

MARINE LAKE ENTHUSIASTS (MARLENS)

England & Wales · Charity number 1156426

Details

Other names	MARLENS, MARINE LAKE ENTHUSIASTS
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2014-03-28
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

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Website	clevedonmarinelake.org.uk

Activities

Objects: 1.TO PROVIDE OR ASSIST IN THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR RECREATION OR OTHER LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION OF INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE NEED OF SUCH FACILITIES BY REASON OF THEIR YOUTH, AGE, INFIRMITY OR DISABILITY, FINANCIAL HARDSHIP OR SOCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OR THE PUBLIC AT LARGE WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THEIR CONDITIONS OF LIFE.2.TO ADVANCE IN LIFE AND HELP YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH:(A) THE PROVISION OF RECREATIONAL AND LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES PROVIDED IN THE INTEREST OF SOCIAL WELFARE, DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THEIR CONDITIONS OF LIFE;(B) PROVIDING SUPPORT AND ACTIVITIES WHICH DEVELOP THEIR SKILLS, CAPACITIES AND CAPABILITIES TO ENABLE THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN SOCIETY AS MATURE AND RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUALS.

Activities: Marlens looks after Clevedon Marine Lake on the North Somerset coast. It engages the community in using and caring for the lake, maintaining public access and improving the amenities.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Education/training, Amateur Sport, Environment/conservation/heritage, Recreation
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- North Somerset

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-10-31	£122,327	£119,858	-	-
2024-10-31	£46,802	£49,413	-	-
2023-10-31	£43,317	£35,112	-	-
2022-10-31	£86,102	£57,253	-	-
2021-10-31	£38,440	£17,929	-	-
2020-10-31	£27,636	£27,814	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr Sarah Anne Swash	Chair	2022-12-15
Donna Littleton		2021-03-21
Helen Victoria Sharp		2023-04-27
Laura Emma Kate Nesbitt		2021-03-21
Lilyblue Southam		2022-01-18
Michael Charles Perrott		2020-03-15
Myles David Podmore		2020-03-15
Timothy Julian Clouter		2021-03-21
Tracey Bishop		2025-09-18

MARINE LAKE ENTHUSIASTS (MARLENS)

England & Wales - Charity number 1156426

Accounts



Trustees' report to AGM April 2026



Marine Lake Enthusiasts (Marlens)

Registered charity no 1156426

Trustees' annual report

November 2024 – October 2025



Trustees' report to AGM April 2026



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Trustees' report to AGM April 2026

Chair's summary

2024-25 has been another exceptionally busy and exciting year for the Marlens charity, the marine lake and its environs. Our 'Fit for the Future' project was delivered using £95,481 awarded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. We also secured grant funding from Quartet Community Foundation (£14,564) and North Somerset Council (£5,000). This strengthened how we run ourselves as a charity, brought a more diverse range of people to the lake and made us more sustainable – so that the local community and beyond can continue to enjoy this beautiful, semi-wild and natural resource.

The project brought in additional capacity and specialist expertise. This enabled us to produce a financially and environmentally sustainable long-term business plan; expand our reach into the local community and strengthen volunteer involvement by working with new organisations and audiences; and embed the systems and processes to ensure safe and compliant lake management.

To celebrate the completion of the Heritage Fund bid, we held a celebratory event on 12 December at the Salthouse, attended by Saddik Al-Hussan MP (*outside this reporting period but noted for completeness*).

This year we also significantly strengthened our safety arrangements to keep lake users safe, delivered important maintenance improvements, progressed arrangements to make the lake more accessible to users with disabilities and launched our new website (with customer relationship management system). These all helped strengthen our capacity and capability as a charity.

None of this would be possible without our remarkable volunteers and donors, whose love for Clevedon Marine Lake – and their generosity with both time and money over many years – underpins everything we do. My heartfelt thanks go to each of them. The lake simply wouldn't be what it is today without their dedication. Our mission is to keep the lake clean, safe and natural for generations to come.

Sarah Swash

Chair of Trustees, April 2026, on behalf of Marlens



Trustees' report to AGM April 2026

Context

The Marlens CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) is a local, volunteer-run community organisation which runs Clevedon Marine Lake for the benefit of the community. Marlens has a 50-year lease on the lake (from 2016- 2066) from North Somerset Council (NSC) who is the landowner.

A major refurbishment in summer 2015 (funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, NSC and Clevedon Council) restored the lake to 'as new' condition and triggered an explosion in use by a wide range of people. Lake use mushroomed again during the Covid lockdown and we continued to see an increase in people visiting the lake to walk, swim, sunbathe, use model boats, paddleboard, kayak, sail and row. Part of this increase has been down to people using exercise and 'blue space therapy' to help improve their mental and physical health.

This report covers the year November 2024 to October 2025 with a look ahead to 2025-26.

Objectives

Marlens is governed by our constitution, agreed with the Charity Commission and adopted by our members on 12 November 2013. Marlens' main objective is 'To bring life to Clevedon Marine Lake'. The objects of the charity are:

1. *To provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances or the public at large with the object of improving their conditions of life.*
2. *To advance in life and help young people through:*
 - (a) *The provision of recreational and leisure time activities provided in the interest of social welfare, designed to improve their conditions of life;*
 - (b) *Providing support and activities which develop their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as mature and responsible individuals.*
3. *To secure, preserve, protect, develop and improve the features of historic or public interest in relation to Clevedon Marine Lake and its surrounding area.*



Trustees' report to AGM April 2026

Volunteers and donors

We have an incredible and growing team of volunteers who love Clevedon Marine Lake. Volunteer power remains the key to our success.

