



THE NEUROBLASTOMA SOCIETY

The Society prepares the following formal report and financial statements in accordance with its duties under the Charities Act, and also publishes an Annual Report for the general reader. Both are produced here.

REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2003

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THE NEUROBLASTOMA SOCIETY - TRUSTEES' REPORT

TRUST DEED AND OBJECTIVES

The Neuroblastoma Society was established by a Trust Deed dated 20 May 1983.

The object of the Society is to provide relief for children suffering from neuroblastoma, and to achieve this it raises funds for British medical research into improving both diagnosis and treatment of the disease. The Society also offers an opportunity for parents to give each other mutual help, support and comfort.

The Society is a registered charity, number 326385. The accounts comply with current statutory requirements and the charity's Trust Deed.

TRUSTEES

Mr. Stephen Baker (appointed 28 January 2003)
Mrs. Anna Beecroft
Dr. Richard Beecroft (appointed 28 January 2003)
Mr. Dennis Bignell
Mrs. Lynne Christian
Mrs. Antonya Cooper
Dr. Mark Dyke
Mrs. Rita Kennelly
Mr. Jon Pennells (resigned 28 January 2003)
Dr. Barry Pizer

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Charity Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- (a) select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- (b) make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- (c) value assets and liabilities in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" and to state whether or not the accounts have been prepared in accordance with any applicable accounting standards of recommended practice and to give particulars of any material departure from those standards and practices and reasons for such departure;
- (d) prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the trust will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and to disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Trust, and to enable them to prepare annual financial statements.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Rita Kennelly
18 Harlesden Road
St. Albans
Hertfordshire AL1 4LF

AUDITORS

KNB Chartered Accountants
KNB House
7 Rodney Street
Liverpool L1 9HZ

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)

BANKERS

National Westminster
14 Market Place
Brigg
North Lincolnshire
DN20 8EU

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

The Trustees awarded one new grant during the year, to Dr. R Mairs of Glasgow University, of £2,000; and increased previous awards to Dr. A Sala of the Institute of Child Health, London by £10,000; and to Dr. M Jackson of the University of Newcastle upon Tyne (who took over a partly completed study from Mr. N Bown) by £121,621. Half of a loan for £106,500 made to the United Kingdom Children's Cancer Study Group in 2002 was repaid in January 2003 in accordance with the agreed terms.

During the year, following completion of agreed research studies, Glasgow University surrendered part of a grant award amounting to £2,171.

The net effect is an overall increase in grant commitments of £131,450.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

During the year the trust received donations and other income of £164,285. Net grants of £131,450 were made, and administration and other expenses amounted to £15,654. A surplus of £17,181 was added to the unrestricted fund. The balance of the fund amounted to £282,674 at 31 December 2003.

RESERVES POLICY

The annual income generated by the Society is to be applied for charitable purposes in accordance with the Trust's objectives. Year on year the Trustees intend to make a full distribution of available income, subject to making adequate reserves for known and future potential liabilities and commitments, where applicable. Any amounts not so distributed are accumulated in the unrestricted fund.

INVESTMENT POLICY

The Trustees' intention is to maintain funds so that they are readily accessible when required, but are earning a reasonable return whilst not utilised.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The Trustees examine the major risks that the charity faces each year. The charity has developed systems to monitor and control these risks to mitigate any impact that they may have on the charity in the future.

For and on behalf of The Neuroblastoma Society

MRS. A COOPER

MR. D BIGNELL

Trustees

3 February 2004

Independent Auditors' Report to the Trustees of The Neuroblastoma Society

We have audited the financial statements of The Neuroblastoma Society for the year ended 31 December 2003, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out therein.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's 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 charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditors

The Trustees' responsibilities for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards are set out in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities.

We have been appointed auditors under section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 44 of that Act. Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and United Kingdom Auditing Standards.

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 1993. We also report to you if, in our opinion, the Trustees' Report is not consistent with the financial statements; if the charity has not kept proper accounting records, or if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

We are not required to consider whether the statement in the Trustees' Report concerning the major risks to which the charity is exposed covers all existing risks and controls, or to form an opinion on the effectiveness of the charity's risk management and control procedures.

