

Wingham Recreation Ground

Annual Report and Unaudited Financial Statements

for the Year Ended March 31st 2024

Wingham Recreation Ground

Contents

Charity Information	Page 3
Trustees' report	Page 4
Treasurer's report	Page 5
Independent Reviewer's Report	Page 6
Statement of Income and Retained Earnings	Page 7
Balance Sheet	Page 8
Note to the Unaudited Financial Statements	Page 8

Charity Information

Trustees	Ian Pettman Gary Watkins
Chair	Ian Pettman
Committee Members	Bettina Braun (Tennis) Adam Cork (Football) Paul Cork (Deputy Chair & Darts) 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, all on special surfaces. 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. We are managed and run entirely by volunteers.

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

Trustees Report

The grounds are used by many from both Wingham and beyond. We have our various sports groups, children using the play areas and both children and adults using the fields for recreation. The Multi Use Games Area (MUGA), the play area and the gym apparatus are well used by all ages. By far and above the widest use of our fields is for exercising dogs.

Of all things, failure to clean up the excrement from our faithful friends is still our first and largest challenge. The fields are looked after by volunteers with much help from the Parish Council and membership contributions from the sports teams and club supporters. We are proud that both cricket and football teams comment on how well the pitches are maintained. During the year we were awarded 'Good Pitch' status by the FA, something that is not given to most amateur facilities. It is such a shame that this hard work is so regularly devalued by a group that collectively makes little contribution to the upkeep. We have worked quite hard to keep the problem at the forefront of people's minds and we see that the issue has diminished as a result but there is a long way to go.

The good news is that we have not had many reports of anti-social behaviour on the grounds. There have been minor incidents of off-road bikes being driven on the football pitch and churning up the ground. Hopefully these excursions will cease now that the miscreants realise that they are on CCTV.

We are delighted that the various sports clubs that are based at the Recreation Ground had another successful year. The Cricket teams did well but both narrowly missed league glory. By way of compensation the first team won their indoor league and the second team theirs. The second team then beat the first team in the knockout cup and went on to win. The football season has been plagued by bad weather and many matches have been cancelled. Our team started well but has flagged a bit, despite maintaining high spirits. We have an even stronger squad for the 2024/5 season so we are quietly optimistic for their fortunes. Our darts team continues to defeat all in its path, coming first in the league again.

Many will know that an 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 (Harmen & 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. We must also thank the Parish Council for the grant to help with this.

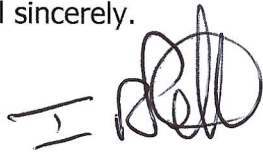
Our second challenge is to try and increase our membership and contribution to village activities. Over the years, interest in local sports has diminished and we would really like to attract other groups or individuals from the village to join the committee to bring fresh ideas and help to maintain and perpetuate this precious village asset. We would encourage anyone interested in promoting any activity which might be suited to our facilities to come forward and we can talk it through. This includes our pavilion which is radically underutilised.

Indeed, the facilities certainly need reviewing themselves. Our pavilion is now looking to be updated as it was built mainly by public donations back in 1983. Since then, the sports scene has changed with the diversity of options expanding and the needs of the village changing. We would love to be able to tackle these issues but with a shortage of volunteers and ideas it just can't happen. Unlike so many organisations we have already saved over £47,000 towards this goal. We must hope that we can find some direction with help from the village.

These funds are largely generated by our social club which manages and maintains the pavilion. 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 £6,000 a year to keep it all going and they do.

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

Signed



Date 4-6-24

Recreation Ground Finance Report 2022-2024

A disappointing year financially as a combination of rising prices and reduced income limited profits. The reduction in bar sales was mainly a reflection of the appalling weather during the football season where so many matches were cancelled due to rain and waterlogged pitches. Gross margins on beer slipped as a result of price increases across the board.

At the beginning of the year we were concerned about rises in operating expenses, not least energy prices. In that respect we were not disappointed, energy prices nearly doubled but through careful management we reduced usage and kept the financial impact down to a 50% increase. We also managed savings elsewhere, on both bar and pavilion maintenance. Gross margins recovered a little in 2024. Maintenance costs should now stabilise and energy costs are falling so we believe we are in a better position looking forwards.