Although the work of the volunteer community is most visible during the lake drain downs, we work all year round. The 'Love the Lake' team has cleaned the lake throughout the summer and after over-topping tides throughout the winter. Many in this loyal group have volunteered for years, and over the past year we've also welcomed a wonderful wave of new volunteers bringing fresh skills and energy. Marlens' honorary president, Joe Norman, continued to mentor Duke of Edinburgh students, helping our volunteer community span generations.

Volunteers with technical skills (led by trustee Tim Clouter) identify, repair and improve the lake's infrastructure in liaison with NSC.

We are incredibly grateful to all our volunteers who helped with clear ups and litter-picks, especially through busy summer months – and to those who turned out for our lake drain downs, even in the cold and rain. We are committed to ensuring our volunteers are well-trained, well-informed, properly supported and proud of the part they play, and above all that they enjoy being part of the team.

Anybody can come and clean the lake at any time whether drained or not, without asking Marlens, and many people do pick up litter and put it in the litter bins on the upper promenade. We really appreciate this community effort. New volunteers are always welcome, whether they can come regularly or only occasionally.

Trustees

Formal responsibility for the lake rests with the Marlens charity trustees. Each trustee has a distinct role with specific responsibilities, reflecting their expertise, interests and professional experience. The trustees during the period of this report were:



Trustees' report to AGM April 2026

- Sarah Swash – Chair and strategy
- Tim Clouter – Maintenance and volunteers
- Donna Littleton – Accessibility
- Laura Nesbitt – Instagram
- Mike Perrott – Lake hire
- Myles Podmore – Lake and Pier Day, Light Up the Lake
- Helen Sharp – strategic funding, insurance, managing of 'Fit for the Future' personnel (roles hosted by North Somerset Council)
- Lily Southam – Treasurer (resigned September 2025 but remains a trustee), newsletters, Marlens membership, general public liaison, merchandise, Facebook. We are very grateful to Lily for all her excellent work as treasurer
- Tracey Bishop (co-opted Treasurer from September 2025)

Jill Sandiford (chartered account) is Marlens' secretary. Jill also supports on our finances; and administers bookings and memberships (paid role).

Paul Sidney of Astute Safety Consulting (local professional safety consultant) is the competent person to manage Health and Safety at Marlens.

There are three ways of becoming a trustee:

- Be appointed by the members (normally at the AGM)
- Be co-opted by the trustees, in which case the members must approve the appointment at the next AGM
- Be appointed by Clevedon Town Council (1 trustee).

Trustees are appointed for 3 years and can serve up to 3 terms. There is no formal training for trustees, but they are expected to familiarise themselves with the Marlens constitution and Charity Commission guidance. Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.



Trustees' report to AGM April 2026

Structure

We have a working structure with three parts:

1. An operations team responsible for day-to-day running of the lake and associated activities, composed of lake users and volunteers.
2. A board of unpaid volunteer trustees who carry formal responsibility, set strategy and the budget, and make sure the charity's funds are used properly.
3. Informal consultation and listening provide a communication channel with active users, our volunteers, young people and the wider community. This is implemented in various ways:
 - Our online presence (Facebook and Instagram)
 - Publicity and marketing
 - An open 'Coffee with Marlens' get-together and lottery draw in the Salthouse pub every third Saturday of the month. Everyone welcome
 - Open discussion at the AGM
 - Informal feedback from our volunteers, users and interested citizens.

Lake Users

The lake is part of the Clevedon seafront promenade with a large footfall throughout the year of local people and visitors. The sharp growth in outdoor swimmers and paddleboarders continued in 2025, especially the winter swimming community, following popularity in mainstream media.

Clevedon Canoe Club, Coastal Rowers, Clevedon Marine Active and Clevedon Sailing Club were active on the lake, and SUPway paddleboard hire continued to offer visitors the opportunity to paddleboard. The sharp increase in users bringing their own SUPs in the summer continued this year. Swimming coaches continued running sessions in the lake for swimming skills and wellbeing.

The summer months again drew large numbers of people to the lake. Hot weather brought crowds to the lake to cool off, catch crabs, swim, boat, picnic or simply stroll and enjoy the view. We welcomed visitors of all ages - from the very young to the very old - and, once exams were over, plenty of teenagers came to relax, socialise and let off steam.



Trustees' report to AGM April 2026

We hosted Clevedon's first ever triathlon in July 2025 - the same weekend as the SwimRun, which has been popular for many years.

Managing lake use

We see several kinds of use:

- Individuals using the lake. This is free of charge but we encourage donations. We try to make it easy for those who enjoy the lake to contribute to its upkeep through lakeside donation boxes (now with QR codes) or increasingly by donating online.
- Member club sessions.
- Classes run by individual instructors registered with Marlens (registration includes a check on their qualifications, first-aid qualification and risk assessment).
- Paid services such as boat hire, training courses, parties, events. These are provided by our registered coaches, our member clubs or our boat hire concessionaire.
- People hiring the lake from Marlens for their own activities and events.
- Production companies hiring the lake for filming.

Maintenance and improvements

Marlens' main maintenance points continue to be the twice-yearly lake drains in October and March. On every overtopping tide, the marine lake fills from the turbid Bristol Channel depositing silt in the lake, which would build up if we didn't remove it. We have a 10-year licence to dredge the lake bed for one week each October and March, which started in October 2019, and we are steadily clearing the backlog of silt. In 2025 trustee Tim Clouter led the lake drain planning and operations.

