**BRAILLE CHESS ASSOCIATION**

Registered Charity No. 263049

**RESERVES POLICY**

We aim to maintain unrestricted reserves equivalent to at least 24 months of net expenditure.

The BCA runs a number of projects with an uncertain level of income to fund them. Although we are constantly fundraising, our income fluctuates and cannot be relied on.

Maintaining about 24 months’ worth of reserves enables us to plan events a couple of years into the future and to order batches of adapted chess sets and clocks. This forward planning allows us to obtain preferential rates.

The term net expenditure is used here because with tournaments much of the expense is offset by participants paying much of their accommodation costs.

In the financial year 2022-2023 our net expenditure was £46,500 which is broadly in line with our pre-pandemic situation.

24 months of net expenditure therefore equates to approximately £93,000 in general funds.

Therefore, we still aim to hold at least £100,000 in reserves. If our income were to reduce drastically, we would not be able to plan events much in advance, which might mean we cannot secure favourable rates at venues, nor would we be able to offer subsidies to our members. Buying equipment in batches reduces costs. We are also planning for our members to take a more active part in mainstream and overseas events in the next couple of years.

Actual reserves at end of last financial year £137,751.

Restricted funds (raised or held for a specific purpose) £8,167.

Leaves free reserves of £129,584.

We currently have more in reserve than our target of at least 24 months of net expenditure.

Our expenditure is rising in cash terms and likely to continue to do so as inflation continues to erode the purchasing value of our reserves.

The events we organised in 2022-2023 included only one player competing internationally while a pre-Covid year would have had events such as the Six Nations and/or an IBCA team event with a considerably greater demand on our resources. We will need to meet the obligation to host the Six Nations at a future date and we would expect this to use up our apparent surplus in our current funds.

Last reviewed: November 2023