We read other information in the Trustees' Report and consider whether it is consistent with the audited financial statements. We consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements. Our responsibilities do not extend to any other information.

Basis of opinion

We conduct our audit in accordance with United Kingdom Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes an examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the Trustees in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies adopted are appropriate to the charity's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. However, the evidence available to us was limited because the charity derives a substantial proportion of its income from voluntary donations, which cannot be fully controlled until they are entered in the accounting records, and are therefore not susceptible to independent audit verification.

In forming our opinion we also evaluate the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Qualified opinion arising from limitation in audit scope

Except for any adjustments that might have been found to be necessary had we been able to obtain sufficient evidence concerning the completeness of voluntary donations, included in these financial statements at £116,816, in our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2003 and of its incoming resources and applications of resources in the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 1993.

In respect alone of the limitation on our work relating to voluntary donations:

- (a) we have not obtained all the information and explanations that we considered necessary for the purpose of our audit; and
- (b) we were unable to determine whether proper accounting records have been maintained.

KNB CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
Registered Auditors Liverpool

1st March 2004

THE NEUROBLASTOMA SOCIETY
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2003

	2003 £	2002 £
INCOME		
Donations and fund-raising	98,594	86,407
Subscriptions	1,821	2,152
Covenants	6,433	5,855
Tax recoverable	8,342	9,529
Collecting boxes	1,538	1,799
Proceeds from annual raffle	3,476	4,302
Proceeds from sponsored runners in the London Marathon	16,684	25,945
Christmas cards and other income	7,912	9,044
Investment income & Interest		
Bank interest	3	-
COIF deposit	3,670	3,621
National savings investment and income bonds	4,580	5,016
Building society	11,232	14,345
	164,285	168,015
Total Income	164,285	168,015
EXPENDITURE		
Printing, postage, stationery	6,937	4,941
Travel	713	314
Grant advertising	2,350	-
Raffle and marathon expenses	3,916	3,197
AGM meeting costs	53	37
Sundries	622	216
Telephone	482	536
Legal expenses	-	-
Accounts and audit	581	529
Depreciation of fixed assets	-	-
	15,654	9,770
Total Expenditure	15,654	9,770
SURPLUS BEFORE GRANT EXPENDITURE	148,631	158,245

THE NEUROBLASTOMA SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2003

	Note	Unrestricted Funds - 2003 £	£	Unrestricted Funds - 2002 £	£
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Donations and fund-raising			128,204		127,496
Membership subscriptions and covenants			16,596		17,537
Investment income and interest receivable			19,485		22,982
			<hr/>		<hr/>
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES			164,285		168,015
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
DIRECT CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE					
Grants payable and grant amendments	2	(131,450)		(233,888)	
			<hr/>		<hr/>
OTHER EXPENDITURE					
Fund-raising and publicity costs		(3,916)		(3,197)	
Management and administration	3	(11,738)		(6,573)	
			<hr/>		<hr/>
		(15,654)		(9,770)	
			<hr/>		<hr/>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE			(147,104)		(243,658)
			<hr/>		<hr/>
NET INCOMING RESOURCES (RESOURCES EXPENDED) FOR THE YEAR			17,181		(75,643)
			<hr/>		<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD			265,493		341,136
			<hr/>		<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER 2003			282,674		265,493
			<hr/> <hr/>		<hr/> <hr/>

THE NEUROBLASTOMA SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2003

	Note	2003 £	2002 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Investments	4	448,127	434,808
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		448,127	434,808
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	5	66,279	120,447
Investments	6	108,932	78,263
Cash at bank and in hand	7	23,777	8,452
		<hr/>	<hr/>
CURRENT ASSETS		198,988	207,162
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
CURRENT LIABILITIES	8	(364,441)	(376,477)
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
NET CURRENT LIABILITIES		(165,453)	(169,315)
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
NET ASSETS		282,674	265,493
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
REPRESENTED BY:			
UNRESTRICTED FUND	9	282,674	265,493
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The financial statements set out on pages 5 – 10 were approved by the Trustees on 3 February 2004

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TRUSTEE – Mrs A Cooper

TRUSTEE - Mr D Bignell, CPFA

The notes set out on pages 8 to 10 form an integral part of these accounts

THE NEUROBLASTOMA SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2003

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Accounting

The Statement of Accounts has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Charity Accounts and Reports Regulations 1995, the Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting by Charities and applicable accounting standards.