We are very grateful for NSC's generous and unwavering support throughout the period of this report and wish to record particular thanks to those below:

- Ed McKay, Principal Parks and Open Space Officer
- Sam Phillips, Senior Parks and Open Spaces Officer
- Simon Bunn, Flood Risk Manager



Trustees' report to AGM April 2026

- Paul Hillman, Seafront and Parks Manager.

The Hive and accessibility

In 2022 we converted the crazy golf kiosk on the seafront at the south end of the lake into The Hive, a volunteer hub with accessible changing room. In 2023 we resolved final snagging issues including electrics and certification, roof repair and installed a new ramp to ensure full accessibility.

In 2024-25 Tim Clouter and Donna Littleton explored new ways to support swimmers with physical disabilities enter the water. This followed Helen Sharp's earlier work which concluded a hoist would not be safe or suitable (2023-24 annual report). We commissioned a Disability Access audit from WECIL (West of England Centre for Inclusive Living) as part of the 'Fit for the Future' project and started implementing its recommendations (e.g. The Hive key location; changing room arrangements).

We started to use the Hive to provide changing facilities for people with disabilities and have developed a process to enable this to happen on a more regular basis. Our thanks to Clevedon Town Council who as part of this have kindly agreed to pay for the changing room cleaning and bin emptying when used by disabled people.

Lake safety

We must keep our lake users safe. Paul Sidney of Astute Safety Consulting (local professional safety consultant) is the competent person to manage Health and Safety at Marlens. He continued to support the trustees and volunteers in identifying and controlling risks and ensuring that the working methods adhere to UK legislation. He helped to set safety policies, prioritising safety improvements and produced Marlens' Safety Plan 2025.

We ask that all lake users respect these policies and refrain from banned activities, and also that any breaches are reported to Safer Stronger North Somerset's Community Response (<https://saferstrongerns.co.uk/report>) in order that enforcement activity can be considered.

Paul leads a Safety item at trustees' monthly meetings. A QR code allows people to record



Trustees' report to AGM April 2026

accidents/occurrences/defects and generates an alert to Paul.

Other safety actions:

- Installed new signs/warnings about the nearest defibrillators, seawall, no diving and slippery surfaces.
- Cleaned the ramp at the shallow end as much as possible, but with lake full of water we can't remove the algal growth which makes it slippery (hence slippery ramp notice).
- Regularly cleaned the splash pools to avoid build-up of slippery algae.
- Regular water quality checks from May to September. If bacteria levels are high, we warn users (via red flag and social media).
- Updated safety advice (including water quality) on website and social media.
- Kept open the penstock between the model boat lake and main lake to reduce stagnation in the model boat lake.
- Our volunteers litter picked early every morning in the summer to keep the lakeside clean and clear.

Funding

The lake costs over £30,000 a year to run (repairs, equipment, improvements, training, insurance, website and more), so we must build a reliable income for the future.

National Lottery Heritage Fund

In 2024 Helen Sharp (trustee) submitted a National Lottery Heritage Fund bid, critical to sustain the charity and marine lake. The bid was successful and secured £95,481 for the 'Fit for the Future' project, delivered in 2024-25.



In September 2024 Kerrie Bruce was appointed as Business Development Manager and Ellie Hookham as Volunteering and Community Development Officer. The project delivered:

Trustees' report to AGM April 2026

- new website / customer relationship management systems
- advice from a fundraising consultant
- new systems, processes, policies and central storage
- stronger data management
- stronger volunteer support
- stronger community engagement/outreach
- trustee governance review, strengthening how Marlens runs itself as a charity.

The project has helped make Marlens and the lake more resilient and sustainable, so even more people can enjoy this special place in the years ahead. As lake use grows, our income must grow with it so we can meet rising operational and administrative demands which are now stretching our almost entirely volunteer-run model. With the agreement of the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the project period was extended to December 2025. This allowed MARLENS to complete key work thoroughly, adapt as we learned, and embed improvements so the project delivers lasting benefits for Clevedon Marine Lake and the wider community.

Findings showed that the project met its core objectives, with clear evidence of strengthened organisational capacity, increased participation, improved accessibility and a sustainable digital and operational legacy. The evaluation also identified practical learning and recommendations that will inform Marlens' future planning and continuous improvement.

Quartet

Helen also led a Quartet bid which secured £14,564 to part-fund Ellie Hookham, Volunteer & Community Officer, in delivering a programme of activity aimed at engaging more diverse groups of young people and bringing wellbeing benefits through use of the lake. To support this work, the grant also funded a day a week of VANS (Voluntary Action North Somerset) time to support with making connections with local groups/networks and developing/implementing relevant policies and processes.





Trustees' report to AGM April 2026

Other funding

Other significant funding sources for Marlens in 2024-25 (see also Treasurer's Annual report):

- Friends and membership. Jill Sandiford and trustee Lily Southam run our membership arrangements and deal with enquiries from the public.
- Marlens Lottery, run by Maggie Norman. This can be joined online from the lake website.
- Website donations.
- Interest.
- Affiliation contributions from clubs using the lake, including some based outside Clevedon.
- General donations (including goblets, lakeside boxes, pay pal and company donations).
- Merchandise such as our ever-popular Marine Lake bobble hats, led by Lily Southam.
- Fundraising events.
- GiftAid.
- Registration fees from qualified instructors and coaches who teach clients at the lake. We check on registration that instructors are appropriately qualified with professional insurance.
- Lake hire for external commercial activities – led by Mike Perrott.
- Being visible and raising money at community events run by other organisations e.g. Clevedon Sunday market (Lily Southam and Myles Podmore).

