

Wingham Recreation Ground

Annual Report and Unaudited Financial Statements

for the Year Ended March 31st 2023

The Wingham Recreation Ground

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Charity Information

Trustees	Ian Pettman Gary Watkins
Chair	Ian Pettman
Committee Members	Bettina Braun (Tennis) Adam Cork (Football) Paul Cork (Deputy Chair & Darts) Louise Peckham (Public) David Rothschild (Treasurer) Emma Shaw (Secretary) Martin Smith (Parish council) Gary Watkins (Cricket) Charley Watkins (Bat & Trap) Rupert Williamson (Public)
Address	The Pavilion Wingham Recreation Ground Goodnestone Road Wingham CT3 1AR
Independent Reviewer	Andy Joiner

About The Recreation Ground & Club

The organisation was registered with the Charity Commission in 1964 with the principal goal of:

'Promoting the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Wingham, Kent and the neighbourhood, without distinction of sex or of political, religious or other opinions by associating the local authorities, voluntary organisations and inhabitants in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said Inhabitants.'

These lofty ambitions are focussed on the village Recreation Ground, out on the south-eastern edge of the village. The Parish Council has built and maintains a children's playground, fenced games area and outdoor gym on special surfaces in one section. We have tennis courts in another. There is a little clubhouse with bar and changing facilities for the sports teams. The remaining 5 or so acres are for general recreational use.

The management committee looks after these facilities and is formed of the chairman, a treasurer and secretary, a Parish Council representative, two members of the public selected at the Annual Parish Assembly and representatives from the various groups who use the facilities of the Recreation ground i.e.: Football, Cricket, Tennis, Bat & Trap, darts etc.

Funds are largely generated from membership subscriptions to our Sports and Social Club and sales through the bar in the Pavilion.

Trustees Report

We are pleased to report a better year as Covid restrictions were completely behind us and we got back to a more normal sporting calendar.

The grounds are used by many, from all the various sports groups and children using the play areas and the fields to the public from far and wide, often with dogs. The Multi Use Games Area (MUGA), the play area and the gym apparatus are well used by all ages.

Littering seems to be increasing, particularly near the MUGA facility and we still have the problem of dog fouling. We find dog excrement everywhere, even in front of the club house. Particularly problematic are owners walking their dogs in the dark, they often cannot or do not see what their dogs have done. I would ask all visitors to the ground to be vigilant with both their dogs and others. All users must appreciate that these grounds are used by both children and all the sports teams. It is just not possible to scour the five acres of grass regularly, nor should we have to. There are ample supplies of waste bins spread across the grounds that are regularly emptied, it really shouldn't be an issue.

At least we don't seem to have had much anti-social behaviour. During the year there were only a couple of reports. It seems that some miscreants had lit a small fire in the hard shelter on the perimeter of the football pitch. On the night of the second report the activity was picked up by the CCTV camera mounted on the club house which is monitored by the DCC. The police were called and attended but the group scarpered across the fields and were not caught. Apart from this we haven't had any other feedback of anti-social behaviour and don't think any vandalism has occurred on the grounds.

During the year we opened a little café operating in the club house. This came about as the committee felt something like this was missing from the village since the closure of the cafe in the high street. We were very pleased that it was well received but unfortunately it didn't attract enough custom to make it viable in the long term.

The annual 10k and 5k run held every year on the grounds was supported in considerable numbers and was very well organised as ever. The event puts Wingham on the map for that day. The organiser told me that they were pleased with the attendance but regretted that numbers were down from pre-covid years, something which seems to be a trend in many areas of events.

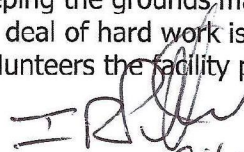
We must thank the contractors for the good work in keeping the grounds cut to a nice standard, the same contractors (Harmer & Sons) also trimmed the trees and hedges around the perimeter of the grounds and tennis court during March so that there was no impact of the bird nesting season. As always, these things come at a cost so the Management Committee wish to thank Parish Council for the grant to help with this. This grant is much appreciated and is only used for managing the grounds. By example, controlling moles and weeds, fertilising, cutting and trimming the trees and the hedges along the perimeter of the grounds and anything else which needs attention.

Aside from the grounds, we have a social club which manages and maintains our pavilion. Our building was built largely by public subscription in 1983 and re-invigorated many of our sports teams. Sports clubs and individuals can become members entitling them to use of the facilities and get member's prices at our bar. This section is entirely self-funding and staffed by volunteers. We must raise over £5,000 a year to keep it all going. This year we had to replace our boiler at a cost of £6,600, we were fortunate to get a grant of £3,000 from Dover District Council but had to find the rest from our own funds.

The Wingham Cricket Club was formed some way back in the 1700's and records go back to at least 1783 although not continuous. The club has just celebrated its 40th year after reforming and runs two very successful teams playing in league and friendly matches. The Football Club was formed back in 1930 and it is one of the oldest amateur clubs in Kent playing in the Canterbury & District league. The Tennis Club was set up back in 1969/70 and is still very active but it would be good to see the courts used more. We also have active Bat and Trap and Darts teams, always keen to welcome new members. It's a pity we don't have a pool team, we have a lovely table.