Voluntary Income

Cash donations, gifts and legacies are included in full in the income and expenditure account when they are received by the charity. Cash collected at special fund-raising events is included in the income and expenditure account after deducting the expenditure incurred directly in staging the event. Significant non-cash donations are included in the income and expenditure account at the Trustees' estimate of their market value when received.

Investment Income

Investment income is included in the Income and Expenditure Account on an accruals basis.

Fixed Assets

Fixed assets whose original cost (or, if donated, value at the date of receipt) was more than £30,000 have been capitalised. Other items of equipment over £2,000 have been capitalised. These assets are depreciated at the following rates:

Fixtures and equipment - 20% straight line

Fixed Asset Investments – Quoted investments and other investments are stated at current market value at the balance sheet date. Unrealised gains and losses are included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Research Grant Awards

These are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities when the Trustees have awarded them. Research grants awarded, but not disbursed at the balance sheet date, are carried forward as grant creditors in the balance sheet.

Restricted and Unrestricted Funds

Income received for restricted purposes, the allocation of which had not been approved at the balance sheet date, is carried forward in restricted fund.

Cash Flow Statements

The Society has taken advantage of the exemption provided by Financial Reporting Standard 1 and does not prepare cash flow statements.

Taxation

As a registered charity, the Trust is not liable to UK taxation.

THE NEUROBLASTOMA SOCIETY
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2003

2. GRANTS PAYABLE

The Trustees awarded three new grants during the year as follows:

Dr. R Mairs, Glasgow University (1 year)	£ 2,000
Dr. A Sala, Institute of Child Health, London (additional award)	£ 10,000
Dr. M Jackson, University of Newcastle upon Tyne (additional award)	£121,621

Dr M Jackson, University of Newcastle took over a partly completed research study being undertaken by Mr. N Bown and received an additional award to complete the research using a new microarray technique. During the year, following completion of agreed research studies, Glasgow University surrendered part of a grant award amounting to £2171.

The net effect is an overall increase in grant commitments of £131,450.

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND REIMBURSED EXPENDITURE

The trustees were not entitled to, and did not receive, any remuneration from the charity during the year, but were reimbursed travel expenses of £713 they had incurred on behalf of the charity. They were also reimbursed other out of pocket expenses on postage, stationery, telephones and miscellaneous items of £1,175.

The Trust has no employees.

4. INVESTMENTS

	2003	2002
Cheltenham and Gloucester Building Society	£ 318,127	£ 304,808
National Savings Bank - Income bonds	£ 130,000	£ 130,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£448,127	£ 434,808
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

5. DEBTORS AND ADVANCE PAYMENTS

A loan for £106,500 was made to the United Kingdom Children's Cancer Study Group (UKCCSG) during the year to help fund the cost of purchasing a GD2 monoclonal antibody so that UK children with stage 4 disease could take part in a European wide trial. The loan is repayable in two equal instalments in January 2003 and January 2004.

	2003	2002
Loan to United Kingdom Children's Cancer Study Group	£ 53,250	£106,500
Tax recoverable	£ 1,072	£ 1,631
Advance purchase of Marathon places 2004	£ 1,469	£ 1,821
Accrued interest	£ 8,367	£ 10,473
Other debtors	£ 2,121	£ 22
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£ 66,279	£120,447
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

6. CURRENT INVESTMENTS		
	2003	2002
COIF Deposit Fund	£108,932	£ 78,263
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£ 108,932	£ 78,263
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
7. CASH AT BANK AND INHAND		
	2003	2002
Cash at Bank	£ 23,727	£ 8,402
Imprest Advance	£ 50	£ 50
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£ 23,777	£ 8,452
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
8. CURRENT LIABILITIES		
	2003	2002
Grant commitments	£ 351,930	£ 351,943
Accruals	£ 12,060	£ 24,026
Income in advance	£ 451	£ 508
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£ 364,441	£ 376,477
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
9. ANALYSIS OF FUND		
	2003	2002
At 1 January 2003	£265,493	£341,136
Net movement in funds for the year	£ 17,181	£(75,643)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£282,674	£265,493
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

