

Treasurers Report 2025

Natasha Rolls



It is my privilege to present the treasurer's report for the last year, remember the data/detail refers to April 1st 2024 to March 31st 2025 and pertains to our joint conference with WCET in Glasgow.

All the financial data is available on the ASCNUK website, in detail, and we remain in a healthy financial position, our income greater than our outgoings and with £54,185 profit for the year.

We are all, I am sure, experiencing cost of living challenges and ASCNUK are no different, income generation is more challenging and yet we are subject to cost rises across the board, part of my role is to try and navigate this to the benefit of the association and you, the members. One very simple example of this is the membership fee, we made a rise last year but will not make another this year, meaning that for £30 per year (or £2.50/month, or 58p/week, or .08p/day) you have access to all that ASCNUK offer, which I think you'll agree is value for money.

Therefore, we continue to try and make the most of all opportunities to ensure that that association remains solvent and relevant, I am sure you are aware we have a duty to you and are governed by the Charities Commission, to whom we are accountable. So, staying solvent isn't merely 'nice' it's essential for us to maintain charity status and continue to represent you, whilst responding and contributing to national events on your behalf.

I know my committee colleagues will reflect on the nationally driven projects, NICE: one piece closed bags for colostomies: late stage assessment <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/hte29> and the Department of Health and Social care Part ix review of the drug tariff taxonomy, as well as the more recent NHSE review of the products and services so I will not dwell, but they are excellent examples of where ASCNUK represents and advocates for you and our patients.

Please, if you ever see such projects either externally or through ASCNUK do try and get involved, the more voices raised together the greater chance we have of being heard. Stoma care is poorly understood in the wider healthcare space, these reviews and assessments need your expertise and specialist knowledge, and I do feel it is part of our advanced role to get involved at a regional and national level.

To try and maximise income we, as a committee, constantly discuss and explore different options, including levying a charge when we receive external requests for access to our guidelines and project work. We feel there is merit in recognising that we have intellectual property rights and could be income generating, but we then always return to wanting to disseminate best practice as easily as possible because we are ultimately seeking to contribute positively to the profession of stoma care, globally. Likewise, we run webinars and education events, both to enrich members learning and professionalism and to raise the associations profile and income generate. Of course, as members these events are free to access and attend, please do continue to look out for them and interact with us about timings that you prefer etc., I know how hard to is to make time for 'extras' but we really value your attendance and input, we run them for you. On this note I would always welcome your views on these, and all aspects related to the association, please get in touch.

As I have said before, conference is our 'big earner', while the costs of hosting a joint conference were lower obviously our income was also reduced, although we did make a healthy £79,441 from WCET in Glasgow and we are very grateful to WCET for their partnership and the opportunity to collaborate on such a huge global event.

Joint conference was, I think you will agree, a huge success and it was really interesting to see presentations and practice from all around the globe. Your presence is vital, and you all make for an outstanding event, it was great to see you all networking and learning from each other. Our industry partners did us proud as did the charity sector and patient groups; conference is a demonstration of how much we have in common and how well we work together for the interests of ostomates and each other. We are always learning and, as a committee, we learn from each conference to try and improve year on year, your feedback is vital in this and whilst we cannot hope to please everyone ALL of the time we hope we get it right most of the time.

I am aware, from personal experience as well as reports from others, that claiming for funding to conference can be challenging, we do hope that this years 'packages' has improved this process for you. We must be MedTech compliant and accept the restrictions of this but try hard to minimise those for you. Any changes we make, are intended to make things easier for you to attend and our new secretariat Delegate, have brought with them fresh ideas and perspectives, again we would love to hear your feedback.

This year's conference will in beautiful Wales promises to be as full of educational enrichment and opportunities to learn, develop and enjoy so I am looking forward to welcoming you all to the ICC on the 12th October. I cannot fail to mention the two significant projects that ASCNUK are continuing to lead on and invest in.

1. EXPASS

Look out for the update and presentation at conference as well as the recommendations, this has been a huge undertaking and provides the first evidence based recommendations to empower us as clinicians to properly advise our patients in all matters of safe, health improving movement and activity.

I thank the working group wholeheartedly for their tireless work in this project.

Exercise and Physical Activity after Stoma Surgery <https://ascnuk.org/ascn-uk-projects-expass/>

2. ASCS: my soap box constant!

Advancing Stoma Care Services <https://ascnuk.org/ascn-uk-projects-advancing-stoma-care-services/>

I will, of course, provide an update at this year's conference, but as a reminder this project, led and owned by ASCNUK, will be adopted by NHSE GIRFT team, and the aim is to eradicate variance and ensure all ostomates receive exemplary care wherever they have their surgery in the UK. Whilst this is currently a England centric project, we aim to provide a roll out to the devolved nations and have had some amazing meetings already with some fantastic colleagues working in Scotland, again discovering that we have more that unites us rather than divides us despite the commissioning and governmental differences. I am consistently overwhelmed by how hard you all work on behalf of your patients, of how much innovation, effort and 'extra' goes on everywhere. This project will help you all to evidence and safeguard that work and share the practice and, ultimately, share the load- I am aware how heavy it all is at times but honestly if you saw what I see through these interactions you would be even more proud to be a part of stoma care nursing!

If you are interested in learning more about GIRFT the NHSE website is very interesting and user friendly:
<https://gettingitrightfirsttime.co.uk>

As you know the project will establish best practice pathways to ensure stoma care is protected at a national level and that our specialism is recognised as the vital profession, we know it to be. We have received funding from Coloplast, salts and Convatec to support this project and we are so grateful that these partners are able to see the worth of investing in a collaborative, ASCNUK led project which invests in specialist stoma care nursing.

As well as pathway work, I will update you at conference regarding the other vital aspects of this project- because we are worth it!

There is a second publication related to the project and written in part as a direct response to the multiple governmental reviews BJON_2025_34_16_Stoma_supp_StomaCareCrisis_REPRINT 6pp Lic.indd, also available on the project section of the website. Please give it a read, it is potentially contentious, but I think as professionals we should be able to discuss, even disagree, but be prepared to have these more difficult interactions in the best interests of improvement and learning.

Check out our Podcast- 'Beyond the bag- challenging the differences in stoma care' maybe give it a listen on your way to Newport? It has been shortlisted for a Nursing Times Award for Innovation which is a massive achievement and cause for celebration- thank you to ALL those who contributed.

Please remember these projects are for you and by you, your involvement and opinion are vital. Nursing is facing challenging times, I love my profession and will fight to ensure it has value, attracts new recruits and respects the existing workforce, I honestly believe this can only happen if we all stand up for it. Because challenging times could make for interesting opportunities, if we chose to take them.

Being an ASCNUK committee member is hugely rewarding, constantly interesting and has brought me into contact with diverse people and situations, including this year a trip to the Houses of Parliament for the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Bladder, Bowel and Continence, where Carole and I flew the flag for stoma care. It is a huge privilege to represent you all and advocate for people with a stoma.

I would like to thank my committee colleagues for all their support and for making this role a real joy, I look forward to conference and seeing you all and learning so much from you all.

Natasha Rolls
Honorary Treasurer