

Treasurer's report 2023 - Going in the right direction, more to be done!

It brings me immense joy to see each one of you gathered here at European Juggling Convention (EJC) 2023. This year has been quite a journey to make this event a reality. Initially, France took the initiative, but they faced site-related issues. Next, Ireland stepped up, but encountered problems with insurance. Finally, the resilient people of Lublin took charge just 100 days before the event. Throughout this entire process, the dedication displayed by each team has been truly remarkable, and my heartfelt gratitude goes out to all of them for their relentless efforts to make EJC happen.

Regarding this year's financials, I am delighted to announce that European juggling Association has managed to achieve a small surplus of € 3,797.05 in its accounts. We had three main sources of income: a surplus share from EJC 2022 Tres Cantos €2,375.24 and a contribution of €5k from EJC Azores, and the EJA Contribution fund.

Last year, the EJA Board made a crucial decision to diversify our income streams. In the past, the only income the EJA received was from the surplus share of previous EJCs. However, as mentioned in my last year's report, EJC budgets are complex; on one hand we aim to keep ticket prices low, and on the other we try to ensure an enriching program. Last year this resulted in small returns for the EJA, insufficient to cover EJA annual expenses. Without immediate action, this could have made it impossible for the EJA to offer loans to two EJCs simultaneously, which is essential for securing future venues. This element is especially important with the increasing costs associated with hosting large events.

For these reasons, we introduced the EJA Contribution fund, an opt-in/opt-out option of €2.50 per ticket. This money goes directly to the EJA, helping to fund future EJCs. The contribution from EJC 2023 amounted to € 3,458.42.



In the upcoming year, my plan is to explore additional ways for the EJA to diversify its income streams, reducing our dependence on EJs alone. If any of you have ideas or knowledge about potential funds we can access or experience in this area, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Over the past year, I have had the opportunity to engage with numerous community leaders, discussing the issues they wish to raise within the community. One recurring concern is the need for more people to volunteer and take up leadership roles, as community leaders and organisers often experience burnout. I urge you, once again, to support your leaders and offer assistance when you return to your communities.

This year, I would like to address the concept of community versus consumerism. Juggling groups, conventions, and festivals are usually organised and run by jugglers for jugglers, with many not receiving any payment for their extensive efforts. While I understand that convention participants pay to attend these events, it is crucial to remember that these gatherings thrive on the dedication of volunteers. Whether it's teaching a workshop or assisting at the registration desk, everyone attending a convention or juggling festival should contribute in some way. You, as the participants, define the essence of these events, and the more you give back, the more enriching the experience becomes. Let's strive to be active participants in these conventions rather than passive consumers.

Thank you all once again for your unwavering support, and let's make EJC 2023 an unforgettable and community-driven celebration of juggling and friendship.