Digital, communications and marketing

Communication with Marlens members and wider audiences is critical. We continued a quarterly newsletter (led by Lily Southam and Viv French) and grew our Facebook following to ~22k. North Somerset Times and BBC Radio Bristol covered Marlens events including lake drains and Lake Day. We continued to host open 'Coffee with Marlens' get-togethers and lottery draws in the Salthouse pub every third Saturday of the month.



Trustees' report to AGM April 2026

In 2023 Digital Consultation (a local business) produced Marlens' digital business plan and following confirmation of National Lottery Heritage Funding, they redesigned the website, alongside a new customer relationship management system. Both went live in 2025.

We hosted Saddik Al-Hussain MP North Somerset and Rob Beckley (High Sheriff of North Somerset 2024-25) for lake visits, and both offered strong support through visits and social media posts.

Environment

We care for the environment by collecting and binning plastic rubbish from the lake and its surroundings during our frequent clean-ups.

The lake supports a rich marine ecosystem. Tim Clouter continued to develop our lake drain activities to preserve it, including installing crab-friendly shelters in the boating lake with 40 slabs generously provided by NSC. Additional refuges for invasive species management were also put in place, and Mike Perrott commenced our AQUA¹ accreditation for our Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) safeguards.

We also developed our Environmental Policy for the lake as part of the Fit for the Future Project.

Finance and policies (update)

The final accounts for 2024-25 were prepared by our new Treasurer Tracey Bishop and Jill Sandiford. They were inspected by an external examiner and will be posted to the Charity Commission website.

During the year we updated our reserves policy and made the following amendments:

- Increased the contingency reserve, an amount we set aside as a permanent hedge against future uncertainties, to £35,000. The contingency reserve is only spent when income drops to such an extent that the charity cannot continue to operate

¹ Assessment and Qualifications Alliance, a major UK exam board and independent education charity



Trustees' report to AGM April 2026

without support from the reserve.

- Increased our long-term provision to £50,000. Long term provisions are built up to cover specific expected substantial items of expenditure which do not recur on an annual basis, for example, renewal of the Marine Management Organisation licence, accessibility improvements and infrastructure repairs not funded by North Somerset Council. Our lease makes Marlens responsible for the first £3,000 each year spent on maintenance, so we must hold at least this sum in reserve. For larger challenges we can look to NSC for support but there is no guarantee that they could act quickly, so a larger amount is realistic if we want to keep the lake in service.
- Maintained the project reserve at £10,000 to pay for any significant one-off items of expenditure. Any surplus income from the financial year is added to this reserve.

Over 2024-25 as part of the National Lottery Heritage Fund work, we reviewed all our policies.

Looking forward

It is vital that Clevedon Marine Lake remains a semi-wild, unspoilt open water space, accessible to everyone whatever their income. At the same time, we know the needs of the lake and its community are evolving.

Our goal is to increase the lake's value to the community and broaden the groups who can enjoy it safely. We will keep responding to these changing needs and continue to improve Marlens' capacity, so we are fit for the future.

In 2025-26, we will:

- Recruit a volunteer and community engagement coordinator to support new volunteers and strengthen partnerships with more diverse groups.
- Paint white line on lake perimeter, recommended by accessibility audit.
- Continue to explore new ways to support swimmers with physical disabilities enter the water.
- Use lake visitor numbers and audiences to help target our work / support



Trustees' report to AGM April 2026

fundraising – demonstrating the lake's economic impact and public benefit.

- Support Winterfest 2026, using our new website to sell advance tickets.
- Install a new sign for The Hive!
- Install new measures in the lake to understand Invasive Non-Native Species.
- Publish all our policies on our new website.
- Hold a community celebratory event marking successful delivery of the Fit for the Future project (*reported above for completeness*).

Sarah Swash, Chair of Trustees, April 2026

on behalf of Marlens

**Marine Lake Enthusiasts
(MARLENS)
Charity No. 1156426**

ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31st October 2025

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF MARINE LAKE ENTHUSIASTS (MARLENS)

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31st October 2025, which are set out on pages 3 to 5.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed



Xeinadin South Wales & West Limited
Accountants and Business Advisors

Edinburgh House
1-5 Bellevue Road
Clevedon
North Somerset
BS21 7NP

Date

31/03/2026

Profit and Loss

Marlens

For the year ended 31 October 2025

	2025	2024
Turnover		
Collection Goblets	205.54	363.00
Company Donations	200.00	-
Events	1,943.20	3,040.00
Friends - new	1,950.00	2,100.00
Friends - renewals	1,950.00	2,900.00
Fundraisers	200.00	691.00
General Donations	2,766.28	2,278.40
Gift aid	2,714.55	2,558.12
Grants	81,892.98	8,810.24
Interest Income	2,098.72	950.84
Lakeside Boxes	784.97	912.11
Lottery income	7,890.00	7,885.00
Memberships - Clubs & Coaches	1,740.00	2,030.00
Paypal donations	24.00	24.00
Sales of Goods	7,330.89	5,488.13
Use of Lake - Clubs & Coaches	540.00	683.00
Use of Lake - Commercial	758.00	680.00
Website Donations (old website)	7,337.92	5,408.43
Total Turnover	122,327.05	46,802.27
Cost of Sales		
Closing Stock	(1,422.00)	(1,194.00)
Cost of Goods Sold	3,148.84	1,468.91
Event Costs	923.71	1,727.93
Fundraising Costs	646.74	704.00
Lake Camera & Connection	686.81	702.86
Lake Equipment (not capital equipment)	222.59	818.19
Lake Improvements	2,671.80	7,407.00
Lake Repairs & Maintenance	335.27	141.43
Lake Samples	2,402.97	3,408.00
Lottery Prizes and Expenses	3,595.00	3,680.00
Opening Stock	1,194.00	3,200.00
Paypal, Sumup & Give As You Live Fees	303.17	530.96
Salary costs	58,613.79	6,684.29
Silt Removal	5,073.50	7,254.30
Volunteer Costs	49.91	72.81
Website	5,007.39	210.99
Total Cost of Sales	83,453.49	36,817.67
Gross Profit	38,873.56	9,984.60
Administrative Costs		