ANNUAL REPORT

& ACCOUNTS FOR 2003

Chairman's Report

During this last year a number of the Society's Trustees have had significant stresses in personal and family areas of their lives. However, we all battle on to work for the cause of relieving those affected by neuroblastoma. We are indebted to some Members who have come out of the woodwork to offer their support with duties like the Monthly Draw, the distribution of Christmas cards and the packaging and posting of Newsletters. We are also pleased to have a potential new Trustee, Steve Smith, a parent and yet to be signed up formally, who has enthusiastically taken on the editorship of the Newsletter from a particularly overloaded Dennis Bignell, who deserves our deepest gratitude for his brilliant productions over the last five years!

Autumn saw the advertising of another round of research grant applications. By the closing date at the end of December the Society had received no less than nine projects for consideration and, if we had it in our funds and all submissions were worthy of financing, we would be paying out almost one million pounds. Dr Simon Meller and the other four members of the Scientific Advisory Board are due to make their recommendations by May 2004. By the end of this year much of the money you Members so gallantly raise for the Society will be working towards beneficial research.

Despite his retirement from the trust body Jon Pennells has again persuaded Ernst & Young to accommodate our AGM and we owe them our thanks. This venue provides a most comfortable setting in which to meet and to welcome our speakers – Dr Peppy Brock has promised to update us on the production of anti-GD2 immunotherapy and Dr Jon Pritchard, a stalwart founding trustee, will join us from Edinburgh.

Do, please, continue your good work to swell the coffers of the Neuroblastoma Society. Every effort, however small, is a sure sign of the invaluable commitment you all make towards the process of making us all redundant!

Antonya Cooper
February 2004

The Origins and Aims of the Society

While five-year-old Matthew Oldridge was dying from neuroblastoma in February 1982, he expressed concern for other children going to hospital for treatment. It was this tenderness in one so young that touched his parents and, as a result, they decided to create the Neuroblastoma Society to give meaning to their son's generous spirit. In October of that year, his parents, together with other parents whose children had, or were suffering from, neuroblastoma formed and registered the Society as a charity. The Trust Deed was formally signed on 20 May 1983.

The purpose of the Society is the relief of children suffering from neuroblastoma, and to achieve this it raises funds for medical research into improving both the diagnosis and treatment of the disease. The Society also offers an opportunity for parents to give each other mutual help, support and comfort.

The Society aims to keep members updated on the latest treatments applicable to neuroblastoma and any other medical advances relevant to the disease. The main way this is done is by supplying members with regular Newsletters – something we do four times a year.

The Trustees of the Society

Trustees administer the Society in accordance with its Trust Deed. In January 2003 Mr. Jon Pennells was discharged, whilst Mr. Steve Baker and Dr. Tony Beecroft were appointed. At the end of the year there were 9 Trustees, with Mr. Stephen Smith awaiting appointment at the next Trustee meeting.

Individual Trustees take responsibility for specific areas of activity, as shown:

Mr. Steve Baker	Parent (<i>Website Co-ordination</i>) *
Mrs. Anna Beecroft	Parent (<i>Membership / Befriending</i>)
Dr. Tony Beecroft	Parent (<i>Collecting Boxes</i>) *
Mr. Dennis Bignell	Relative of Parent (<i>Treasurer/Newsletter</i>)
Mrs. Lynne Christian	Relative of Parent (<i>Promotion of the Society</i>)
Mrs. Antonya Cooper	Parent (<i>Chairman / Grant Administration</i>)
Dr. Mark Dyke	Consultant Paediatrician & Neonatologist
Mrs. Rita Kennelly	Relative of Parent (<i>Secretary / Annual Draw</i>)
Dr. Barry Pizer	Consultant Paediatric Oncologist

* *Trustee for part of the year only*

Trustee Business

Trustees met twice during the year. Even though normally grants are awarded biennially after advertisement Trustees considered special circumstances in 3 cases. After advice from the SAB they increased by a total of £133,621 awards already made. In each case Trustees considered that granting the extra award would enhance the results expected from the research. Jon Pennells stood down in January 2003, and two new Trustees were appointed. A new logo was adopted for general use, with a special flash to mark the Society's 20th anniversary. Other topics considered were anniversary events; a new website, incorporating the Parents' Booklet; and the possibility of a Northern meeting in autumn 2004.

