

A quite extraordinary year

ANGLING TRUST FINANCIAL REPORT BY ROLAND CALEY, Chief Operating Officer

The 2020/21 Financial Year was a year like no other. Of course, the Covid-19 pandemic affected organisations in many ways. The Angling Trust was fortunate that in May 2020, angling once again became a permitted activity, due in no small part to the efforts of our advocacy team.

This meant a resurgence in rod licence sales and in our own membership numbers as anglers, old and new, returned to the water's edge during lockdown. At the same time, our own activities were substantially restricted, meaning our costs were below those levels we had budgeted for.

The combination of increased income and reduced expenditure has meant a surplus this year of £183,000, far higher than anticipated. Over the past few years, we have generated annual surpluses, partly to create the reserves necessary to protect the Trust against future uncertainties. We now believe we have sufficient resources to recruit additional staff, to drive our campaigning efforts and membership services, and to make further investment into competitions and coaching. With this in mind, we are forecasting small deficits for the next two financial years.

Individual adult members, excluding life members, increased from 11,613 at the start of the year to a record-breaking 16,239 by March 2021. This 40% increase in just 12 months demonstrated

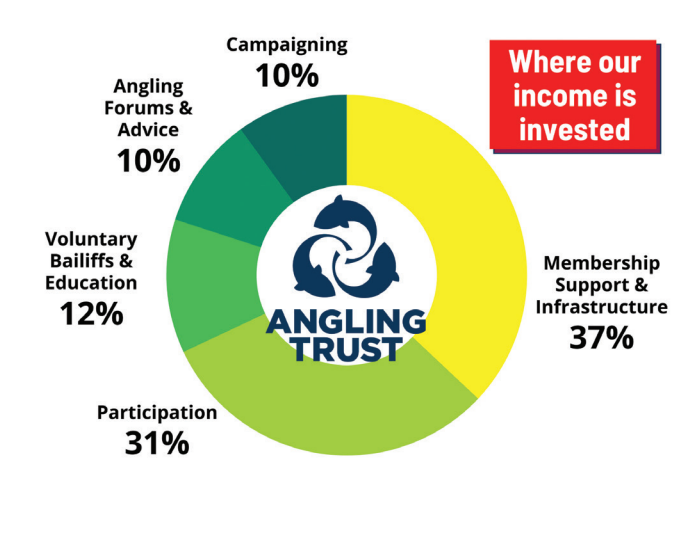
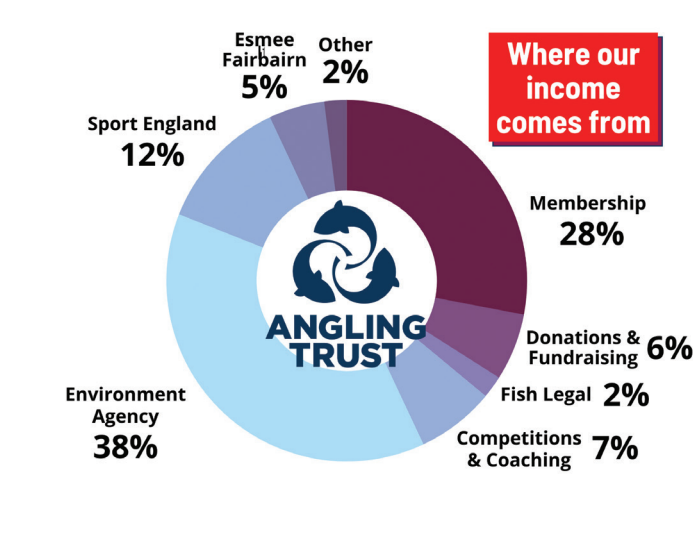
just how much our efforts had been appreciated and gives us a strong platform to build on. Altogether, total individual membership increased from 16,000 to some 20,000 anglers and club membership from 1,799 clubs to 1,838 clubs, representing some 360,000 anglers. We were also delighted to see an upsurge in fishery members by 20%.

As for specifics, income overall increased by 2.5%, despite an understandable fall in competition and Environment Agency revenues. The chart on this page summarises our split of income for the year. Expenses were kept under control and the diagram shows the areas in which we have invested our income during the year.

The Statement of Financial Position at March 2021 shows our net assets at £670,000, compared with £487,000 for the year before. For more detailed information, please refer to our website, where the full audited accounts are published.

Our contract with the Environment Agency is agreed until at least March 2023 and we are grateful to Sport England for extending rollover funding until March 2022. We also acknowledge the support of the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation for our campaigns and advocacy work at a national level.

It is our intention to invest much of last year's surplus into focusing on expanding delivery across a number of areas, specifically targeted



towards our membership and potential members. We continue to develop our new website and increasing the use of our database and social media channels.

Once again, we express our sincere gratitude to the dedicated staff of the Angling Trust, together with the growing number of volunteers and not least, the Board of Directors, whose efforts have proved invaluable in helping meet our targets across all disciplines.

