

UEGA AGM 2025 – Finance Report

The Accounts to 30th September 2025 are laid out in a similar manner to those to 30th September 2024, and are essentially similarly qualified.

The difference this year is that the qualification does not now include any reference to my explaining matters at the AGM.

The Accounts continue to reflect the gentle decline of the scope of the Association: thanks to the support given by the University following meetings with representatives of D&A, where the Association was represented by our Vice President Ann Henderson and our Interim Editor Stephen Hillier, the financial result appears, at first sight, as much improved. Our grateful thanks should be accorded to the University, through D&A for the Donation, as well as our thanks to Ann and Stephen for the current favourable conclusion to the negotiations.

A quick look at the Accounts will show that if the intention had been to allow the Association to break even last year, the Donation was perhaps over-generous.

In fact it was secured just before the recently well publicised University cut-backs were announced, which cut-backs have at best delayed our long-term development. In the immediate aftermath of the cut-backs, all guarantees regarding future years' financial support were withdrawn, and as a result the Association, at least in the short run, has also been forced to cut back its initiatives. Such cut-backs save outgo, and it is largely the immediate savings in outgo due to the deferment of our intended development that has resulted in the surplus now revealed. We continue, presently, to work understaffed, and be reliant on voluntary help.

I am delighted to take this opportunity to thank John Sutherland, now our sole Employee for his essential contribution to the Association.

In September 2024 renewal notices were issued and the opportunity was taken to include an appeal for Donations from members. No Report would be complete without a general thank you to those members who responded so positively to that request.

Finally, thanks to all who have continued to support the Association especially during these past few years when the benefits of membership have been significantly restricted. It is to be hoped that the amendments to be proposed later in the meeting are approved, especially the change of name. Our future is not certain even with such a change of name, but without that change it is difficult to see a future at all. It is, quite bluntly, necessary though perhaps not sufficient.

T. F. Marshal
Hon. Treasurer
31 January 2025