Scientific Advisory Board

When a grant application is made the proposal is first considered by two or three professional people (referees), who are chosen for their specialist knowledge of the area of research proposed.

The Scientific Advisory Board has five scientists experienced in neuroblastoma research. Their task is to review the quality and suitability of the grant application taking account of the referees' opinions. They only recommend to the Trustees research that is judged worthy of support by the Society. The Trustees then consider this advice in deciding which grants should be awarded.

This year the Scientific Advisory Board was made up of Dr. Annabel Foot, Bristol; Dr. Paul Losty, Liverpool; Dr. Simon Meller, London (*Chairman*); Prof. A Pearson, Newcastle and Prof. Adrian Thrasher, London. Dr. Brickell and Prof. Hickman stood down after many years' service. Trustees are grateful for the support and advice all these busy professionals freely give the Society.

Research Sponsored by the Society

Research Completed during 2003

Dr. Kemshead, Manchester University (1998 Award)

Study into the use of genetic engineering to redirect cytotoxic T cells in the immune system into neuroblastoma to destroy the tumour.

Professor Brown, Glasgow University (2000 Award)

Study of the way that neuroblastoma cells build up resistance to chemotherapy, and the use of *methylation* of cell repair genes to make them less effective.

Professor Latchman, Institute of Child Health (2000 Award)

Study of the rôle of regulatory proteins (*Brn-3a & 3b*) in neuroblastoma cells, and whether the balance can be beneficially changed by drug or gene therapy procedures to induce cell maturity (*differentiation*).

Dr. Redfearn, Newcastle University (2002 Award)

Study to examine the role of *fenretinide* (a synthetic form of *retinoic acid* or vitamin A) in bringing about cell death (*apoptosis*) of neuroblastoma and its reaction with chemotherapy drugs.

Research in Progress

Mr. Bown, Newcastle University (2000 Award)

Study using a technique called *comparative genomic hybridisation* to detect the pattern of genetic changes within cells caused by neuroblastoma in localised tumours that spontaneously regress, and advanced tumours of children who survive long-term. (*Study revised in the light of results obtained*).

Dr. Mairs, Glasgow University – 3 Year Study - £155,280

The radiolabelled drug *meta-iodobenzylguanidine (mIBG)* is known to be effective against neuroblastoma cells. The drug causes mini explosions within the cell that smash the *DNA* into fragments, and encourage the cell to die. This study is looking at how *mIBG* treatment can be translated from gene manipulation into a clinical strategy.

Dr. Sala - London Institute of Child Health - 3 Year Study - £103,886

This study tests the hypothesis that abnormal *B-MYB* expression may cause neuroblastoma. The function of *B-MYB* is essential for normal cell growth and development. Other studies have shown that it can interfere with *differentiation* of neuroblastoma cells and reduce sensitivity to chemotherapy drugs, as well as modifying the activity of tumour and growth suppressor proteins in the cell. Even if *B-MYB* is found not to cause the disease directly the study will help assess if it worsens the disease caused by other oncogenes such as *N-MYC*.

New Grants Awarded in 2003

Three awards were made during the year:

Dr. Mairs, Glasgow University - £2,000

Dr. Mairs' current study is set out above. This small award will fund a second visit to Duke University, North Carolina to continue research on an alternative radioactive substance *MABG* (made from the radiohalogen *Atastatine 211*) as this highly cytotoxic substance is not readily available in the UK at present.

Dr. Sala, Institute of Child Health, London - £10,000

This additional award will allow the Institute to employ an outstanding PhD researcher from outside of the European Union.

