

Trustees' Annual and Strategic Report 2019



Blesma, The Limbless Veterans
British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association

Reference and Administration:

Charity Number: 1084189
Company Limited by Guarantee
Number: 4102768
Registered in Scotland: SC010315

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Vice Patron:

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Interim Chief Executive:

Mr I M G Waller (from September 2019)

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London, EC4Y 8EH

Investment Managers:

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1 London Wall Place, London, EC2Y 5AU

Trustees' Annual and Strategic Report and Financial Statements

Year end 31 December 2019

**“I’ve always
had the feeling
that Blesma was
behind me and
would make
sure that I got
whatever I was
entitled to”**

**ROY HAYWARD
D-DAY VETERAN**



**The Blesma mission:
To assist limbless
veterans to lead
independent
and fulfilling lives**

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Strategic Report

Introduction

Blesma is a specialist Service charity, an Association. Its Members are the war wounded, disabled veterans, and their dependants. Blesma shall work tirelessly to meet the challenges of injury, to bring comfort, and to help realise its Members' fullest potential.

Although not engaged in the conduct of major combat operations on the ground in 2019, the UK Armed Forces did undertake operations and training worldwide, and injuries were incurred. For some Service men and women previous injuries worsened, resulting in loss of limb or loss of use of limb. In all, Blesma received 162 new Members in 2019, including 35 suffering loss of use of limbs, and the Association has 41 additional applications being processed.

So, Blesma shall continue to apply itself to the consequences of disabling injury for as long as that takes. Limb loss and loss of use of limb are life-changing, for a lifetime. The majority of those seriously injured in the most recent conflicts are no longer in Service and are transitioning to civilian life. Many are moving forward successfully, some are not; Blesma is there for those needing a helping hand.

Blesma will also prepare for, and help deal with, the unforeseen, to be there for following generations. This means that the Association must be prepared to adjust and change. A five-year rolling Strategic Plan acknowledges this challenge, and is reviewed regularly in step with the Board of Trustees' annual cycle of governance.

This report summarises Blesma's objectives, activities and financial position for 2019. The COVID-19 crisis has since significantly affected the environment in which the Charity operates. Blesma's ongoing response to COVID-19 is summarised under Plans for the Future on p23. Financial considerations have been reflected in the Financial Review and Independent Auditor's Report. The Association remains steadfast in its determination to be there for its Members, through life.

“I have made quite a few new friends with Blesma; it feels like another family. I’d be stuck without the Association”

SALLY CRANMER



Objectives for 2019

OUR CHARITABLE OBJECTS

Blesma is there:

To promote the welfare and wellbeing of all serving and ex-Service men and women who have lost a limb or limbs, or one or both eyes as a result of Service in any Branch of Her Majesty's Regular or Auxiliary Forces as may from time to time be defined.

To promote the welfare and wellbeing of all those serving and ex-Service men and women who suffer loss of a limb, permanent loss of speech, hearing, or the loss of sight in one or both eyes, or the loss of use of a limb.

To assist needy Widows, Widowers and dependants of the above.

LINES OF OPERATION

Blesma is not a charity provider that has beneficiaries in the normal sense; it is an Association with the membership (contributors and beneficiaries) central to its existence and purpose. As a matter of principle, and as far as practicable, Member is encouraged to help Member; this is applied from Board level, where half of the current Trustees suffer injury, for instance.

The membership's interests are pursued in four principal ways, termed Lines of Operation, these being: security, identity, connectivity and resourcing. Within these lines, we sought to achieve the following in 2019:

SECURITY

- Support full and continued implementation of the Murrison Report, *A Better Deal for Military Amputees*, nationally and regionally, and promote consistent standards across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland
- Support the National Health Service England/Ministry of Defence-led Direct Skeletal Fixation pilot scheme
- Promote the Veterans' Medical Funds
- Contribute to the review of National Health Services' mobility/limb services
- Adjust Membership Services:
 - Incorporate the findings of the *Caring and Coping* research project in Blesma delivery
 - Evaluate the Outreach programme
 - Establish engagement at the Defence Rehabilitation Centre at Stanford Hall
 - Remain positioned for an environment of austerity in State social services and for increased support to those in later life in their own communities
 - Continue research in pursuit of evidence- and needs-based delivery

IDENTITY

- Activity and Challenge; expand diversity and participation in our programme, emphasising the value of Member-to-Member mentoring
- Commemorate the 75th anniversary of D-Day with events that engage Members and tell the Blesma story

Blesma Members have pushed the bounds of rehabilitation and prosthetic knowledge and capabilities for veterans and the wider nation alike.

Knowing Blesma is there, should they suffer traumatic incident, reassures the Service community.

- Establish Making Generation R, promoting resilience in youth through inspirational Member-led workshops

CONNECTIVITY

- Extend Awareness and Representation capabilities, especially with so many injured continuing a transition to civilian life
- Review the roles of our volunteers alongside the Outreach programme

RESOURCING

- Continue to build a solid, focused, bespoke fundraising capability
- Embrace the highest number of those eligible to be Members
- Move the Head Office and staff successfully to new premises in Chelmsford having sold Chadwell Heath and refurbished the new location
- Review the efficiency of Head Office

Looking forward, the priority for the Board was to accelerate implementation of a five-year rolling Strategic Plan, in particular for Members most infirm and those in later life.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's three-part guidance on public benefit.

Living with limb loss or loss of use of limbs is an everyday challenge, often a painful one. It is a condition that must be managed for the rest of life.

For Blesma Members things can be compounded; battlefield blast injury, in particular, carrying complications beyond those that might be experienced with other elective and non-elective forms of amputation.

Those most severely injured in recent conflicts benefit from the advance of medical treatments and are grateful to have their lives, but we have no experience of the long-term effects. Members and their families must learn to cope with all this; Blesma is there to help its 3,027 Members and dependants take their full and rightful place in society.

On average, there are more than 400 active 'assists' at any one time. Blesma Members have pushed the bounds of rehabilitation and prosthetic knowledge and capabilities for veterans and the wider nation alike, encouraging deeper expertise in health services and academic research.

Knowing Blesma is there, should they suffer traumatic incident, reassures the Service community. This is Blesma's contribution to the nation.

Activities in 2019

With its focus on meeting the needs of its Members, Blesma develops its role as the specialist Service charity dedicated to those serving or ex-Service personnel who have lost limbs or the use of limbs. It will know all its Members individually, and will strive to understand and meet their needs to live independent and fulfilling lives. It will be recognised as the authoritative voice in its field. In 2019, its operations are summarised as:

SECURITY

Wellbeing: the physical and mental essentials

This included the provision of professional welfare and outreach services backed up by a body of welfare volunteers, providing advice and support including; professional counselling, securing proper provision of Veterans UK and DWP pensions and allowances, NHS prosthetic services, making grants to alleviate distress through disability in order to provide needs driven support for the appropriate provision of care, and to reduce social isolation. Support was extended to those Members living overseas.

IDENTITY

Respect and realisation of potential

Stimulating and challenging activities ranging from sailing to adaptive skiing, and from cycling to art and painting are normally arranged within a social framework of Members working together.

The Programme is specifically targeted at our Members' needs and ranges from action events to the more cerebral. We hold to the belief that providing an engaging range of activities through life is a foundation that contributes significantly to wellbeing, confidence and self-belief. The link between security and identity is strong.

CONNECTIVITY

External outreach and internal community communications

The Association's long-standing individual and collective representational role continued in 2019. The Association participated on many bodies of influence, normally represented by the Chief Executive. These included:

- **The Ministry of Defence Central Advisory Committee for Compensation (CAC) with access to the Independent Medical Expert Group**
- **Armed Forces Casework Steering Group**
- **The Cobseo Executive Committee - The Confederation of Service Charities, the Confederation's expertise clusters and the Medical Advisory Committee**
- **The Executive Committee of Veterans Scotland**
- **Northern Ireland Veterans Support Committee**
- **NHS England Veterans**



Prosthetics Panel

- The NHS England Prosthetics Service Review
- Centre for Blast Injury Studies Amputee Advisory Board

In broader context, Blesma played a role and consulted widely with:

- The Ministry of Defence, the Department of Health and the Department for Work and Pensions
- Veterans UK
- Veterans Advisory and Pension Committees nationwide
- NHS England, NHS Armed Forces Networks, and NHS national and regional bodies
- The Health Services of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

- Motability
- Prosthetic Providers

RESOURCING

Finance, people, knowledge and training

Our capacity to support our membership is enabled by Blesma's ability to raise funds. Our fundraising staff supervise all revenue streams at Head Office, keeping tight control and reducing costs. Recent years have brought much media, public and political scrutiny of charity fundraising. Whilst not being complacent, Blesma has faith in its values and their application.

Blesma 2019 in numbers

2615

Member activity days provided to 501 participants

1489
Grants paid

2439

Members and families took part in Outreach events

2153

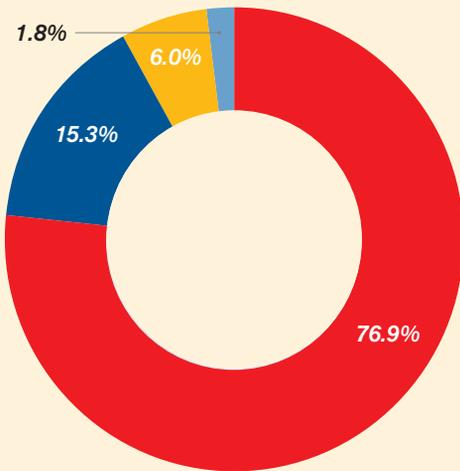
Visits by Blesma Support Officers

487

Prosthetic interventions

● 162 New Members

“8 pence of every pound of income generated in 2019 will be spent to raise funds for our Members in 2020”



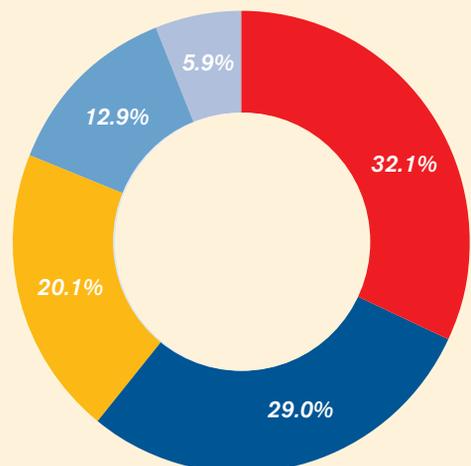
EXPENDITURE

Membership Services	76.9%
Fundraising	15.3%
Awareness and Representation	6.0%
Investment Management Fees	1.8%

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES EXPENDITURE

(Wellbeing, respect and realisation of potential)

Activities	32.1%
Advice and Support	29.0%
Grants and Assistance	20.1%
Overheads	12.9%
Engagement and Other	5.9%



Our Achievements and Performance in 2019

Much of what we achieve remains unchanged year on year in that supporting our Members is undertaken on a daily basis – as it always has been. At its heart is the ethos identified by those who founded Blesma in the shadows that followed the First World War; that Member shall support Member. This support is moral, practical and effective.