Inevitably, our pavilion now really needs to be updated. We need to encourage more diversity in sports with facilities for women, a more practical kitchen and possibly even public toilets. It would also be good to see the pavilion used more, it lays empty for much of the time. As we're out on the edge of the village it may well be a case of 'out of sight- out of mind'. We have amassed nearly £45,000 towards this project but will need way more to make it real.

We must all appreciate the work that goes in to keeping the grounds maintained, the sports clubs running, the pavilion open and warm. A great deal of hard work is put in by all the volunteers for others to enjoy and without these volunteers the facility probably wouldn't exist. We thank them all sincerely.



CHAIRMAN

Recreation Ground Finance Report 2022-2023

The accounts presented here show a modest surplus of £4,320. At the operating level we achieved £6,302 which is very consistent with pre-covid performance. Last year we benefited from a significant Covid grant that, whilst welcome, distorted the final net income.

Recently, gross margins on bar sales have declined slightly as we absorbed some of the price increases in the latter part of the year but overall, we have actually increased the margins.

The income from the café of £386 that we show in the financial statement is a net contribution after costs. So, although it didn't warrant continuing it was a useful fund-raiser whilst operating.

We replaced our old boiler at a net cost of £3,600 after a grant from Dover District Council. We are already seeing the benefits of this with lower heating and maintenance costs, it should pay for itself in three years.

Surplus funds have been allocated to our building project account which stood at £44,651 as of the year end.

For the year ahead, as for so many, our main concern is utility costs. We were fortunate in having fixed contracts for both Gas and Electricity that took us through to the end of this year, the year ahead will see significant increases, at least doubling. By contrast we have reduced some of our maintenance costs and the two components together should roughly balance out.

Independent Reviewer's Report For the Year Ended 31st March 2023

I, the undersigned, have examined the attached Financial Activities accounts together with the statements of assets and liabilities and in my opinion, they present a true and fair view of the accumulated funds as of 31st March 2023 and of the transactions for the year ended on that date.

Dated: 19th September 2023

Signed:

A. S. Joiner

Please print:

Name: A. S. JOINER.

Address: 10 NIMCREST ROAD
AIPTHEBOURNE
CANTERBURY
KENT
CT3 1TS

Wingham Recreation Club - Financial Activities

April 2022 - March 2023 £'s

	<u>Apr 2022 - Mar 2023</u>	<u>Apr 2021 - Mar 2022</u>
Bar sales	22,127	16,099
Membership Subscriptions	2,589	1,763
Donations and legacies	450	318
Cafe	386	
Pool Table Revenue	308	469
Hall Hire	130	
Sales		230
Total Income	25,990	18,879
Stock Purchases for Resale	10,071	8,153
Bar Equipment maintenance	2,017	2,305
Subscriptions and Licences	896	609
Telecoms	538	484
Card Fees	257	174
Total Cost of Sales	13,780	11,726
Club House Gross Profit	12,210	7,154
Club House Repairs & Maintenance	1,667	2,113
Electricity	1,366	1,023
Gas	655	634
Cleaning	416	214
Club House Insurance	396	394
Club House Health and Safety	380	990
Software subscriptions	158	146
Water	139	
Supplies	70	10
General Administrative Expenses		184
Printing, Postage and Stationery		26
Total Club House Expenses	5,247	5,734
Club House Contribution	6,962	1,420
Recreation Ground Grants	-1,300	-1,300
Ground Maintenance	1,257	631
Recreation Ground Insurances	396	393
Rent & Rates	242	83
Recreation Ground Net Expense	595	-192
Net Operating Income	6,368	1,612
Amortisation of Grants	250	
Interest earned	82	4
Club Grants		10,667
Other Income	332	10,671
Depreciation	2,313	
Other Expenditures	2,313	0
Net Other Income/Expense	-1,981	10,671
Net Income	4,386	12,283

Wingham Recreation Club - Balance Sheet

As of March 31, 2023 £'s

	Mar 31, 2023	Mar 31, 2022
Fixed Assets		
Bar Equipment	1,152	1,727
Fixtures and Fittings	8,450	3,619
Total Fixed Assets	9,602	5,345
Cash at bank and in hand		
Cash on Hand	1,107	1,480
Club House Current Account	8,105	10,938
Management Committee Current Account	316	613
Square Card Account	154	76
Ring Fenced Funds Savings Account	44,651	40,069
Total Cash at bank and in hand	54,332	53,176
Current Assets		
Prepaid Insurance	490	
Prepaid Security	363	
Stock	1,621	1,227
Total Current Assets	2,474	1,227
Net current assets	56,805	54,403
Creditors: falling due within one year		
Trade Creditors	1,049	1,752
Accruals	474	248
Total Creditors	1,523	1,999
Net current assets	55,283	52,403
Total assets less current liabilities	64,885	57,749
Deferred income	2,750	
Total net assets (liabilities)	62,135	57,749
Charity funds		
Retained Earnings	57,749	45,466
Surplus/(Deficit)	4,386	12,283
Total Charity funds	62,135	57,749

Notes to Unaudited Financial Statements

1) Tangible Assets

Prior years have not incorporated any depreciation of assets – this only commenced in this year to March 2023 but the organisation is confident that the current valuation is a true reflection of market value.

2) Cash at Banks

The sum includes £44,651 of funds ring-fenced for pavilion expansion.

3) Deferred income

This un-expensed income from a grant given to help replace the pavilion boiler.