Profit and Loss

	2025	2024
Activity Costs	2,428.80	-
Audit & Accountancy fees	270.00	192.00
Bookkeeping & Admin Fees	7,722.77	4,170.35
Depreciation Expense	1,682.25	251.00
Health & Safety	1,307.39	1,681.62
Hive - ongoing costs	6.99	50.00
Insurance	4,415.77	4,465.15
IT Software and Consumables	-	262.97
Other Professional Fees	17,453.26	-
Postage, Freight & Courier	292.83	20.18
Recruitment costs	39.60	558.00
Secretarial & Trustee Costs	685.70	919.17
Telephone, Printing & Stationery	77.86	24.98
Travel & Subsistence	21.73	-
Total Administrative Costs	36,404.95	12,595.42
Operating Profit	2,468.61	(2,610.82)
Profit on Ordinary Activities Before Taxation	2,468.61	(2,610.82)
Profit after Taxation	2,468.61	(2,610.82)

Balance Sheet

Marlens

As at 31 October 2025

	31 OCT 2025	31 OCT 2024
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Assets		
Fixed Assets	502.00	753.00
Intangible Assets	4,293.75	-
Total Tangible Assets	4,795.75	753.00
Total Fixed Assets	4,795.75	753.00
Current Assets		
Cash at bank and in hand		
Boathouse/Heritage Fund	3,145.13	79,757.19
Lottery	13,662.50	9,612.50
Marlens Current Account	15,718.52	7,764.47
Marlens Paypal	2,176.00	1,607.47
Petty Cash Tins x 2	50.00	50.00
Savings Account	12,103.83	64,133.42
Virgin Savings Account	61,628.31	-
Total Cash at bank and in hand	108,484.29	162,925.05
Other Debtors	1,397.01	-
Stock	1,422.00	1,194.00
Total Current Assets	111,303.30	164,119.05
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
Accounts Payable	4,238.55	5,241.93
Other Creditors	5,746.03	55,984.26
Total Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9,984.58	61,226.19
Net Current Assets (Liabilities)	101,318.72	102,892.86
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	106,114.47	103,645.86
Net Assets	106,114.47	103,645.86
Capital and Reserves		
Current Year Earnings	2,468.61	(2,610.82)
Retained Earnings	103,645.86	106,256.68
Total Capital and Reserves	106,114.47	103,645.86

Treasurers report for the financial year ended 31 October 2025

In summary the 24/25 financial year ended with a reported surplus of £2,469 compared to a prior year deficit of £2,611. Capital and reserves at the year-end amounted to £106,114 compared to the prior year total of £103,646.

Profit & Loss

Income for the year amounted to £122,327 of which £81,893 related to grant income leaving a balance of £40,434 generated by the ongoing activities of the charity.

Marlens secured grant monies of £115,045 in 23/24 and 24/25 (£95,481 National Lottery Heritage Fund, £14,564 Quartet Community Foundation & North Somerset Council £5,000) in addition Marlens provided match funding of £7,500. Cash received from grants as at the yearend totals to £95,949.

The grants secured were for a development project called 'Fit for the Future' that invested to support the long-term sustainable future of the charity. The largest costs were for salaries for two part-time roles (Business Development Manager and Volunteering & Community Development Officer). Other significant investment included the new website and CRM system, a fundraising consultant and an access audit. Key outcomes included a programme of engagement with more diverse audiences to help meet our charitable purpose, a fundraising plan, a business development plan and a new set of policies and procedures. Overall, the project aimed to grow confidence and capability within the charity to grow income, make us more accessible and ensure we are compliant with our duties as a charity.

Of the grant monies received, including match funding, a total of £8,810 was expensed in 23/24 and £89,393 expensed in 24/25, leaving a deferred income balance to report of £5,746 which will be expensed in future years.

Other charitable activity driving income for the financial year can be summarised as follows

- Friends & Membership £5,640 (23/24 £7,030) income has reduced year on year and we hope to revert and grow this with a more proactive approach to acquisition of new supporters/stewardship using the new CRM system and website.
- Lottery £7,890 (23/24 £7,885) after deducting associated costs of £3,595 equates to a charitable contribution of £4,295.
- Website donations £7,338 (23/24 £5,408). Our new website aims to enable continued growth of this income stream through simple giving programmes and an easier donor journey.
- Interest £2,099 (23/24 £951) the increase year on year is due to the trustee's decision to invest £61k of reserves into a high interest bank account with restrictions on access.
- Clubs and commercial use of lake £1,298 (23/24 £1,363)
- General donations to include goblets, lakeside boxes, pay pal & company donations £3,980 (23/24 £3,577)
- Sale of merchandise £7,331 (23/24 £5,488) after deducting associated costs of stock £2,921 equates to a charitable contribution of £4,410. Year on year increase is due to a dedicated team of trustees/volunteers who regularly manage the Marlens stall at the Clevedon Sunday market.
- Fundraising events £2,143 (23/24 £3,731) after deducting associated costs of £1,571 equates to a charitable contribution of £572. Income was adversely impacted in the year due to the Light up the Lake event being cancelled in December because of poor weather and in addition we took the financial hit on all associated pre-paid expenditure for the event. However, Lake Day went ahead as planned in May as did the Tides and Tunes concert which sold c70 tickets.
- Gift Aid £2,715 (23/24 £2,558)