The rich background we have in supporting each other comes from the knowledge and experiences of our many Members over decades. In this respect, our perspective is unique. We know about living with limb loss in all stages of adult life. Members tell us their stories in their own homes. We strive to understand and to deliver need. Such knowledge is our enabling achievement. Our beneficiaries are also Members with a vote on how Blesma is run. Their guidance and scrutiny promote genuine impact and efficiency, ensuring Blesma is responsive and relevant in what it does.

Delivering the Priorities

In accordance with the Blesma Strategic Plan, the Charity's Lines of Operation, Priorities and Outputs are mapped out in the table (right). Explanatory notes follow.

LINE OF OPERATION AND PRIORITY	
<p>SECURITY</p> <p>Confirm the full extent of Members' needs; refresh constantly, ensuring relevance, determining partnerships with other charities to meet need in full.</p> <p>Understand all Government and Administrations' positions and provisions for limb loss, and loss of use, and be geared to act on judged gaps.</p> <p>Deliver the Blesma position on later life care and the most vulnerable, focusing upon any lack of, or distressing, statutory provision.</p>	
<p>IDENTITY</p> <p>Continue to bring Members' activity programmes, including high-end events such as the Paralympics, to a position of prominence.</p> <p>Extend the programmes to meet the widest possible range of individual membership and whole Association needs, for example the <i>Making Generation R</i> programme.</p>	
<p>CONNECTIVITY</p> <p>Build an inclusive, positive and crisply responsive communications network, exploiting the latest communication technology but not to the exclusion of those unfamiliar with the digital age.</p> <p>Grow voluntary support across the network, at the hub of communities, and reaching out, including best use of Members' skills and commitment, especially reinforcing the impact of the Activities Programme.</p>	
<p>RESOURCING</p> <p>Construct a solid, focused, bespoke fundraising net that is aligned with the Association's need, character and values.</p>	

	DELIVERY	OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES
	<p>Timely access to the relevant Support Officer or Outreach Officer.</p> <p>Grant assistance. Introduction to partner charities, authorities and other services.</p> <p>Blesma support individually and collectively.</p> <p>Close liaison with devolved governments and health authorities. BSO (Prosthetics) has responsibility across the UK.</p> <p>Needs-driven support for the appropriate provision of care.</p>	<p>1,431 home visits, 722 other visits, 19,416 contacts/communications.</p> <p>1,489 grants to 885 recipients. 30 collaborative grants. 115 referrals to other charities.</p> <p>487 successful prosthetic panel applications, 150 Members advised, including 4 tribunals in addition to PIP Assessments and Mandatory Reconsiderations.</p> <p>Integrated Personal Commissioning for Veterans Initiative launched by MoD/NHS E with Blesma supporting.</p> <p>60 individual counselling provisions.</p> <p>6 care home residents and 15 respite stays supported.</p>
	<p>Opportunity to lead, support and partake in activities of interest.</p> <p>Access to physical, mental and social engagement-focused activities, to unfold new horizons, potential, confidence and self-respect.</p>	<p>2,615 Member days offered, a 14% increase on 2018. 76 total activities of 33 categories. 47 activities led by Members. 5 Members supported at Paralympic and elite level.</p> <p>501 participants, of whom 104 new to the Activities Programme, a 55% increase on 2018.</p> <p>91% of participants reported the activity improved their wellbeing and confidence.</p>
	<p>Access to focused news, guidance, fellowship and support.</p> <p>Opportunities to volunteer for and support Blesma and its Members.</p>	<p>Website visits up 7.4% on 2018 Facebook likes up 40% Twitter following up 6.1% Instagram following up 102% Making Generation R – 9,444 website sessions 162 new Members 3,637 new supporters</p> <p>54 welfare volunteers and 252 general volunteers (106 working days). 49 Members addressed 30,481 youth in the Making Generation R programme; 97% of Members testified to greater confidence, 91% of youth felt more resilient.</p>
	<p>Clear rationale for fundraising and the distribution of funds to meet need.</p>	<p>A return on investment of 6.7, and 8 pence of every pound of income in 2019 planned to be spent to raise funds in 2020.</p>

Security

Nine Area Support Officers and nine Outreach Officers, reinforced by a body of volunteer Welfare Representatives, provide Blesma's comprehensive 'Welfare Service' and are the main source of information regarding how our Members fared during the year.

Their work is supplemented by a further Support Officer; Blesma's Support Officer (Prosthetics), who focuses on working closely with the NHS – at the working level with the Limb Service to resolve individual Members' prosthetic issues, and at the strategic level in contributing to policy development for provision of prosthetics and mobility aids to amputees and those suffering loss of use of limb.

The Support Officers work closely with Veterans UK to resolve War Pension and Armed Forces Compensation Scheme issues for individual Members, and with the Defence Recovery Capability where they visit Members in the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre Stanford Hall and in Personnel Recovery Centres who are undergoing rehabilitation and/or transition to civilian life.

Following guidance from Trustees and long-standing practice, Director Independence and Wellbeing, working closely with the Chief Executive, decides how grants to promote independence and wellbeing are distributed and to whom.

In 2019, the Blesma Independence and Wellbeing team made:

- **1,431 home visits and 722 other visits**
- **1,489 individual grants to 885 recipients**

In 2019, Blesma continued to observe and monitor developments in prosthetic provision to Members across the UK. By working at an individual level, advocating for those Members who require support locally at the NHS Limb Centres as well as campaigning for changes nationally, improvements continue to be made.

For those with Service-attributable amputations, the Veterans Prosthetics Panel (VPP) continues to provide an excellent process for funding of components in England. Eligible Members living in the devolved administrations have similar access to state-of-the-art prosthetics via slightly differing mechanisms.

Following on from a meeting in 2018 with representatives in the Northern Ireland Health and Social Care Department to discuss ongoing and future provision of prosthetic care to attributable amputees, specifically with regards to maintaining a minimum like-for-like provision to those issued by Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre (DMRC) Stanford Hall and those issued by the VPP, Blesma is represented on the Northern Ireland Prosthetics User Group.

Blesma remains involved in the NHS England Prosthetic Service Review, and BSO (Prosthetics) attended the NHS Limb Service Centre Managers Conference. The Association continued to monitor the support to Members referred to the Complex Prosthetics Clinic at DMRC from the NHS for the management of complex prosthetic issues, and into the Veterans Trauma Network (VTN) in England. NHS Wales established a major trauma system

in 2019 incorporating a Veterans Trauma Network similar to that in England, with input from the VTN in England and Blesma. This access to NHS and military experts in trauma can prove life-changing for those Members who are eligible for this treatment pathway.

BSOs support individual Members who wish to claim War Pensions, Armed Forces Compensation Scheme awards and DWP benefits, including representing them at hearings and tribunals. There has been a reduction in the number of Members requesting representation at tribunals, but a significant increase in requests for support in preparing claims and mandatory reconsiderations.

Blesma continues to engage with the DWP and delivery partners, highlighting issues affecting veterans. This includes monitoring changes to existing policy which may disadvantage veterans who are in receipt of disability benefits as a result of attributable injuries. The Association is also working with the Scottish Parliament on the Scottish Social Security Review which will see the delegation of disability benefits to Holyrood.

In addition to Blesma shifting focus towards providing more support to elderly and infirm Members in their own homes, the Association continues to reinforce its support to Members' carers and families, including engaging with them during home visits and involving families in local activities arranged by Outreach Officers.

A review of the delegated financial authority for the Director Independence and Wellbeing and Blesma Support Officers towards the end of the year has enabled the Charity to effect support more quickly. This support is now virtually

a bespoke service to meet the individual Members' needs, and in the last 12 months has included disability and mobility aids such as life-lines, stair lifts, bathroom adaptations, wheelchairs, Electrically Powered Vehicles, and ramps.

Blesma has also supported Members who have needed respite or residential care. The enduring pressure on health and social care budgets continues to threaten service provision both quantitatively and qualitatively. Blesma keeps a close watch on where gaps in support leave Members vulnerable, and will continue to step in to meet their needs whilst always holding the State to account where appropriate.

Blesma's LIBOR-funded Outreach Pilot has proved successful in reducing isolation through a programme of local events:

- **More than 213 local activities organised**
- **1052 Members, 262 Widows, 569 partners, 226 carers and 330 children were engaged with**

Evidence of the positive impact of the work of the Outreach Team led to the Trustees' decision that Blesma will fund the continuation of the Outreach programme when the pilot ends in May 2020.

The original bid for LIBOR funding for the Outreach Pilot allowed for one Outreach Officer for each of the Blesma Areas, and in the case of BSO (Scotland, NI and RoI) the priority was seen as supporting Members in Northern Ireland.

However, concerns that Members living in Scotland could be at risk of isolation led to Blesma creating and funding the additional post of Outreach Officer (Scotland) from January 2020.