Dr. Jackson, Newcastle University – 3 years - £121,621

Following review of progress half way through the research study led by Mr. Bown it became clear that the *comparative genomic hybridisation* technique was not sufficiently sensitive to achieve the expected results. In its place the study will continue using a newly installed microarray facility to complete the aims of the original research. There is £51,822 left from the old grant, making the award £173,443 in total.

Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December 2003

	2003 £	2002 £
INCOME:		
Donations and Fund-Raising	98,594	86,407
Subscriptions	1,821	2,152
Covenants and Other Regular Receipts	6,433	5,855
Tax Recoverable	8,342	9,529
Collecting Boxes	1,538	1,799
Annual Draw	3,476	4,302
Marathon	16,684	25,945
Christmas Cards & Other Income	7,912	9,044
Investment & Other Interest Receivable		
National Savings Income & Investment Bonds	4,580	5,016
Building Society	11,232	14,345
COIF Deposit	3,670	3,621
Bank Interest	3	-
TOTAL INCOME	164,285	168,015
LESS – EXPENDITURE:		
Printing, Postage, Stationery	6,937	4,941
Travel	713	314
AGM Meeting Costs	53	37
Grant Advertising and Other Administrative Costs	7,951	4,478
SURPLUS BEFORE GRANT EXPENDITURE	148,631	158,245
GRANT EXPENDITURE PAID IN THE YEAR		
Glasgow University	81,352	96,454
Institute of Child Health	32,056	48,689
Manchester University	7,171	6,827
Newcastle University	10,884	31,441
	131,463	183,411
	2003 £	2002 £
SOCIETY FUNDS AVAILABLE		
Balance brought forward	265,493	341,136
Net income for the year	148,631	158,245
	414,124	499,381
Less: Grant Awards (Net)	131,450	233,888
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	282,674	265,493

Balance Sheet at 31st December 2003

	2003 £	2002 £
INVESTMENTS:		
Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society	318,127	304,808
National Savings - Income Bonds	130,000	130,000
	448,127	434,808
 CURRENT ASSETS:		
National Westminster Bank – Current Account	23,727	8,402
COIF Deposit Fund	108,932	78,263
Cash in Hand	50	50
Income Due but not yet Credited	66,279	120,447
	198,988	207,162
 TOTAL GROSS ASSETS	647,115	641,970
 CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Grants Awarded but not yet Paid to		
Glasgow University	93,897	175,419
Institute of Child Health	92,905	114,962
Manchester University	-	7,171
Newcastle University	165,128	54,391
Other Payments Due	12,511	24,534
TOTAL LIABILITIES	364,441	376,477
 TOTAL NET ASSETS OF THE SOCIETY	282,674	265,493

Independent Auditors' Report to the Trustees of The Neuroblastoma Society

We have audited the financial statements of The Neuroblastoma Society for the year ended 31 December 2003, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out therein.

This report is made solely to the charity's Trustees, as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's 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 charity and the charity's Trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditors

The Trustees' responsibilities for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards are set out in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities.

We have been appointed auditors under section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 44 of that Act. Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and United Kingdom Auditing Standards.

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 1993. We also report to you if, in our opinion, the Trustees' Report is not consistent with the financial statements; if the charity has not kept proper accounting records, or if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

We are not required to consider whether the statement in the Trustees' Report concerning the major risks to which the charity is exposed covers all existing risks and controls, or to form an opinion on the effectiveness of the charity's risk management and control procedures.

We read other information in the Trustees' Report and consider whether it is consistent with the audited financial statements. We consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements. Our responsibilities do not extend to any other information.

Basis of opinion

We conduct our audit in accordance with United Kingdom Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes an examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the Trustees in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies adopted are appropriate to the charity's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. However, the evidence available to us was limited because the charity derives a substantial proportion of its income from voluntary donations, which cannot be fully controlled until they are entered in the accounting records, and are therefore not susceptible to independent audit verification.

In forming our opinion we also evaluate the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Qualified opinion arising from limitation in audit scope

Except for any adjustments that might have been found to be necessary had we been able to obtain sufficient evidence concerning the completeness of voluntary donations, included in these financial statements at £116,816, in our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2003 and of its incoming resources and applications of resources in the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 1993.

