

## IBM Club London West - Chairman's report to the 2022 AGM

Dear Club Members,

It has been another difficult year where we've had to contend, not only with lockdowns and cancelled activities due to Coronavirus, but also uncertainty around the existence of the IBM Club itself. Constant haranguing of the club administrators within IBM failed to garner a response until the very last minute, when outstanding funds were finally released at the end of the year. This means that we were unable to plan and spend the available budget before the year ended. We are allowed to carry over that budget into 2022.

We have seen a fairly constant erosion of membership over the years, which has been exacerbated in 2021 by the separation of a large part of the services business and the formation of Kyndryl, which has reduced club numbers further. There has also been a decline in **active** members; people who actually attend events, with many of the attendees coming from a relatively small group. We have tried to widen our attraction, but with little support from within IBM to try and expand/retain membership, it has been a difficult task, and even harder to bring new blood into the committee and officers of the club. Now, after much rumour, we've been informed of IBM's intention to stop supporting the clubs as of the end of June 2022.

With IBM's announcement that it will withdraw support for clubs globally, we will be in a transition period, where we still have funds to use and a decision to be taken on whether there is any desire to continue as a members' supported club only.

Despite the numerous hurdles, we still managed to plan and run a significant number of activities and have continued to provide excellent value for members, some of which will be highlighted in the 2022 treasurers report.

I'd like take this opportunity to thank the committee for all their support and effort in putting together an agenda that meets the approval of our members, particularly over the last two very difficult years.

Special thanks again to treasurer Andrew Craig, who I regularly say keeps us out of trouble and in a great financial state, and also to everyone who has managed an event of any kind and knows what kind of commitment is required, I thank you.

Brendan McGuire  
IBM Club London West Chair

## **IBM Club London West – Treasurer’s report to the 2022 AGM**

2021 was another year of unusually low activity for the Club. We started the year with £12,870 in the bank and ended with £11,153. A grant of £934 was received from IBM in December and second half employee subscriptions of £4,974 were finally paid in November bringing the total subscriptions to £10,409. These late payments made it hard to plan ahead with confidence, we had no alternative but to bank them.

Events that did run included a very successful Sunday lunch on Monkey Island (£1,390 subsidy), the Goodwood Revival (£644 subsidy), a guided walk with pub lunch round Chiswick (£231 subsidy), the Classic Car Show (£171 subsidy) and a visit to Bekonscot Model Village (£59 subsidy).

Sailing subsection was active in offering taster sessions and grew to 16 members (£901 subsidy). Shows subsection remained the most active part of our operation but only used £784 subsidy since many bookings made in 2020 were deferred to 2021.

My thanks to those who could run events for their effective planning and diligent record keeping, and especially to Paul Welstead for the spreadsheet gymnastic involved in juggling so many reschedules and refunds.

Andrew Craig  
IBM Club London West Treasurer  
April 2022