Identity

Blesma's long-established Activities Programme is a central part of the offer to Members and a key component of the Association's aim to promote confidence and self-belief in support of rehabilitation. Activities provide opportunities not only for physical and mental activity but also for social interaction, with a camaraderie that is at the heart of any Blesma event. All types of Member are catered for, events are often challenging, many are ambitious, and all aim to be rewarding.

The activities on offer in 2019 had the usual mix of adrenaline-fuelled events such as the off-road British Columbia Bike Race and adaptive diving in Florida, to the less energetic but stimulating golf tuition, poetry workshops, and storytelling through photography, with a range of challenging and innovative activities in between, all of which were arranged within a supportive social framework.

Once again, the theme of supporting those who care for the injured formed part of the Programme, with additional family-centred events such as a family activities week and couples' weekends. Feedback and evaluation are integral parts of all events, providing invaluable information for the continual development and improvement of the Activities Programme. Post-event follow-up by Blesma staff is a distinguishing factor of Blesma's Activities Programme and acknowledged best practice within the Service charities sector.

In 2019, Blesma delivered 76 activities of 33 types with 501 participants, 104 of whom were new to the programme, taking part in 2,615 days of activities. Since its

inception, Blesma has been an association defined by a fellowship of shared experience where Members have supported and mentored one another. This interaction between Members is tangible in Blesma activities, and 47 of the 76 events were Member-led.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROGRAMME INCLUDED

- Borneo expedition, working with young people and isolated communities in the rainforest
- Participation in USO Warrior Week in Virginia, USA
- Horseback riding in Arizona, USA
- Annual Winter Sports combined with a Ski Bike event in which five adapted snow sports were included to allow our Members maximum access to the slopes
- Multi-disciplinary water sports expedition to the Bahamas
- A Fitness and Lifestyle course that introduced 10 Members to improved nutrition and exercise regimes to help transform their lives

At the elite sporting level, Members continued to excel. Martin Hewitt summited Mount Everest and Lee Spencer broke the world record for a solo row across the Atlantic Ocean, becoming the first amputee to do so and beating the able-bodied record by 36 days.

Other Members continue to work towards the Paralympics in Tokyo and the Invictus Games in The Netherlands, and five Members competed at World Championship level.



In 2019, Blesma delivered 76 activities of 33 types with 501 participants taking part in 2,615 days of activities



Connectivity

Being connected is the foundation of the Association's proposition to its Members, it is why Blesma exists. Representing the needs and aspirations of Members is fundamental to Blesma's work and goes back to the dark days of neglect following the First World War – with some 44,000 amputees struggling to live in “a land fit for heroes”.

It was then that Blesma's tradition of advocacy was born and that work continues whenever it is needed. Recent conflict has seen the need for modern advocacy, which has led to better compensation, better after care for the injured, and better prosthetic support for amputees.

BSO (Prosthetics) represents Blesma on the steering group of the NHS England Prosthetic Service Review which is looking at the current service and asking if it is 'fit for purpose', with a view to ensuring that patients' needs are met going forward. The Association is also involved in a collaborative project supporting Health Education England in delivering a series of half-day and full-day training sessions for GPs across England. The package provides not only an excellent learning opportunity for the GPs about health needs for veterans, but also introduces them to some of the many Service organisations that can help.

In a more complex realm, Blesma has represented the Confederation of Service Charities (Cobseo) assisting NHS England and the Ministry of Defence in developing a policy for the most injured requiring continuous healthcare; *Integrated Personal Commissioning for Veterans*.

Making Generation R, which provides Blesma Members with the opportunity to train as motivational speakers and workshop facilitators, continues to thrive. Through the programme, Members tell their stories of trauma and recovery to youth, and facilitate workshops on the theme of resilience and overcoming challenges. This inspires children and young people, especially those with additional needs or who are at risk of exclusion from school, in communities throughout the UK.

The programme has developed year-on-year since 2015. In 2019, 60 trained Blesma Members reached 30,000 young people in 490 sessions, while the Making Generation R micro-website had almost 10,000 visits, and sessions have been delivered online.

In 2020, Making Generation R plans to train more limbless veterans and reach similar numbers of young people, as well as 1,000 adults working in the First Responder community. The programme also plans to increase the number of veterans who are trained in facilitating skills.

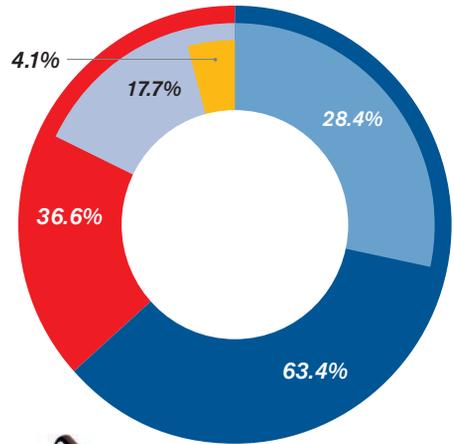
Amongst Blesma's wider target audience, the estimated 2.5 million of the ex-Service community, the Blesma brand is increasingly recognisable and understood. On a national level, this awareness of what Blesma does and stands for continues to result in requests for our contribution on influential media outlets, relevant Government committees and boards.

Blesma Magazine, with more than 35,000 readers, and our continually evolving website, with 174,000 annual

THE AGE OF BLESMA'S MEMBERS (excl. Widows)

■ Members aged 65 years and under	63.4%
■ Members aged 66 years and over	36.6%
■ Members aged 45 years and under	28.4%
■ Members aged 80 years and over	17.7%
■ Members aged 90 years and over	4.1%

(35.5% of all UK veterans are under 65 years of age; RBL Household Survey)



visitors, remain central to the communications and fundraising efforts. Website traffic has increased by 7.4% in the past 12 months, with the audience increasingly accessing www.blesma.org through tablet and smartphone versions of the site. In line with national trends, social media usage has grown significantly in importance both within the Association and amongst supporters, providing the ability to tell Members' stories to enhance Blesma's ability to assist its people to lead independent and fulfilling lives.

Blesma has been at the forefront of connecting limbless and wounded veterans with one another for the best part of a century and this ethos has been central to Blesma's thinking as it looks ahead to the next 100 years. Throughout 2019 and for launch in early 2020, Blesma developed the Blesma Connects app, a dynamic digital hub that will bring Members closer together by fostering independence, mutual support, and a camaraderie from shared experiences – key aspects of Blesma's values.

The free app, which is available to download and use on smartphones and tablets, will open up new channels of communication for Members, making it easier for them to organise local activities and keep up to date with



information. Members can access as much or as little of the service as they require. The app will energise the activities experience, for example, as Members will be able to apply for an activity directly through the service, and then meet others who will be going on the trip, discuss any plans with them or the Activities Team, and share experiences of previous events. It will also make it easier for the Activities Team and BSOs to coordinate events and collate feedback, in turn, influencing future activities.

Resourcing

In 2019, excluding the exceptional sale of the former Head Office in Chadwell Heath, 87% of all income came through fundraising, with the rest from investment income from previously raised funds.

Although income was down, Blesma fundraising performed well, holding its own against competitors in an increasingly difficult fundraising landscape for Armed Forces charities as many funders have moved on to other causes. Fundraising remained efficient, with 8p in every pound of income in 2019 planned to raise funds in 2020. Blesma gathered 3,637 new supporters in the year, the majority through in-house led Direct Mail campaigns.

General Data Protection Regulation causes little concern despite increased administrative overheads as the Association remains ever vigilant, and exemplary fundraising standards remain a constant in all our activity. Blesma paid its Levy to the Fundraising Regulator and continues to ensure the Regulators guidelines on personal information and fundraising (consent, purpose and transparency) are adhered to.

Blesma does not employ agencies to raise funds from the public in the name of Blesma. The Association's fundraising activities are monitored closely, whilst its fundraising ethics and promise, complaints policy and privacy policy are published. Blesma's safeguarding policy towards vulnerable people is adhered to in all fundraising activities. There were no formal complaints relating to fundraising in 2019.

Plans for the Future

The Board of Trustees approved a five-year rolling Strategic Plan which is reviewed regularly in step with the Board's annual cycle of governance. A thorough review of the Plan was undertaken in 2018 to take the horizon forward to 2023, and this has been published. The purpose of the Plan is to:

- **Align internal development and improvement agendas with external influences and be better able to anticipate an ever-changing environment**
- **Synchronise policy, resources, programmes and projects**
- **Bring coherence to external and internal communications**
- **Enable agility, manage risk for greater impact, and reduce vulnerability to turbulence and scrutiny in the Service Charity sector**
- **Achieve an end-state where Blesma, with all its Members, is confident that it is doing all it should, resourced accordingly**

In 2019, the Plan addressed the following matters:

SECURITY

- Care for the most infirm, those in later life, support for families and carers, and the relief of distress caused by limited statutory provision
- Evaluating the Outreach programme, including the roles of volunteers and deciding its future
- Tackling social isolation amongst our Members

CONNECTIVITY

- Development of a digital app for Members
- Apply the universal code of conduct for the Association

RESOURCING

- Infrastructure efficiency, including Head Office move to Chelmsford
- The shape of fundraising

In future, the Plan will address:

SECURITY

- Contributing to relevant academic research that will likely deliver actionable findings for the benefit of Blesma Members and their families
- Defence Rehabilitation Centre developments
- Direct Skeletal Fixation programme to ensure we remain up to date with inclusion criteria and developments in technology
- Veterans' Medical Funds to ensure Members who are eligible for support receive timely provision
- Future organisation of National Health Services' mobility/limb services

IDENTITY

- The future of the Making Generation R programme

CONNECTIVITY

- Inclusive digital services to the membership

RESOURCING:

- Apportionment of reserves
- Organisation efficiency

COVID-19

The ongoing COVID-19 crisis has significantly impacted upon Blesma's planned activity. All staff are now working from home and our Members, too, are under social isolation. A number of activities planned to take place during 2020 have been postponed or cancelled.