Surge in membership sets Fish Legal up for growth

FISH LEGAL FINANCIAL REPORT BY ROLAND CALEY, Chief Operating Officer

The last year has seen a very different set of challenges from those Fish Legal has faced in the past, however I'm delighted to report that the organisation has emerged from lockdown stronger than before, and thanks must go to our staff for the way in which they have responded to the pandemic.

Membership income grew by an impressive 13% and the conclusion of long-running cases helped us to recover significantly more in legal costs, which were up by 26%. We also received a substantial legacy left to us by a late member, whose support and generosity the Committee gratefully acknowledges.

The last financial year saw an almost 50% increase in costs incurred on expert and counsel fees, as we continued to represent our members' interests. We also invested in a modern and easy to navigate website, which visually details recent and past cases, together with current news stories and clear information on why joining Fish Legal is just so important.

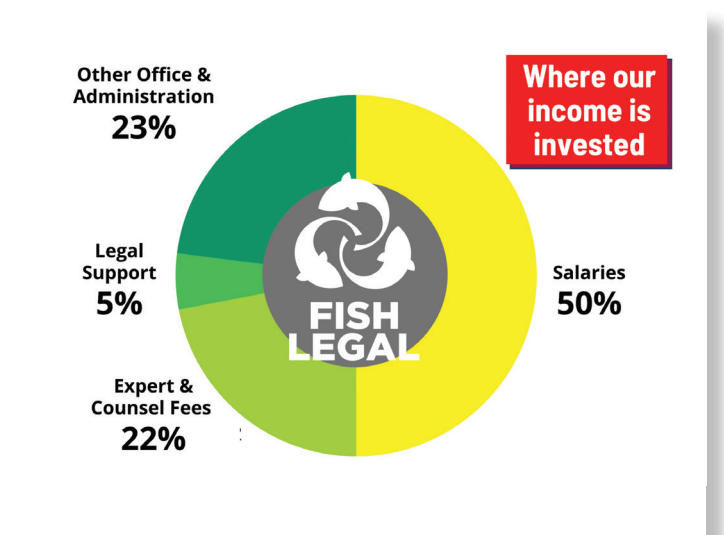
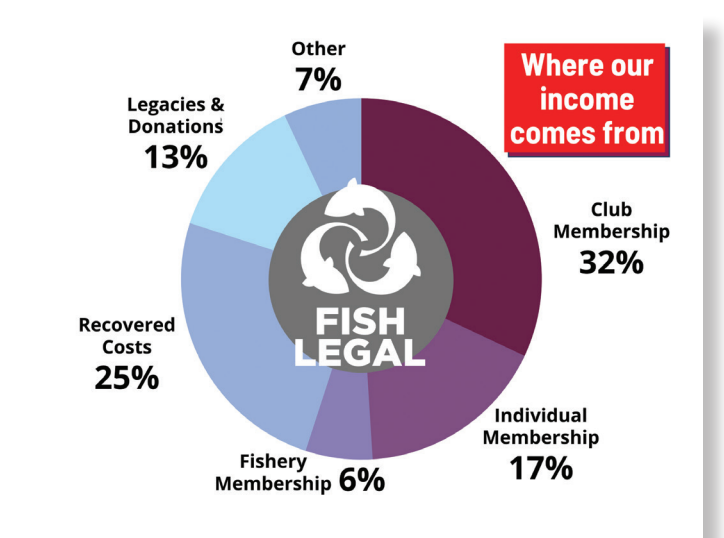
Travel and meeting costs were reduced as a result of the restrictions in place due to the pandemic. Otherwise, costs incurred on salaries and office overheads were broadly in line with the previous year.

We anticipate that the need for campaigning and litigation work will only increase as government budgets continue to be squeezed, so we are pleased to report that our organisation is in good financial health. In

total, Fish Legal recorded a financial surplus of £284,000 in the year to 31st March 2021. This strong result has enabled us to plan to invest much of this surplus into additional research, publicity and campaigning capability, which we expect to bear fruit in years to come.

Our balance sheet has strengthened significantly, ending the financial year at a net book value of £937,000, giving us the strong financial foundations we need to build for the future.

Once again, personal thanks are extended to the members of the Fish Legal Committee who give up their time to provide strategic oversight and to ensure the organisation is meeting its objects, predominantly for the benefit of its members.



Angling Trust & Fish Legal AGMs

In 2020 we held our first virtual AGMs. The event was well received and in recognition of the ongoing Covid-19 situation, we will once again be holding our AGMs online via a video conference to enable us to conduct the required formal business safely and securely.

We will follow with a short review of the work of the Angling Trust and Fish Legal since the last AGM.

Rest assured, there will still be the opportunity to participate and contribute and we welcome your input. All we ask is that you please register your intention to join the meeting – details of how to join the event and login on Saturday

27th November will be sent to you in due course.

As part of our ongoing commitment to the environment and sustainability, there will be no paper ballots issued, and any member or club/organisation representative wishing to vote on the resolutions put forward will need to do so via the membership area of our website. We will be contacting all members to explain the process and how to access the form over the next few weeks.

Members of our team will be on hand however to answer any queries or questions you may have about the process.