Despite all of this, the accounts presented here show a modest surplus of £1,245. At the operating level we achieved £2,856. This, after spending £1,500 on new flooring and £1,300 repairing fencing, the latter thanks to a grant from the Parish council

There has been a concomitant increase in funds with our overall cash position rising by nearly £2,000.

Surplus funds have been allocated to our building project account which stood at £47,148 as of the year end.

Signed



Date 4.6.24

Independent Reviewer's Report For the Year Ended 31st March 2024

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 2024 and of the transactions for the year ended on that date.

Dated: 31 July 2024

Signed: A. S. Joiner

Please print:

Name: ANDREW S. JOINER.

Address: 10 WILLCREST ROAD
LITTLEBOURNE
CANTERBURY
KENT
CT3 1TS

Wingham Recreation Club

Financial Activities

April 2023 - March 2024 £'s

	Apr 2023 - Mar 2024	Apr 2022 - Mar 2023
Bar sales	19,695	22,127
Cafe	599	386
Donations and legacies	59	150
Hall Hire	195	130
Membership Subscriptions	2,030	2,589
Pool Table Revenue	257	308
Sales of Product Income	14	
Total Sales	22,849	25,690
Stock for Resale	10,726	10,071
Bar Equipment maintenance	1,404	2,017
Subscriptions and Licences	737	896
Telecoms	587	538
Entertainment	350	
Card Fees	258	257
Total Cost of Sales	14,063	13,780
Club House Gross Profit	8,787	11,910
Electricity	2,069	1,366
Gas	1,040	655
Club House Repairs & Maintenance	749	1,667
Club House Insurance	430	396
Cleaning	363	416
Water	361	139
Club House Health and Safety	298	380
Software subscriptions	182	158
Supplies	38	70
Office/Administrative Expenses	18	
Total Club House Expenses	5,548	5,247
Club House Contribution	3,239	6,663
Recreation Ground Grants	-1,300	-1,300
Recreation Ground Donations	-300	-300
Ground Maintenance	1,475	1,257
Recreation Ground Insurances	430	396
Rent & Rates	78	242
Recreation Ground Net Expenses	383	295
Net Operating Income	2,856	6,368
Amortisation of Grants	600	250
Interest earned	1,177	82
Other Income	1,777	332
Depreciation	3,388	2,313
Other Expenditure	3,388	2,313
Net Other Expenditure	1,611	1,981
Net Income	1,245	4,386

Wingham Recreation Club

Balance Sheet

As of March 31, 2024 £'s

	Mar 31, 2024	Mar 31, 2023
Fixed Assets		
Total Bar Equipment	576	1,152
Total Fixtures and Fittings	7,138	8,450
Total Tangible assets	7,714	9,602
Cash at bank and in hand		
Cash on Hand	844	1,107
Club House Current Account	7,893	8,105
Square Card Account	91	154
Management Committee Current Account	247	316
Ring Fenced Funds Savings Account	6,098	44,651
Ring Fenced Funds Term Deposit	41,050	
Total Cash at bank and in hand	56,222	54,332
Debtors	20	
Prepaid TV Licence	27	
Prepaid Insurance	518	490
Prepaid PPL - PRS	158	
Prepaid Security	598	363
Stock	1,120	1,621
Current assets	58,662	56,805
Creditors: falling due within one year		
Trade Creditors	703	1,049
Accruals	144	474
Total Creditors	847	1,523
Net current assets	57,815	55,283
Total current assets less current liabilities	65,529	64,885
Deferred income	2,150	2,750
Total net assets	63,379	62,135
Charity funds		
Retained Earnings	62,135	57,749
Surplus/(Deficit)	1,244	4,386
Total Charity funds	63,379	62,135

Notes to Unaudited Financial Statements

1) Tangible Assets

Prior years have not incorporated any depreciation of assets – this only commenced in the 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 £47,148 of funds ring-fenced for pavilion expansion.

3) Deferred income

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