Our Blesma Support Officers are actively engaged in providing support to Members where needed and, where possible, activities and engagement are taking place online. The Senior Management Team are actively engaged across the military charity sector, continue to assess the likely impact of the crisis, and are reporting regularly to Trustees.

Blesma's Values

The Blesma pledge
is to always:

Care

Be there for our
Members through life

Share our
Members' stories

Strive to learn more

Offer support
and guidance

Put Members' needs first

Be relevant
to independence
and fulfilment

Be the expert Service
charity on living
with limb loss

Thanks and Acknowledgements

We are a charity and what we do is use donations wisely and well. We also gratefully accept all manner of support in our various endeavours. This Report cannot possibly thank and acknowledge all who have helped us make a difference so, as ever, the list below is but an example:

All our supporters: those who donate, those who hold tins, who do challenging and amazing things for us on land, sea and from the air, who run marathons and climb mountains for us, who give up so much time for us, who think of us and spread the word.

Our colleagues in Cobseo – The Confederation of Service Charities, together we achieve so much.

The Staff at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre Stanford Hall and the Defence Personnel Recovery Centres, for all they do for our present and future Members, and for their continuing support of Blesma's work.

The Staff of Veterans UK at Norcross, Blackpool, for their assistance to our welfare team in all their endeavours.

Officials and Ministers in the Ministry of Defence and Department of Health, Armed Forces Health, NHS England and the National Health Services, who understand our needs and strive to deliver, particularly the Limb Centres.

All our suppliers of services to and partners with Blesma in our ventures, at home and abroad, from seas to mountain tops and in their places of work, for allowing our Members to realise their potential.

A Member's story

MICHAEL LEWIS

When Michael Lewis decided to give boxing a bash the ex-Para didn't realise he'd develop a passion for pugilism

Michael, a former Paratrooper, was hit by artillery fire whilst serving in Afghanistan in 2008. He lost his right leg and suffered damage to his left arm in the incident.

"I ran a half marathon in October 2018 and after that I wondered what else I could do to test myself," he says. "I signed up for White Collar Boxing because you can raise money for charity through your fights. I did it for Blesma because they've been there for me from day one."

Despite losing his debut duel, Michael took a lot of positives from the experience. "Boxing gets you into a different mindset," he says. "Because I've got a great family around me I've not struggled with my mental health since being injured, but the boxing feels like going back to military training. And I'm in the best shape of my life – even better than when I was in the Paras!"





blesna
THE LIMBLESS VETERANS

Financial Review

GENERAL PERFORMANCE IN 2019

Donations, legacies, grants and other income amounted to £9,835,608 and these included: £4,240,067

Legacy Income - a decrease of **£1,368,429** on the previous year. **£5,595,541** General Income - an increase of **£2,401,405** over the previous year and includes the sale of the former Head Office in Chadwell Heath. Total Incoming Resources less the cost of generating funds amounted to **£8,773,479** and this included net Investment Income of **£799,292** - an increase of **£1,021,352** on the previous year overall.

Expenditure on charitable activities was **£5,168,014** - an increase of **£245,674** over the previous year. This included: **£4,786,220** Welfare delivery (Security and Identity) - a deliberate increase of **£320,090** over the previous year (including continuing investment into the ambitious Activities Programme and a changed approach to assisting those in later life). **£381,794** covering representational work and volunteering - a decrease of **£74,417** over the previous year but reflecting continuing investment in digital media capability.

FUNDRAISING

Legacy giving in 2019 did remain strong as did non-legacy donations, which delivered a return on investment of 2.7. Diverse fundraising income streams negate a heavy reliance on legacy giving, and the intent to spread income sources

remains the policy for Blesma. The pattern of general income changed through the year and the fundraising plan in detail has been adjusted as a result for 2020.

Enhanced in-house expertise and more efficient use of resources, particularly data, ensured supporter numbers grew and the fundraising target was exceeded.

Corporate income was particularly strong, as was Direct Mail, although community fundraising remained problematic. There will be a move away from third party challenge events towards more Blesma-run activities in 2020. Trusts and Foundation giving continued to diversify, with repeat gifts not unusual. The Major Donor programme has loyal support and is widening, although without further development this income stream cannot be relied upon to sustain previous levels of support.

Regular Giving and online donations through www.blesma.org continue to grow.

INVESTMENT POLICY AND PERFORMANCE

The Association's funds are invested in line with direction given by Trustees to its Fund Managers, Cazenove Capital Management, in the form of investment policy. Trustees delegate matters of policy development and general supervision to the Finance and Investment Sub Committee. It delegates day-to-day policy management to the National Treasurer and to the Chief Executive, who both remain in close contact with Fund

Managers. The Fund Managers present the Investment Report to the Finance & Investment Sub Committee twice a year, and Trustees receive quarterly Reports. An ethical 'look through' is conducted annually.

Investment Objective

To have an optimum level of income commensurate with operational requirements to meet the needs of Members, whilst maintaining the real value of the investments over the longer term. A total return target for income in 2019 was given to the Fund Managers and was achieved.

Asset Allocation and Benchmarks

During 2019, Trustees and Managers reviewed and confirmed the asset allocation being set within the following ranges:

UK Equities	25-45%
<i>with a 35% benchmark</i>	
Overseas Equities	25-35%
<i>with a 30% benchmark</i>	
Fixed Income	10-30%
<i>with a 13% benchmark</i>	
Alternatives	5-20%
<i>with a 10% benchmark</i>	
Property	5-15%
<i>with a 10% benchmark</i>	
Cash	0-10%
<i>with a 2% benchmark</i>	

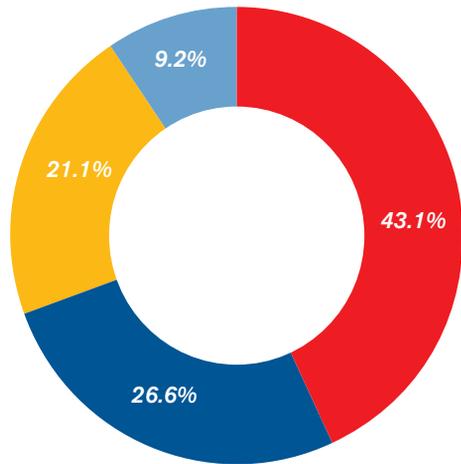
Investment Restrictions

Not to invest in unquoted securities, individual Futures, Warrants or Commodities, in property directly, or to participate in underwriting. Fund Managers are not to invest directly in foreign currencies without prior agreement with Trustees. Total equity allocation should not exceed 75% and not fall below 50%.

Investment Performance

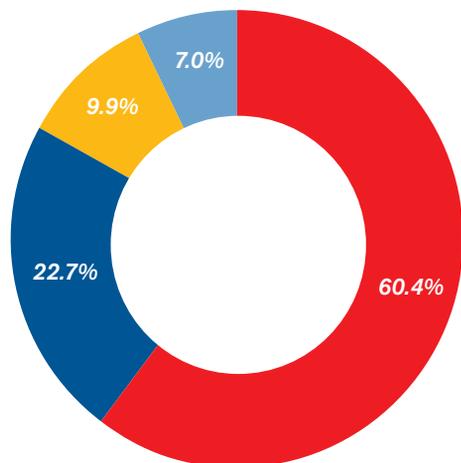
Invested funds increased to £32M over the period. This increase was partially due to good investment performance and an injection of £1M into the portfolio from excess cash. The net income was £799,292 – a yield of 2.5%.

INCOME



■ Legacy	43.1%
■ Other	26.6%
■ Donations and Grants	21.1%
■ Investments	9.2%

STAFF, ATTRIBUTABLE AND GOVERNANCE COSTS (apportionment)



■ Membership Services	60.4%
■ Fundraising	22.7%
■ Awareness and Representation	9.9%
■ Activities	7.0%

Financial Review

PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

During the period under review the Association recorded an excess of income over expenditure of £6,977,831 (2018: £1,071,711) mainly due to the gain/profit on disposal of our former office building, solid performance from investment and fundraising income streams. Good news in a challenging fundraising environment because Blesma is to be there for Members for life and all it does must be sustainable.

RISK MANAGEMENT

At a strategic level the Charity Commission's guidance, Charities and Risk Management, on the four basic approaches of transferring, avoiding, managing or accepting the risk has been followed. Strategic and operational level risks are reviewed quarterly by the Board using a traffic light system of objectives and risks against performance and management, including trend analysis. The two most concerning strategic risks are:

- **Demand for Services.** The demands of increasingly complex injuries and sophisticated treatment, and associated health conditions in the longer term. The Board is highly cognisant of strains upon NHS and Local Authority provision. In 2016, the Board completed a review of care for the most infirm and those in later life, taking these factors into account. The Board took the decision to apportion more Reserves for the support of the most infirm and those in later life, in their own homes and communities. In 2019, the Board revisited the situation and reconfirmed the direction. Current

Reserves are adequate for the implementation of this decision and the Strategic Plan remains robust.

- **Income Generation.** The unpredictable nature of legacy income, and a reduced public profile impacting upon voluntary contributions. In anticipation, the Fundraising Team at Chelmsford is now well-founded and income streams are being diversified, including a Regional Fundraising Manager to leverage regional support for the Charity. This approach to diversify income generation is particularly pertinent in light of the COVID-19 pandemic which may put severe pressure on revenues. The drive for stronger coherence across all lines of operation, including resourcing, continues.

In the opinion of the Trustees, the Association has the established resources and the review systems in place which, under normal conditions, should allow risks identified by them to be managed appropriately. There were no serious incidents that required reporting to the Charity Commission.

CHARITY RESERVES

Free Reserves (i.e. investments portfolio plus cash at bank) at the balance sheet date stood at £38M, most of which is held as investments. Restricted Funds stood at £952,558. Blesma's resources are needed to meet its main charitable objectives. Recent academic research and actuarial advice received in earlier years indicates that there is a continuing need for reserves

to meet Blesma's ongoing obligations in respect of present and future Members.

Through-life support for present Members must be sustainable. The need to maintain contingency for the casualties of future conflict requires readiness, as do unforeseen issues such as COVID-19. Apart from its office building, Blesma has no assets of monetary value beyond the investments portfolio managed by Cazenove.