In respect alone of the limitation on our work relating to voluntary donations:

- (a) we have not obtained all the information and explanations that we considered necessary for the purpose of our audit; and
- (b) we were unable to determine whether proper accounting records have been maintained.

KNB CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS Registered Auditors Liverpool 1st March 2004

Report on the 2003 Accounts

Income - The Society had another good financial year, with donations and fund-raising the best since 1997 at £98,594. Overall, however, total income is £3,730 lower than in 2002, due to a return to more normal levels of marathon income from the exceptional amount achieved in 2002. This in turn meant a lower tax recovery from Gift Aided sponsorship. Apart from this, and lower interest of about £3,500 from our investments, the position is broadly similar to 2002 on other sources of income.

Expenditure - Total spending was about £6,000 higher than 2002 due to two main factors. Advertising for the next grant round cost £2,350, whilst a larger range of Christmas cards was needed as previous stocks had been exhausted. Neither factor will occur in 2004. There were small one-off increases on other types of spending.

Grant Expenditure - Trustees awarded three new grants amounting to £133,621, and one study was completed without requiring the full amount of grant, releasing £2,171 for new awards.

Society Funds Available - The surplus for the year of £148,631, after net grants of £131,450, increased total funds available for new research by £17,181 to £282,674.

Dennis Bignell, Honorary Treasurer

The Society's Activities

Befriending Scheme – One of the Society's twin aims is to offer the chance for parents to give each other mutual help, support and comfort. Our Befriending Scheme has members who are willing to share experiences with others, and all stages of the disease are represented. Support is available, usually by telephone, to parents and other close family members of a child with neuroblastoma. This is in addition to professional advice and support offered from the treatment centre. Medical matters should always be referred to the treatment team.

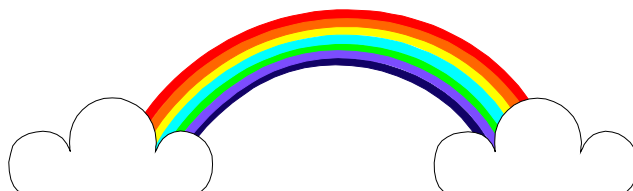
Most enquiries come from parents of newly diagnosed children, but members of the Society can also use the scheme. We welcome new volunteers to join the register and

share their experiences with others. Please call Anna Beecroft (01371 876254) for further information or to access the scheme.

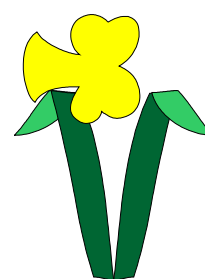
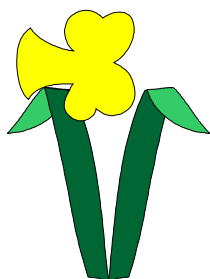
Stamp Appeal – The Society benefits from a very successful Stamp Appeal, run for many years by Graeme Wade. All used stamps have a residual value for the Society, although high value UK commemorative stamps and all foreign stamps attract the best rates. Please save your used stamps and send them to Mr. & Mrs. Wade, 13 Longacre Road, Cressing, Braintree, Essex CM77 8HG.

Membership – This is not restricted to parents with a neuroblastoma child. The Society welcomes membership from anybody who is interested in its aims and supports its work. The annual subscription is currently £5 a person, although higher sums and regular Gift Aid payments are appreciated. The Society is run entirely by volunteers, with administration costs minimised to ensure the maximum money is used to fund research. Please contact Anna Beecroft (01371 765254) for further information.

Gift Aid – Since 6 April 2000 the Society can recover tax on **all** donations received from a taxpayer if a simple Gift Aid Declaration is signed. This only needs to be done once, after which the Society can recover tax of 28p in every £ received through Gift Aid. If you are a taxpayer and can help please ask Dennis Bignell, Beech Lodge, 22 Penrose Way, Four Marks, Alton, Hampshire GU34 5BG for a form.



The Society also has an "In Memoriam" section in its printed report, in which children who sadly lost the battle against neuroblastoma are remembered.



A printed version of this Annual Report is available from Rita Kennelly