



2024 ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE TREASURER OF THE EUROPEAN JUGGLING ASSOCIATION



HELLO FELLOW JUGGLERS, FLOW ARTISTS, AND CIRCUS PRACTITIONERS!

Ladies and gentlemen, clowns and jesters, acrobats and jugglers alike, step right up for some big top news! After 3 years of serving as the Treasurer of the European Juggling Association, it's been an honour to be unanimously re-elected for another 3-year spin on the unicycle. Much like a juggling act, we've had our ups and downs, but the show must go on!

THE SHOW SO FAR

During my tenure, we've managed to introduce a European Juggling Association (EJA) contribution fee, boosting our income so we can keep the circus rolling. We've had 3 consecutive European Juggling Conventions (EJC) that turned a surplus—even if some were just a juggling ball's width over the line. Given the post-COVID climate, this is no small feat! Despite the challenges, we've juggled our resources to keep the European community together.

Our community is like a tightrope walker, always striving for balance. The pandemic hit us like a gust of wind, but we kept our footing, thanks to the unwavering support of our members. The European Juggling Association contribution fee was a crucial addition, acting as the safety net that allowed us to continue our performances and projects. It's heartwarming to see how much we've achieved together, and I'm excited about the future.

EJC 2023: THE GREAT BALANCING ACT

EJC 2023 was like a high-wire act without a net. France passed the baton to Ireland, and finally, Lublin swooped in to save the day. Despite the pre-EJC 2023 hiccups, the event was spectacular. However, we decided that volunteers shouldn't bear the financial burden of cancellations due to unforeseen circumstances like COVID and post-Brexit insurance issues. Hence, the European Juggling Association absorbed the costs incurred by Team Ireland, amounting to €7,465.75. We kept our costs to a minimum—€2,695.95 covering banking fees, the website, Mailjet, promotional materials, and other essentials.

The challenges we faced were no less than walking a tightrope blindfolded. Each step required careful planning and a steady hand. The decision to absorb the costs for Team Ireland was not taken lightly. We understand the immense pressure on our volunteers and the unpredictable nature of the current climate. The juggling community is resilient, and together we can weather any storm.

CONTRIBUTIONS: THE FLIP AND THE FLOP

In 2022, at Tres Cantos, we introduced an optional European Juggling Association contribution where attendees had to opt out if they didn't want to contribute. In 2023, we flipped it to an opt-in system, and—surprise, surprise—we saw a 60% reduction in contributions. For 2024 in Ovar, we're reverting to the opt-

out method. Plus, €3 from each adult ticket will go to the European Juggling Association to ensure we can continue supporting future EJs with advice, support, and seed funding. Without these measures, we risk not being able to provide interest-free loans to future EJs, which would be disastrous for booking and confirming venues.

The flip and the flop of our contribution methods remind me of a clown juggling flaming torch—sometimes you get burned, but you learn and adapt. The drop in contributions was a lesson learned. Reverting to the opt-out method is essential for maintaining our financial health. The additional €3 from each ticket will be a crucial lifeline, ensuring the sustainability of our beloved conventions. It's all part of the grand performance to keep our community thriving.

THE ROAD AHEAD: JUGGLING FOR SURVIVAL

Over the next 3 years, my goal is to diversify the European Juggling Association's revenue streams. We can't solely rely on the surplus from EJs, which are becoming as rare as a unicorn in a clown car. If anyone has ideas for grants, funding, or new revenue streams, please email me at bubba@eja.net. Diversifying our revenue streams is like a juggler adding new props to their act. We need to explore grants, sponsorships, and innovative fundraising methods. Imagine the possibilities if we can tap into new resources! Together, we can brainstorm and implement strategies that will ensure the European Juggling Association's financial stability and growth. Every idea counts, and I'm eager to hear from you.

THANKS TO THE UNSUNG HEROES

A massive thank you to everyone working behind the scenes at the European Juggling Association. These unsung juggling heroes put in long hours of hard work with little public recognition. Special thanks to Sweets, Linde, Gamze, Elleen, Lucil, Cat, Alejandro, and Jonas. Without these wonderful humans, our organization would be like a circus without a tent.

These dedicated individuals are the backbone of our community. Their hard work and dedication are the glue that holds everything together. They are the ones who ensure that every event runs smoothly, every decision is well-informed, and every challenge is met with a solution. Let's take a moment to appreciate their tireless efforts and give them the recognition they deserve.

A SHOUT OUT TO TEAM OVAR

Finally, a massive thank you to Team Ovar. Working with you this year has reignited our love for our community. Your passion is the spark that keeps our juggling torches lit. Here's to an amazing event! Team Ovar, your energy and enthusiasm are contagious. Watching you prepare for the upcoming EJC has been inspiring. Your commitment to making this event a success reminds us all why we do what we do. It's your passion that keeps our community vibrant and alive. We can't wait to see the magic you create at EJC 2024!

Yours in the Circus Spirit,



Michael "Bubba" Hance
Treasurer and Member of the Executive Committee (XC)