Twenty per cent of Free Reserves is allocated to an increase in spending on more comprehensive services to Members over the next five years as defined in the Strategic Plan. Twenty per cent of Free Reserves is allocated to funding the increased cost of supporting care for the most infirm and those in later life, specifically in the longer term under the Blesma grants scheme. There is increasing demand for welfare grants. The most infirm have extremely complex injuries and the longer-term implications are unknown, but their proper care over several decades must be accounted for.

The State is under severe pressure to fund health and care provision, particularly for those in later life, and this is reflected across the NHS and at Local Authority level. The Health Foundation estimates that adult social care services face a £4.4 billion funding gap by 2023/2024. Where State provision is found wanting in a definite way (on issues of statutory body accountability, timeliness, eligibility, adequacy, quality of life), by exception, and on the understanding Blesma is not replacing the State in a wholesale manner, grants are made to relieve distress and meet immediate need. All Members have access to the grants scheme and for the reasons described there has been an increase in demand that is anticipated to continue.

Twenty per cent of Free Reserves is allocated to providing instant funds for the support of casualties in a future conflict and to absorb increased costs

in the provision of services resulting from medical advances and a more holistic approach. Blesma should be ready for unexpected and violent scenarios.

Forty per cent of Free Reserves will remain as such (approximately 29 months of operating cost) to ensure business continuity, demonstrating to beneficiaries, funders and the public the Charity's resilience and capacity to manage unforeseen financial difficulties. Free Reserves are the only asset available to Blesma to meet ongoing and future commitments to the membership should current income streams be in jeopardy.

At the balance sheet date the Trustees are satisfied that the level of Free Reserves is adequate for the purpose. The level of Free Reserves has since been reviewed in light of the COVID-19 crisis and was found to be appropriate given the level of uncertainty in the financial markets and the nature of the developing crisis.

The Board will continue to review the Association's reserves and its policy annually; more frequently if circumstances dictate. Trustees pay particular attention to the ratio of Free Reserves to operating costs.

GOING CONCERN

The Trustees are satisfied that Blesma is a going concern and is on a sound financial footing to meet foreseen liabilities and commitments in its current operations. The Blesma Strategic Plan continually looks forward five years matching policy, resources, programmes and projects, ensuring prudent balance is maintained.

In light of the current climate in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Trustees have reviewed the Charity's finances. In the short term, cash holdings are sufficient to ensure adequate cashflow for the foreseeable future. In the medium-to-long term plans for, and the structure of, Blesma remain extant and will continue to be reviewed regularly.





A Member's story

SENIORS WEEK

Maureen Heggie and Margaret Chenier met at a Seniors Week in 2016. The event in Autumn 2019 came shortly after Maureen's husband, Jim, had passed away

Maureen (far left)

"Jim died at the end of August 2019, so this was the first time I'd been to Seniors Week on my own. It was lovely in spite of the circumstances. It's good to meet different people and hear their stories, and I like to get out, see different places, and do things I wouldn't do on my own.

"I knew Margaret from an earlier trip – she had just lost her husband and I was able to help her. She returned the favour this time around. The week was just what I needed, particularly with the chance to be around Margaret. Everyone has got their own story about what happened to them and how they got here. You respect everyone's abilities and disabilities, and you learn what they can and can't do. Everyone helps each other."

Margaret (near left)

"I'd just lost my husband on the 2016 trip and it was the first time I'd been away on my own," recalls Margaret. "Seniors Week is lovely, and it's nice to go somewhere under your own steam. The week allows you to be independent and meet new people with whom you have things in common. You gel straight away with everyone else, and the BSOs work hard to make the whole experience fantastic.

"Seniors Week is a way of getting away from everything on your own terms and not being cosseted by friends or family. You can relax and be friendly with people who you've probably never met but who you're sure to have lots in common with. Blesma is great, the help they gave me when my husband was ill was incredible."

Governance & Administrative Report

Structure, Governance and Management

CONSTITUTION

*Charity Number 1084189
Company Limited by Guarantee
Number 4102768
Registered in Scotland SC010315*

Blesma, The Limbless Veterans is a national charity for those who lose limbs or the permanent use of limbs, or lose the sight of eyes, or suffer permanent loss of speech or hearing, in Service or as a result of Service in Her Majesty's Forces, or Auxiliary Forces, and for ex-Service men and women who lose limbs or sight of eyes, or in certain circumstances use of limbs, after Service.

While the majority of its Members are ex-Service men and women, there are a number who are still serving. Membership is also open to all men and women of civilian status who lose a limb or an eye, or suffer the loss of use of limb as a result of War Service or enemy action, or terrorist action against Her Majesty's Forces with which those of civilian status are employed, or volunteer, to provide direct support, or in exceptional circumstances subject to the approval of Trustees.

The Association also accepts responsibility for the dependants

of its Members and, in particular, their Widows. The Association is governed by its most recent Articles of Association and Rules adopted in an Extraordinary General Meeting on 23 June 2016.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES

The Blesma AGM was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Heythrop Park, Oxfordshire, OX7 5UF, on 09 June 2019.

- **The Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2018 were adopted**
- **Crowe U.K. LLP was appointed as Auditor**
- **Mr Will Dixon, Mr Anthony Harris, Mr Colin Rouse MBE and Mr Miles Ambler were re-appointed as Trustees**

The number of elected Trustees is 11 and this is the total number of Trustees. One third of them will be required to resign and stand for re-election, if they so wish, at the AGM. Additionally, any Trustee over the age of 70 must do likewise every year.

The Board aims for a balanced composition, to be half Members and half Honorary Members approximately.

This promotes connectivity across the Association and the right blend of experience, knowledge and expertise to fulfil all Board responsibilities. Blesma acknowledges the Charity Governance Code, abides by the Code's principles, and works to implement the recommended practice. Blesma is a full Member of the Confederation of Service Charities and has a Green Benchmark for good governance on its evaluation scheme.

TRAINING OF TRUSTEES

Following election to the Board, each Trustee is provided with relevant Charity Commission publications covering responsibilities and essential knowledge, and these are updated when necessary. Trustees also receive regular briefings on emerging legislation affecting charities at their quarterly meetings, and new Trustees receive a full induction programme covering both their generic and specific responsibilities, and the spectrum of Blesma business, including externally provided training.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Board

The Board of Trustees exercises supervision by holding four meetings each year. The agenda cycle is Fiduciary and Strategy (April), Performance and Risk (June), Strategy Review and Programme Proposal (September), and Programme Approval (November).

The Board of Trustees

National Chairman: General Sir Adrian Bradshaw KCB OBE DL

Vice Chairman: Mr W L Dixon

Honorary Treasurer: Mr M Ambler

Miss A Grant

Mr A J Harris

Mrs R Maciejewska

Mr P Monkhouse

Mr A K Mudd BEM

Mr M Pillans

Mr C Rouse MBE

Mr R Watts

The Finance & Investment Sub Committee (FISC)

The FISC meets twice a year under the chairmanship of the Honorary Treasurer and its terms of reference, including delegated powers, are laid down in an appropriate Blesma Governance Instruction. At each bi-annual meeting the FISC is briefed by the Association's investment managers from Cazenove Capital Management Limited. Mr S White (Member) is an advisor to the FISC.

The Remuneration Sub Committee (RSC)

The RSC meets once a year routinely, under the chairmanship of the Vice Chairman, reporting to the Board, through the FISC, to make recommendations upon the specific remuneration, terms and conditions of service for the Chief Executive and Senior Management Team, and remuneration policy in general for all staff.

The Governance Sub Committee (GSC)

Governance matters are reviewed on a regular basis by the GSC under the chairmanship of the Vice Chairman. All Governance Standing Instructions were reviewed and republished in 2017, including instructions upon Fundraising and Personal Information.

The Executive

The Chief Executive, runs the Association on a day-to-day basis from Chelmsford in Essex. Mr B J Le Grys was in post until September 2019 and thereafter Mr I M G Waller as interim until the arrival of Mr J D Bryant in late March 2020.

Structure, Governance and Management

The key structure is:

Director of Operations

Mr I M G Waller. Responsible for enabling charitable delivery and communications across the Association and beyond – this includes all aspects of public relations and maintaining profile, and raising funds to enable our charitable work. The Director of Operations is also responsible for rehabilitation and challenge activities.

Director Independence and Wellbeing

Mrs H Betts. Responsible for all membership matters, including liaison with MoD recovery services and the National Health Services, prosthetic provision, the Blesma welfare service in the field, and grant making.

There are no trading subsidiaries of Blesma.

KEY MANAGEMENT REMUNERATION

The remuneration of key management personnel is set by the Trustees, upon recommendation of the Remuneration Sub Committee, with the policy objective of ensuring that they are provided with appropriate incentives to encourage strong performance and are, in a fair and responsible manner, rewarded for their individual contributions to the Charity's success. The appropriateness and relevance of remuneration is reviewed annually, in particular noting role responsibilities and including reference to comparisons with sector and national statistics to ensure that Blesma remains

sensitive to the broader issues of pay and employment conditions elsewhere. The key management are the Chief Executive, the Director of Operations, the Director Independence and Wellbeing, and the Head of Finance. The staff salary bands and sum of remuneration are noted in the Charity Accounts. The Chief Executive is employed on the same terms as all other staff and the Charity does not pay bonuses. Trustees receive no remuneration or benefits other than expenses incurred.

DATA PROTECTION

Trustees are briefed regularly on matters surrounding data protection and personal information, and ensure policies are kept up to date. Blesma continues to closely monitor its compliance with General Data Protection Regulations.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Trustees, who are also the directors under company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law, the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities (SORP 2015) issued on 16 July 2014, Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and

The Blesma Board of Trustees resolves to have Blesma be the Association for the Service disabled of limb, acknowledged as experts. Its defining purpose is to assist its people to live independent and fulfilling lives.

It will be there for life.

