

Bob Taylor Statement for Election as Treasurer

I held the position of Club Treasurer from 2010 until 2022 and was willing to do this to serve the club. Over that time the club has required significant input from the treasurer. All of the developments were facilitated by the effective managing of the club's cash flow. Ten years ago the club had loans from members totalling £705k and now has a bank balance in excess of £400k, with annual surpluses of more than £200k for the last two years. The club is now, however, extremely strong financially and the challenge is how to develop the facilities making best use of this enviable position.

My background is that I am a chartered accountant and thus had auditing experience in a range of organisations, a career with a respected chain of wine bars in the city and was subsequently in the financial services sector for four years. My experience before becoming involved with Coolhurst means that I have extensive expertise and all levels of accounts processing and controls and am also very familiar with the way larger organisations are structured and run.

Some feel it is less desirable to have a treasurer who is also employed on a weekly basis to look after the finances of the club, the argument being that there is conflict of interest. As accountant I am line managed by the Chairman. It has been my view since taking on this additional role a year after originally becoming treasurer, that there are distinct advantages to the club with this arrangement, as it facilitates a very close understanding, management and scrutiny of this critical area. I also believe that continuity in any organisation is very important, all the more so for a club such as Coolhurst, which has a small accounts function.

The debate about my having two roles has run on for several years. Perhaps I can sum up by saying that during the 12 year period that I was carrying out a dual role the clubs financial position has been transformed from one of some concern to one of extremely good health.

Just one comment on Barry Knight's commitment to provide greater inclusivity to members in respect of club finances. He may find, if elected, that this initiative falls on stony ground. During my 12 years of presenting accounts to the AGM only 1 member ever demonstrated regular interest in the accounts details. Needless to say a fellow accountant.

Bob Taylor
11 May 2023