The Trust continues to be the takings from the bar facilities at Blundell Park. The comparison though between 2018 and this year shows a substantial decrease in income from this source. We complete regular analyses of the takings and it is clear that we have suffered from the fall in attendances at home games. The attendances have dropped by about 5% but the away attendances dropped by 20%. Our analysis consistently shows that away fans spend more per person. Our figures allow us to calculate how much each person who comes through the gates spends as an average and the person spend dropped from £1.07 per head to £0.96 per head which, in itself, is a reduction of 10%.

Another significant factor in the calculation was the impact on takings of having to close the bars whilst games were in progress in the wake of the trouble at the Port Vale game in 2018. This ruling has, of course, been reversed and early season analysis shows that per person spend for the current year is back up to £1.03 per head. If the figures show anything they show that we are at the mercy of what happens on the pitch. The key to making full use of the facilities is holding events such as speaker nights, quizzes and games nights outside of normal match activity. We hope you will continue to support these events.

Our membership figures remain high for a club in the lower reaches of the Football League with a high proportion of people renewing on an annual basis. The only other regular source of income continues to be the 100 club and I'd like to place on record my gratitude for those who commit to the regular payments that keep this competition going.

I cannot end this report without praising the incredible work done by Sharon Dobbs and her dedicated team in the managing and running of the bars. We are lucky to have them.