Structure, Governance and Management

Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity, and of the profit or loss of the Charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- **Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently**
- **Make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent**
- **Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business**
- **Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP**
- **State whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements**

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions and disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking

reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Insofar as each of the Trustees of the company at the date of approval of this report is aware, there is no relevant audit information (information needed by the company's auditor in connection with preparing the audit report) of which the company's auditor is unaware. Each Trustee has taken all the steps that they should have taken as a Trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

This Report, which incorporates the Strategic Report, was approved by the Trustees on 23 April 2020, and signed on their behalf.



General Sir Adrian Bradshaw KCB OBE DL
23 April 2020
National Chairman

Independent Auditor's Report

OPINION ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have audited the financial statements of the British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association for the year ended 31 December 2019 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and Notes to the Financial Statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- Give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2019 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and Regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report.

We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- The Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- The Trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charitable company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least 12 months from

the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

OTHER INFORMATION

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

OPINION ON OTHER MATTERS PRESCRIBED BY THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- The information given in the Trustees' report, which includes the directors' report and the strategic report prepared for the purposes of company law, for

the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and

- The strategic report and the directors' report included within the Trustees' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

In light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report or the directors' report included within the Trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- Adequate and proper accounting records have not been kept [or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us]; or
- The financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- Certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- We have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement set out on p36

and p38, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have been appointed as auditor under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with the Acts and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if,

individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

USE OF OUR REPORT

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of part 16 of the Companies Act 2006, and to the charitable company's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members and Trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company, the charitable company's members as a body and the charitable company's Trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Andrew Thomas

Senior Statutory Auditor

For and on behalf of **Crowe U.K. LLP**

Statutory Auditor, London

Financial Statements

For the year ended
31 December 2019

BRITISH LIMBLESS EX-SERVICE MEN'S ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND
EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

	Notes	Unrestricted FUNDS £	Restricted FUNDS £	2019 TOTAL £	2018 TOTAL £
INCOME					
Donations and Legacies	2	5,634,330	267,237	5,901,567	7,545,783
Investment Income		909,619	-	909,619	787,989
Grants	2(a)	-	413,044	413,044	411,048
Other Income	2(a)	2,555,205	56,174	2,611,378	57,812
		3,464,824	469,218	3,934,041	1,256,849
Total Income		9,099,154	736,454	9,835,608	8,802,632
EXPENDITURE					
Expenditure on raising funds					
RESOURCING					
Fundraising and Communications	5	949,302	2,500	951,802	940,594
Investment Management Fees		110,327	-	110,327	109,911
		1,059,629	2,500	1,062,129	1,050,505
Expenditure on charitable activities					
SECURITY					
Membership Services - Welfare	6	2,385,561	787,825	3,173,386	2,931,453
IDENTITY					
Membership Services - Activities	7	1,513,785	99,050	1,612,834	1,534,677
CONNECTIVITY					
Awareness and Representation	8	373,161	-	373,161	369,973
National Volunteer Office	9	8,622	11	8,633	86,238
		4,281,129	886,886	5,168,014	4,922,340
Total Expenditure		5,340,757	889,386	6,230,143	5,972,845
Operating surplus		3,758,397	(152,931)	3,605,465	2,829,786
Net gain/(loss) on investments	12	3,372,366	-	3,372,366	(1,758,076)
Net income		7,130,763	(152,931)	6,977,831	1,071,711
Balances brought forward 01 Jan 2019	17/18	33,224,278	1,105,489	34,329,767	33,258,056
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD					
31 DECEMBER 2019		40,355,041	952,558	41,307,598	34,329,767

BRITISH LIMBLESS EX-SERVICE MEN'S ASSOCIATION

Company Number 4102768

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019

	Notes	2019 TOTAL £	2018 TOTAL £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets	11	2,376,787	216,597
Intangible fixed assets	11(b)	100,256	-
Investment properties	11(a)	903,506	-
Investments	12, 12(a)	32,049,695	27,802,640
		35,430,244	28,019,237
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stocks		19,639	19,093
Debtors	13	507,310	5,210,467
Balances at bank and in hand		5,900,801	1,484,742
		6,427,750	6,714,302
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	14	384,801	245,815
Provision for liabilities and charges	14(a)	165,595	157,957
		5,877,354	6,310,530
		NET CURRENT ASSETS	6,310,530
		NET ASSETS	34,329,767
FUNDS			
Unrestricted fund	17	40,355,041	33,224,278
Restricted fund	18	952,558	1,105,489
TOTAL FUNDS		41,307,598	34,329,767

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 23 April 2020 and signed on its behalf by:

General Sir Adrian Bradshaw KCB OBE DL

M Ambler

I Waller

BRITISH LIMBLESS EX-SERVICE MEN'S ASSOCIATION
CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

	2019	2019	2018	2018
	£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:				
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities		5,170,644		(1,687,417)
Cash flows from investing activities:				
Investment income		909,619		787,989
Purchase of investments		(7,161,466)		(7,723,119)
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(3,439,516)		(29,903)
Proceeds from the sale of investments		6,552,276		4,490,706
Proceeds from the sale of tangible fixed assets (CH)		2,650,000		-
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		(489,087)		(2,474,326)
Cash flows from financial activities				
Decrease / (Increase) in amounts awaiting investment		(265,498)		1,337,507
Net cash provided in (used by) financial activities		(265,498)		1,337,507
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		4,416,059		(2,824,237)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		1,484,742		4,308,979
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		5,900,801		1,484,742
(a) Analysis of cash and cash equivalents				
		2019		2018
		£		£
Cash at bank and in hand		5,900,801		1,484,742
		5,900,801		1,484,742
(b) Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities				
		2019		2018
		£		£
Net income / (expenditure) as per the Statement of Financial Activities		6,977,831		1,071,711
Adjustments for:				
Net (gain) / loss on investments		(3,372,366)		1,758,076
Net (gain) / loss on sale of tangible fixed assets (CH)		(2,524,128)		-
Investment income		(909,619)		(787,989)
Depreciation		144,902		38,856
(Increase) / decrease in stocks		(546)		(9,160)
(Increase) / decrease in debtors		4,707,947		(3,356,230)
Increase / (decrease) in creditors		146,623		(402,680)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities		5,170,644		(1,687,417)

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. CHARITY INFORMATION AND ACCOUNTING POLICIES

British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association is a Member charity specialising in and helping limbless and loss of use of limbs veterans.

The Charity is a private company limited by guarantee (Registered Number 4102768) and was established in 1932 (Charity Number 1084189) and incorporated in 2000. The address of the registered office is 115 New London Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 0QT.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently for all years in dealing with items that are considered material in relation to the financial statements of the Charity.

i) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities under the historic cost convention, as modified for the revaluation of certain investments and properties measured at fair value, and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) Accounting and Reporting by Charities, published in 2015, Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities Act 2011, and the Companies Act 2006.

The Charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

ii) Going concern

As stated in the Trustee's Report, Trustees believe there are no material uncertainties that call into doubt the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern and the accounts have therefore been prepared on the basis that the Charity is a going concern.

iii) Fund accounting

Donations for specific capital projects are transferred to the fixed asset fund. Income received for specific expenditure is restricted for that purpose, as analysed under Note 18. Capital expenditure not funded by donations is allocated from the general fund. Annual depreciation is transferred from the fixed asset fund to the general fund so that the fixed asset fund is always equal to the book value of the fixed assets.

iv) Income

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Charity is entitled to it and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Grant income is recognised on a systematic basis to match income with related expenditure
- Donations income is accounted for on a received basis or when its future receipt is probable
- Legacies and bequests are recognised when the conditions of entitlement, probability and measurement are met. Entitlement is deemed to be the point of notification of a legacy or when probate has been granted
- Rental income is recognised when receivable

v) Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all the costs related to a category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to a particular category they have been allocated to activities based on staff head count full time equivalents (FTE), as shown in Note 10. Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

BRITISH LIMBLESS EX-SERVICE MEN'S ASSOCIATION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

vi) Estimates and judgements

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Estimations that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are summarised below: Depreciation is calculated based on the useful life of the asset and written off accordingly.

vii) Governance costs

Governance costs are those incurred in compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, and are shown as part of Note 10.

viii) Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible Fixed Assets are stated at cost less depreciation and are capitalised at a value of £1,000 and above. They are depreciated at rates intended to reduce their cost to their residual value over their estimated useful life on a straight-line basis as detailed below:

Freehold Property 4.0% on valuation
Furniture, Fittings and Equipment 10.0% on cost
Computer Equipment 33.3% on cost
Motor Vehicles 25.0% on cost
Coaches and Buses 12.5% on cost

ix) Intangible Fixed Assets

Intangible Fixed Assets are capitalised at a value of £1,000 and above and include software costs. They are amortised over three years i.e. 33.3% on cost over their estimated useful life on a straight-line basis.

x) Investment Properties

Investment Properties are stated at cost less depreciation and reviewed for impairment every five years. They are depreciated over 25 years i.e. 4% on cost over their estimated useful life on a straight-line basis.

xi) Investments

Fixed asset investments are stated in the Balance Sheet at market value. Realised gains and losses on disposal and unrealised gains on investments are shown in the statement of financial activities.

xii) Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

xiii) Pension costs

The Charity contributes to a Group Personal Pension scheme with AEGON which is a defined contribution scheme. The amounts charged in the accounts are the employer's contributions payable in the financial year.

xiv) Operating leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities in the period to which the cost relates. Operating lease commitments are highlighted under Note 20.

xv) Financial assets and liabilities

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when Blesma becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Additionally, all financial assets and liabilities are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. Financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs) and are subsequently re-measured where applicable at amortised cost.

Financial assets held at amortised cost comprise of cash and bank, together with accrued interest and other debtors.