Expenditure for the year (excluding that associated with grant income) amounted to £30,465 compared to £40,603 in 23/24, a variance of £9,933 mostly driven by the cost of extending the slipway in the prior year which amounted to £6,840.

Direct costs associated with maintaining the lake, the surrounding area and improving water quality including silt removal, equipment, repairs & maintenance and security totalled £8,722. Warning signs to convey important health and safety information were also designed and placed at the lake costing £2,672.

We completed two lake drains during the year to deep clean, dredge and carry out vital repairs at the lake. This work is crucial for preserving the lake's wildlife, ensuring safe use for all, and keeping the space beautiful for

future generations. The lake drains are a true community event, and we rely heavily on volunteers to assist with the activity.

The insurance premium associated with the public use of the lake amounted to £4,416, a similar cost to 23/24 of £4,465. The premium covers £10m worth of public and employers' liability in addition to £0.5m of professional indemnity. In addition, other costs associated with Health & Safety amounted to £1,307 which was mostly consultancy advice.

Costs associated with maintaining the financial records of the charity, preparing the financial statements and carrying out the yearly audit amounted to £3,782.

Balance Sheet

Costs associated with the development and launch of the new website have been capitalised as an intangible asset with a value of £4,294, this asset will be depreciated in line with accounting guidelines and to match income generated from increased user engagement with the website.

In total the charity holds a fixed asset value of £4,796, the balance of £502 relates to IT equipment.

Current assets are made up mostly of cash £108,484 of which £61,628 is held in a high interest account with restrictions on access. Other assets include merchandise stock of £1,422 and debtors of £1,397.

Creditors are mostly made up of grant monies received yet to be expensed and accounts payable to total £9,985.

Capital and reserves total £106,114 and in line with the reserves and provision policy of the charity are reviewed annually and allocated as per the table below

Capital & Reserves	
Contingency Reserve (unplanned and urgent)	35,000
Project and Capital Reserve (planned minor works)	10,000
Long Term Provisions (expected/planned major works)	50,000
Charitable Surplus	11,114
Total	106,114

Long Term provisions need to be built for items including but not limited to the following

- The renewal of the charity's Marine Management Organisation licence to dump waste mud during annual drain downs – due in 2029
- Accessibility provision to improve access to the lake
- Significant repairs to the lake infrastructure or environs in the event that North Somerset Council are unable to fulfil their obligations.

Signed by:

Tracey Bishop

Signed 2778E60A5FB4474.....

Tracey Bishop

1/4/2026

**Marine Lake Enthusiasts
(MARLENS)
Charity No. 1156426**

ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31st October 2025

CONTENTS

Report of The Independent Examiner

Income & Expenditure Account

Balance Sheet

Treasurers Notes to the Accounts

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF MARINE LAKE ENTHUSIASTS (MARLENS)

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31st October 2025, which are set out on pages 3 to 5.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed



Xeinadin South Wales & West Limited
Accountants and Business Advisors

Edinburgh House
1-5 Bellevue Road
Clevedon
North Somerset
BS21 7NP

Date

31/03/2026

Profit and Loss

Marlens

For the year ended 31 October 2025

	2025	2024
Turnover		
Collection Goblets	205.54	363.00
Company Donations	200.00	-
Events	1,943.20	3,040.00
Friends - new	1,950.00	2,100.00
Friends - renewals	1,950.00	2,900.00
Fundraisers	200.00	691.00
General Donations	2,766.28	2,278.40
Gift aid	2,714.55	2,558.12
Grants	81,892.98	8,810.24
Interest Income	2,098.72	950.84
Lakeside Boxes	784.97	912.11
Lottery income	7,890.00	7,885.00
Memberships - Clubs & Coaches	1,740.00	2,030.00
Paypal donations	24.00	24.00
Sales of Goods	7,330.89	5,488.13
Use of Lake - Clubs & Coaches	540.00	683.00
Use of Lake - Commercial	758.00	680.00
Website Donations (old website)	7,337.92	5,408.43
Total Turnover	122,327.05	46,802.27
Cost of Sales		
Closing Stock	(1,422.00)	(1,194.00)
Cost of Goods Sold	3,148.84	1,468.91
Event Costs	923.71	1,727.93
Fundraising Costs	646.74	704.00
Lake Camera & Connection	686.81	702.86
Lake Equipment (not capital equipment)	222.59	818.19
Lake Improvements	2,671.80	7,407.00
Lake Repairs & Maintenance	335.27	141.43
Lake Samples	2,402.97	3,408.00
Lottery Prizes and Expenses	3,595.00	3,680.00
Opening Stock	1,194.00	3,200.00
Paypal, Sumup & Give As You Live Fees	303.17	530.96
Salary costs	58,613.79	6,684.29
Silt Removal	5,073.50	7,254.30
Volunteer Costs	49.91	72.81
Website	5,007.39	210.99
Total Cost of Sales	83,453.49	36,817.67
Gross Profit	38,873.56	9,984.60
Administrative Costs		