Financial liabilities held at amortised cost comprise of creditors and accruals.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2019	2018
	£	£
Community and Lotteries	388,444	383,066
Corporate	288,113	187,999
Direct mail	404,199	388,556
Major donors	150,875	528,000
Organised events	87,615	139,028
Trusts and foundations	342,254	310,639
Legacies	4,240,067	5,608,496
	5,901,567	7,545,783

Legacy Pipeline

The Charity has been able to identify from incomplete bequests through pecuniary and residuary legacies confirmed and expect to receive approximately the sum of £1,805,521 (2018: £4,785,398).

2(a) Included in Grants and other income is an amount of £413,044 (2018: £411,048) relating to the allocation of Government funds to Blesma from the LIBOR fund. The final disbursement is expected in 2020. Also included in other income is an amount of £2,524,128 being profit/gain on disposal of our former head office building in Chadwell Heath.

BRITISH LIMBLESS EX-SERVICE MEN'S ASSOCIATION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

4. TOTAL STAFF COSTS

	2019	<i>2018</i>
	TOTAL	<i>TOTAL</i>
	£	<i>£</i>
Salaries and wages	£1,672,955	<i>1,588,289</i>
Social security	£170,610	<i>160,546</i>
Pension and life cover	£105,322	<i>107,863</i>
Other staff costs	£33,691	<i>61,949</i>
	£1,982,577	<i>1,918,646</i>

Actual number of staff employed
(headcount average over 12 months):

Membership Services	23.7	<i>20.0</i>
Activities and Events	3.2	<i>3.0</i>
Fundraising	9.7	<i>10.0</i>
Awareness and Representation	3.8	<i>4.0</i>
National Volunteer Office	-	<i>0.4</i>
Support	7.8	<i>8.0</i>
	48.2	<i>45.4</i>

Total redundancies and settlement costs of £4,664 (2018: £23,580) were made in the year. £0 remained outstanding to be paid at year end.

Key personnel

The Charity has four key personnel in the salary bands shown below (there are no bonus or benefit schemes).

Staff salary bands:

£60,000 - £70,000	3	<i>1</i>
£70,000 - £80,000	1	<i>1</i>
£80,000 - £90,000	-	<i>1</i>

Total remuneration paid to key management personnel, as identified on p36, is £343,657 (2018: £330,069).

Blesma contributes to a Group Personal Pension scheme with AEGON and new employees are auto-enrolled upon joining.

Reimbursements of travel expenditure were made to seven Members (2018: 8) of the Board of Trustees of £5,299 by Blesma during the year (2018: £3,376). Trustees are not remunerated or receive any other benefits.

5. FUNDRAISING COSTS

	2019	2018
	£	£
Staff costs	334,977	316,792
Database costs	26,789	19,972
Advertising costs	14,822	15,505
Community	12,281	17,381
Challenge and Events	33,379	38,256
Direct Mail costs	290,165	273,937
Other related costs	31,834	47,875
Branch fundraising costs	-	320
Attributable support costs	207,555	210,557
	951,802	940,594

6. MEMBERSHIP SERVICES - WELFARE

	2019	2018
	£	£
Staff costs	1,025,163	885,985
Welfare grants to Members (all categories)	953,532	987,699
Continuing assistance to Widows (all categories)	7,540	10,140
Chiropody	2,343	1,696
Welfare visiting	32,106	31,978
Other related costs	320,430	235,995
Members' annual conference	101,943	67,101
Special events	9,326	8,903
Research	300	-
Members' BLES MAG costs	148,097	204,220
Branch welfare activities	7,144	15,955
Branch support costs	13,380	5,949
Attributable support costs	552,081	475,832
	3,173,386	2,931,453

BRITISH LIMBLESS EX-SERVICE MEN'S ASSOCIATION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

7. MEMBERSHIP SERVICES – ACTIVITIES

	2019	<i>2018</i>
	£	<i>£</i>
Staff costs	106,718	<i>112,478</i>
Activities and Events	848,992	<i>624,404</i>
Venturers program	108,850	<i>58,319</i>
Inspiration and Individual Recovery	473,948	<i>624,161</i>
Other related costs	10,654	<i>11,497</i>
Attributable support costs	63,671	<i>103,818</i>
	1,612,834	<i>1,534,677</i>

8. AWARENESS AND REPRESENTATION

	2019	<i>2018</i>
	£	<i>£</i>
Staff costs	130,996	<i>144,943</i>
General media costs	125,967	<i>140,382</i>
Subscriptions and fees	5,849	<i>4,851</i>
Other related costs	19,390	<i>10,585</i>
Attributable support costs	90,959	<i>69,212</i>
	373,161	<i>369,973</i>

9. NATIONAL VOLUNTEER OFFICE

	2019	<i>2018</i>
	£	<i>£</i>
Staff costs	-	<i>63,980</i>
Volunteer Recruitment and Support	551	<i>826</i>
Marketing	7,881	<i>11,422</i>
Other related costs	201	<i>1,358</i>
Attributable support costs	-	<i>8,651</i>
	8,633	<i>86,238</i>

10. SUPPORT COSTS

Expenditure recognised in notes 5 to 9 includes Support Costs apportioned by full-time employee equivalents (FTE) and is detailed below

Basis of apportionment (FTE)	Fundraising	Membership Services	Activities	Awareness and Representation	2019 TOTAL	2018 TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Salaries and related costs	88,281	237,785	27,424	39,177	392,667	415,620
Travel and meetings	494	1,331	154	219	2,199	1,984
Motor vehicle expenses	5,816	15,665	1,807	2,581	25,869	25,010
Postage	2,464	6,637	765	1,093	10,960	12,557
Telephone & office supplies	1,776	4,784	552	788	7,900	6,228
Pensions to retired staff	179	481	55	79	794	768
Headquarters premises cost	19,564	52,696	6,077	8,682	87,020	64,239
Publications and subscriptions	1,613	4,344	501	716	7,173	2,771
Office equipment maintenance	13,765	37,075	4,276	6,108	61,223	48,449
Other administration costs	-	-	-	-	-	18,944
Pensions deficit liability	-	-	-	-	-	127,157
Other professional fees	22,301	60,068	6,928	9,897	99,194	22,775
Governance costs	11,501	30,978	3,573	5,104	51,156	73,471
Bank charges	590	1,589	183	262	2,624	3,101
Depreciation	35,659	89,080	10,274	14,677	149,690	38,856
Sundries & Presentations	3,552	9,567	1,103	1,576	15,798	6,140
	207,555	552,081	63,671	90,959	914,266	868,070

Governance costs include the gross annual audit fee of £27,000 incl VAT (2018: £27,120).
Included in staff training are non-audit fees of £1,440 (incl VAT).

BRITISH LIMBLESS EX-SERVICE MEN'S ASSOCIATION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

11. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Premises £	Computer Equipment £	Fittings & Equipment £	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
Cost or valuation:					
At 01 January 2019	293,188	56,794	60,112	69,613	479,706
Additions	3,226,119	25,153	77,436	-	3,328,708
Investment properties	(903,506)				(903,506)
Disposals	(293,188)	-	-	-	(293,188)
At 31 December 2019	2,322,612	81,946	137,548	69,613	2,611,720
Depreciation:					
At 01 January 2019	162,529	34,005	32,495	34,082	263,112
Charge for the year	101,203	14,746	9,700	8,701	134,350
Disposals	(162,529)	-	-	-	(162,529)
At 31 December 2019	101,203	48,751	42,196	42,783	234,933
Net book value	2,221,410	33,195	95,353	26,830	2,376,787
<i>At 31 December 2018</i>	<i>130,659</i>	<i>22,789</i>	<i>27,618</i>	<i>35,531</i>	<i>216,597</i>

11(a) The investment properties value of £903,506 is apportioned on the basis of floor space (sq ft).

11(b) INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computer Software £
Cost or valuation	
At 01 January 2019	-
Additions	110,808
Disposals	-
At 31 December 2019	110,808
Amortisation	
At 01 January 2019	-
Charge for the year	10,552
Disposals	-
At 31 December 2019	10,552
Net book value	
At 31 December 2019	100,256
At 31 December 2018	-

12. INVESTMENTS

	2019	2018
	£	£
Market Value		
At 01 January 2019	27,441,342	25,967,005
Purchases	7,161,466	7,723,119
Sales	(6,552,276)	(4,490,706)
Net Investment gain / (loss)	3,372,366	(1,758,076)
At 31 December 2019	31,422,899	27,441,342
Add: Cash awaiting investment	626,796	361,298
Market Value at 31 December 2019	32,049,695	27,802,640
Cost at 31 December 2019	27,118,487	26,268,233
Analysis of investments at 31 December 2019		
UK Quoted investments		
Equities		
United Kingdom	9,866,791	8,593,914
Europe	1,564,115	1,274,811
North America	6,802,605	5,304,367
Global	3,100,844	3,054,534
Total Equities	21,334,355	18,227,626
Bonds		
United Kingdom	3,152,317	2,721,458
North America	676,809	642,115
Total Bonds	3,829,126	3,363,573
Alternatives		
Multi-Asset	408,618	1,237,727
Hedge Funds	923,830	895,264
Property	3,078,652	3,018,897
Others	1,848,318	698,255
Total Alternatives	6,259,418	5,850,143
Cash awaiting investment	626,796	361,298
	32,049,695	27,802,640

12(a) There has been a lot of turbulence in world stock markets since the start of 2020. This was mainly due to concerns about the current and potential impact on the global economy of the coronavirus outbreak. The MSCI World Index (hedged to sterling) fell 21% in the three months to 31 March 2020 and the UK equity index fell 25% over the same period. The Charity's portfolio was valued at £28M at 31 March 2020, down from £32M on 31 December 2019.

BRITISH LIMBLESS EX-SERVICE MEN'S ASSOCIATION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

13. DEBTORS

	2019	2018
	£	£
Trade debtors	8,397	3,223
Prepayments and accrued other income	348,101	2,128,262
Accrued legacy income	150,813	3,078,982
	507,310	5,210,467

14. CREDITORS DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2019	2018
	£	£
Trade creditors	190,447	94,426
Accruals	194,354	150,483
Other creditors (incl pension scheme)	-	907
	384,801	245,815

14a. PROVISION

The sum of £165,595 (2018: £157,957) is a provision for third party assistance to care for Blesma Members resettled in care homes.

15. FINANCIAL ASSETS AT FAIR VALUE

	2019	2018
	£	£
Investments	32,049,694	27,802,640

16. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Blesma has a 20% interest in WSY Holdings Limited, a company established to distribute legacies arising from an estate. During the year, Blesma received £0 (2018: £1,021,000). There are no other related party transactions to report.

17. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	01 Jan 2019	Income	Expenditure	Investment Gain (loss)	Transfers	31 Dec 2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	33,007,681	9,099,154	(5,340,757)	3,372,366	(3,163,952)	36,974,491
Fixed Asset Fund	216,597	-	-	-	3,163,952	3,380,549
	33,224,278	9,099,154	(5,340,757)	3,372,366	-	40,355,041

The Trustees have designated a fixed asset fund in order to represent funds for depreciating assets in the Charity.

18. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	01 Jan 2019	Income	Expenditure	31 Dec 2019
	£	£	£	£
All restricted funds are held as part of balances at bank and in hand				
Welfare				
Geographic specific	280,285	162,660	(77,628)	365,317
Residential Fees	263,425	10,902	(115,067)	159,260
Specific restrictions – various individuals	3,500	149,824	(151,557)	1,767
Wives and Widows	367,400	-	(108,659)	258,741
LIBOR Funds	120,423	413,044	(411,446)	122,021
General Welfare	(5,333)	-	-	(5,333)
	1,029,700	736,454	(864,357)	901,773
Prosthetic Aids	22,858	-	(11,409)	11,449
Research	9,100	-	(300)	8,800
Chiropody Fund	13,433	-	(2,271)	11,162
Branch specific	30,399	-	(11,048)	19,351
	1,105,490	736,454	(889,386)	952,558

The Residential Fees fund is restricted to resettled residents of the former Blackpool Home.

The Wives and Widows fund is restricted to Wives and Widows of Blesma's Members.

The LIBOR fund is restricted to Blesma's Outreach programme and one Support Officer (BSO) in Wales.

BRITISH LIMBLESS EX-SERVICE MEN'S ASSOCIATION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

19. NET ASSETS

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	2019
			£
The net assets of the Charity are summarised below:			
Fixed Assets	2,376,787	-	2,376,787
Intangible Fixed Assets	100,256	-	100,256
Investment Properties	903,506	-	903,506
Investments	32,049,695	-	32,049,695
Current Assets	5,475,193	952,558	6,427,750
Creditors	(550,396)	-	(550,396)
	40,355,040	952,558	41,307,598

20. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

As at 31 December 2019, the Charity had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases of:

	Motor Vehicles	Office Equipment	2019
	£	£	£
Within one year	159,253	25,872	185,125
Between two and five years	314,481	81,609	396,090
More than five years	-	-	-
	473,734	107,480	581,214

21. COMPARATIVE NOTES

(a) Comparative Statement of Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2018 Total £
Income			
Donations and Legacies	7,074,788	470,994	7,545,782
Investments Income	787,989	-	787,989
Grants & Other Income	32,413	436,447	468,860
	820,402	436,447	1,256,849
Total Income	7,895,190	907,441	8,802,631
Expenditure			
Expenditure on raising funds			
Resourcing			
Fundraising and Communications	939,655	939	940,594
Investment Management fees	109,911	-	109,911
	1,049,566	939	1,050,505
Expenditure on charitable activities			
Security			
Accommodation and Care for Members	-	-	-
Membership Services - Welfare	2,181,797	749,656	2,931,453
Identity			
Membership Services - Activities	1,455,214	79,462	1,534,676
Connectivity			
Awareness and Representation	369,973	-	369,973
National Volunteer Office	86,238	11	86,249
	4,093,222	829,129	4,922,351
Total Expenditure	5,142,788	830,068	5,972,856
Operating surplus	2,752,402	77,373	2,829,775
Net (loss) / gain on investments	(1,758,076)	-	(1,758,076)
Net income / (expenditure)	994,327	77,384	1,071,711
Balances brought forward 01 January 2018	32,229,951	1,028,105	33,258,056
Balances carried forward 31 December 2018	33,224,278	1,105,489	34,329,767

BRITISH LIMBLESS EX-SERVICE MEN'S ASSOCIATION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

21. COMPARATIVE NOTES (continued)

(b) Comparative Unrestricted Funds

	01 January 2018	Income	Expenditure	Investment Gain/Loss	Fund Transfers	31 Dec 2018
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	32,004,167	7,895,190	(5,142,788)	(1,758,076)	9,188	33,007,681
Fixed Asset Fund	225,784	-	-	-	(9,188)	216,597
	32,229,951	7,895,190	(5,142,788)	(1,758,076)	-	33,224,278

The Trustees have designated a Fixed Asset Fund in order to represent funds for depreciating assets in the Charity.

(c) Comparative Restricted Funds

	01 January 2018	Income	Expenditure	31 Dec 2018
	£	£	£	£
All restricted funds are held as part of balances at bank and in hand.				
Welfare:				
Geographic specific	146,449	173,356	(39,520)	280,285
Residential Fees	257,240	132,716	(126,531)	263,425
Specific restrictions - various individuals	1,069	24,460	(22,029)	3,500
Wives and Widows	500,000	-	(132,600)	367,400
LIBOR Funds	-	411,048	(290,625)	120,423
General Welfare	13,278	165,861	(184,472)	(5,333)
	918,036	907,441	(795,777)	1,029,700
Education Fund	9,485	-	(9,485)	-
Rehabilitation Fund	300	-	(300)	-
Prosthetic Aids	45,129	-	(22,271)	22,858
Research	9,100	-	-	9,100
Chiropody Fund	15,129	-	(1,696)	13,432
Branch specific	30,926	-	(527)	30,399
	1,028,105	907,441	(830,056)	1,105,489

The Residential Fees fund is restricted to resettled residents of the former Blackpool Home.

The Wives and Widows fund is restricted to Wives and Widows of Blesma's Members.

The LIBOR fund is restricted to Blesma's Outreach programme and one Support Officer (BSO) in Wales.

(d) Comparative Net Assets

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2018
	£	£	£
The net assets of the Charity are summarised below:			
Fixed Assets	216,597	-	216,597
Investments	27,802,640	-	27,802,640
Current Assets	5,608,813	1,105,489	6,714,302
Creditors	(403,772)	-	(403,772)
	33,224,278	1,105,489	34,329,767



A Member's story

JACK CUMMINGS

Jack was part of a bomb disposal team in Afghanistan when he was injured in 2010, losing both legs above the knee

“I joined the Royal Engineers when I was 16 and after I qualified I was told I’d be going into bomb disposal as Afghanistan was starting to ramp up. I deployed on my first tour when I was just 19, but when I went back in 2010 the threat had changed.

“I was blown up on 14 August 2010 – I was just 22 years old. I was in a coma for 30 days and intensive care for six months – I can’t remember anything that happened.

“I’ve had loads of operations since then – too many to count. I went into rehab in 2011 and stayed there for three-and-a-half years. I was given prosthetics but because my injury is through my pelvis on one side they didn’t work. And I had to relearn everything – how to shower, how to drive a car with adaptations, how to use the toilet again...

“But Blesma has been there for me from the start. I’ve been skiing with the Charity, and it’s given me a really good wheelchair. I took part in last year’s London Marathon to give something back – I finished in about four hours and raised more than £3,000.

“I feel very lucky to be alive. I got married in 2017 and now I’m enjoying the gift that is life, and sharing that with my wife. I have so much to live for!”





How You Can Help Blesma

We need to raise more than £2.7 million in 2020 in order to continue all of our vital work. At present, Blesma looks out for 3,027 Members and Widows. Our elder membership is increasingly frail, while our younger membership has increased as a result of recent conflicts. Limb loss is for life and therefore Blesma is, too.

Your support means we can ensure that our oldest Members can live a dignified life and that our youngest Members can face the challenge of a lifetime with disability with renewed confidence and self-belief.

Blesma's rehabilitation activities are going from strength to strength, with many Members relishing the challenges they present, including those giving to society by inspiring resilience in youth through the Making Generation R project. Our welfare services are in high demand and are reaching our Members – especially the most elderly and infirm – through our regional Support and Outreach Officers, and our Branch and Volunteer network. This has become even more critical as the Coronavirus emergency imposes isolation upon our membership. None of this would be possible without your ongoing support and donations.

If you would like to help or make a donation, please contact our Fundraising Team by telephone on 020 8548 7089, by email on fundraising@blesma.org, through our website at www.blesma.org or write to us at the address below.

Fundraising Team
Blesma, The Limbless Veterans
115 New London Road
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 0QT

Your contribution towards Blesma will make a difference to the lives of our Members suffering today – our disabled Service men and women of long ago and just yesterday.

A Member's story

ANDREW MEAD

Para ice hockey is fast paced, full contact, and fantastic fun. Just ask Member Andrew Mead

Andrew Mead is a recent convert to para ice hockey. He plays for the Sheffield Steelkings, and has improved so rapidly that he is being considered for Team GB.

Andrew joined the Royal Navy when he was 16, and served as a Radio Operator (Submarines) for seven years. After leaving, he moved to Australia, trained as an actor, and performed in more than 250 theatre shows, as well as doing TV and film work.

In 2016, Andrew came back to the UK, but his life was almost immediately turned upside down by injury. "I was in a bad tackle playing football. I broke three toes, but the skin split and I contracted septicaemia," he says. His legs were eventually amputated below the knee.

Since then, Blesma has played a key part in Andrew's fledgling hockey career. "The Association funded my purpose-built sled, so I can't speak highly enough of Blesma," he says. Now, Andrew is being touted as a future national player. "I never dreamed that I might represent my country again," he says. "It's kind of freaky!"



Blesma

THE LIMBLESS VETERANS



Trustees' Annual and Strategic Report and Financial Statements 2019

Blesma, The Limbless Veterans
British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association

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