Profit and Loss

	2025	2024
Activity Costs	2,428.80	-
Audit & Accountancy fees	270.00	192.00
Bookkeeping & Admin Fees	7,722.77	4,170.35
Depreciation Expense	1,682.25	251.00
Health & Safety	1,307.39	1,681.62
Hive - ongoing costs	6.99	50.00
Insurance	4,415.77	4,465.15
IT Software and Consumables	-	262.97
Other Professional Fees	17,453.26	-
Postage, Freight & Courier	292.83	20.18
Recruitment costs	39.60	558.00
Secretarial & Trustee Costs	685.70	919.17
Telephone, Printing & Stationery	77.86	24.98
Travel & Subsistence	21.73	-
Total Administrative Costs	36,404.95	12,595.42
Operating Profit	2,468.61	(2,610.82)
Profit on Ordinary Activities Before Taxation	2,468.61	(2,610.82)
Profit after Taxation	2,468.61	(2,610.82)

Balance Sheet

Marlens

As at 31 October 2025

	31 OCT 2025	31 OCT 2024
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Assets		
Fixed Assets	502.00	753.00
Intangible Assets	4,293.75	-
Total Tangible Assets	4,795.75	753.00
Total Fixed Assets	4,795.75	753.00
Current Assets		
Cash at bank and in hand		
Boathouse/Heritage Fund	3,145.13	79,757.19
Lottery	13,662.50	9,612.50
Marlens Current Account	15,718.52	7,764.47
Marlens Paypal	2,176.00	1,607.47
Petty Cash Tins x 2	50.00	50.00
Savings Account	12,103.83	64,133.42
Virgin Savings Account	61,628.31	-
Total Cash at bank and in hand	108,484.29	162,925.05
Other Debtors	1,397.01	-
Stock	1,422.00	1,194.00
Total Current Assets	111,303.30	164,119.05
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
Accounts Payable	4,238.55	5,241.93
Other Creditors	5,746.03	55,984.26
Total Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9,984.58	61,226.19
Net Current Assets (Liabilities)	101,318.72	102,892.86
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	106,114.47	103,645.86
Net Assets	106,114.47	103,645.86
Capital and Reserves		
Current Year Earnings	2,468.61	(2,610.82)
Retained Earnings	103,645.86	106,256.68
Total Capital and Reserves	106,114.47	103,645.86

Treasurers report for the financial year ended 31 October 2025

In summary the 24/25 financial year ended with a reported surplus of £2,469 compared to a prior year deficit of £2,611. Capital and reserves at the year-end amounted to £106,114 compared to the prior year total of £103,646.

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Signed by:

Tracey Bishop

Signed 2778E60A5FB4474.....

Tracey Bishop

1/4/2026

MARINE LAKE ENTHUSIASTS (MARLENS)

England & Wales - Charity number 1156426

Accounts



Trustees' report to AGM April 2025



Marine Lake Enthusiasts (Marlens)

Registered charity no 1156426

Trustees' annual report

November 2023 – October 2024



Trustees' report to AGM April 2025



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Trustees' report to AGM April 2025



Chair's summary

2023-24 has been an exceptionally busy and exciting year for the Marlens charity, the marine lake and its environs. We won £95,481 from National Lottery Heritage Fund for a project to make ourselves sustainable and fit for the future – so that the local community and beyond can continue to enjoy this beautiful, semi-wild and natural resource.

The project brought in capacity and specialist expertise so that we can develop a financially and environmentally sustainable long-term business plan, become accessible to more people and embed the systems and processes needed to underpin the management of the lake in a safe and compliant way. To celebrate winning the Heritage Fund bid, we held a community event on 20 July at the Salthouse and lake, with coverage by the BBC and local media.

This year we also benefited from major works to the outer sea wall, significantly strengthened our safety arrangements to keep lake users safe, delivered important maintenance improvements, progressed arrangements to make the lake more accessible to users with disabilities, and took forward plans on our finances, digital strategy, and our future capacity and capability as a charity.

None of this would be possible without the incredible team of volunteers and donors who love Clevedon marine lake and have generously donated their time and money – not just this past year but over long periods. As ever, my heartfelt thanks go to them, without whom the lake would not be what it is today. Our mission is to keep the lake clean, safe and natural for generations to come.

Sarah Swash

Chair of Trustees, April 2025

On behalf of Marlens



Trustees' report to AGM April 2025



Context

The Marlens CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) is a local, volunteer-run community organisation which runs Clevedon Marine Lake for the benefit of the community. Marlens has a 50-year lease on the lake (from 2016- 2066) from North Somerset Council (NSC) who is the landowner.

A major refurbishment in summer 2015 (funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, NSC and Clevedon Council) restored the lake to 'as new' condition and triggered an explosion in use by a wide range of people. Lake use mushroomed again during Covid lockdown and we continued to see an increase in people visiting the lake to walk, swim, sunbathe, use model boats, paddleboard, kayak, sail and row. Part of this increase has been down to people using exercise and 'blue space therapy' to help improve their mental and physical health.

This report covers the year November 2023 to October 2024 with a look ahead to 2024-25.

Objectives

Marlens is governed by our constitution, agreed with the Charity Commission and adopted by our members on 12 November 2013. Marlens' main objective is 'To bring life to Clevedon Marine Lake'. The objects of the charity are:

1. *To provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances or the public at large with the object of improving their conditions of life.*
2. *To advance in life and help young people through:*
 - (a) *The provision of recreational and leisure time activities provided in the interest of social welfare, designed to improve their conditions of life;*
 - (b) *Providing support and activities which develop their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as mature and responsible individuals.*
3. *To secure, preserve, protect, develop and improve the features of historic or public interest in relation to Clevedon Marine Lake and its surrounding area.*



Trustees' report to AGM April 2025



Volunteers and donors

We have an incredible team of volunteers who love Clevedon Marine Lake. Volunteer power is the key to our success.

Although the work of the volunteer community is most visible during the lake drain downs, we work all year round. The 'Love the Lake' team has cleaned the lake throughout the summer and after over-topping tides throughout the winter. Many in this loyal band have been volunteering for years, and in the past year many new volunteers have generously started offering their time and skills. Marlens' honorary president Joe Norman continued to mentor Duke of Edinburgh students, helping our volunteer work to cross generations.

Volunteers with technical skills (led by trustee Tim Clouter) identify, repair and improve the lake's structure in liaison with NSC.

We are incredibly grateful to all our volunteers who helped with clear ups and litter-picks, especially over the summer months – and with our lake drain downs, sometimes in the cold and rain. We want to ensure that our volunteers are trained, kept informed, properly looked after and proud of their role and (most importantly) enjoy being volunteers.

Anybody can come and clean the lake at any time whether drained or not, without asking Marlens, and many people do pick up litter and put it in the litter bins on the upper promenade. We really appreciate this community effort. New volunteers are always welcome, whether they can come regularly or only occasionally.

Trustees

The people with formal responsibility for the lake are the Marlens charity trustees. Each trustee has a different role and set of responsibilities. This takes advantage of their expertise, interests and professional experience. The trustees during the period of this report were:

- Sarah Swash – Chair and strategy
- Tim Clouter – Maintenance and volunteers



Trustees' report to AGM April 2025



- Donna Littleton – Accessibility
- Laura Nesbitt – Instagram
- Mike Perrott – Lake hire
- Myles Podmore – Lake and Pier Day, Light Up the Lake
- Helen Sharp – strategic funding, insurance, hoist
- Lily Southam – Treasurer, newsletters, Marlens membership, general public liaison, merchandise

Jill Sandiford (chartered account) is Marlens' secretary. Jill also supports on our finances; and administers bookings and memberships (paid role).

There are three ways of becoming a trustee:

- Be appointed by the members (normally at the AGM)
- Be co-opted by the trustees, in which case the members must approve the appointment at the next AGM
- Be appointed by Clevedon Town Council (1 trustee).

Trustees are appointed for 3 years and can serve up to 3 terms. There is no formal training for trustees, but they are expected to familiarise themselves with the Marlens constitution and Charity Commission guidance. Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Structure

We have a working structure with three parts:

1. An operations team responsible for day-to-day running of the lake and associated activities, composed of lake users and volunteers.
2. A board of unpaid volunteer trustees who carry formal responsibility, set strategy and the budget, and make sure the charity's funds are used properly.
3. Informal consultation and listening to provide a communication channel with active



Trustees' report to AGM April 2025



users, our volunteers, young people and the wider community. This is implemented in various ways:

- Our online presence (Facebook and Instagram)
- Publicity and marketing
- An open 'Coffee with Marlens' get-together and lottery draw in the Salhouse pub every third Saturday of the month. Everyone welcome
- Open discussion at the AGM
- Informal feedback from our volunteers, users and interested citizens.

Lake Users

The lake is part of the Clevedon seafront promenade with a large footfall throughout the year of local people and visitors. The sharp growth in outdoor swimmers and paddleboarders continued in 2024, especially the winter swimming community, following popularity in mainstream media.

Clevedon Canoe Club, Coastal Rowers, Clevedon Marine Active and Clevedon Sailing Club were active on the lake, and SUPway paddleboard hire continued to offer visitors the opportunity to paddleboard. The sharp increase in users bringing their own SUPs continued this year. Swimming coaches continued running sessions in the lake for swimming skills and wellbeing.

The summer months again saw the general public flock to the lake. Hot temperatures brought vast numbers who used the lake to cool off, catch crabs, swim, boat, picnic or go for a stroll to enjoy the view. We saw all manner of users from the very young to the very old, and, once exams were over, lots of teenagers enjoyed letting off steam and socialising.

Managing lake use

We see several kinds of use:

- Individuals using the lake. This is free of charge but we encourage donations. We try to make it easy for those who enjoy the lake to contribute to its upkeep through our lakeside donation boxes (now with QR codes) or by donating online.



Trustees' report to AGM April 2025



- Member club sessions.
- Classes run by individual instructors who have registered with Marlens (registration includes a check on their qualifications, first-aid qualification and risk assessment).
- Paid services such as boat hire, training courses, parties, events. These are provided by our registered coaches, our member clubs or our boat hire concessionaire.
- People hiring the lake from Marlens for their own activities and events.
- Production companies hiring the lake for filming.

Maintenance and improvements

Routine maintenance and improvements

Marlens' main maintenance points continue to be the twice-yearly lake drains in October and March. On every overtopping tide, the marine lake fills from the turbid Bristol Channel depositing silt in the lake, which would build up if we didn't remove it. We have a 10-year licence to dredge the lake bed for one week each October and March, which started in October 2019, and we are steadily clearing the backlog of silt. In 2024 trustees Tim Clouter and Mike Perrott led the lake drain planning and operations.

In 2024, we also:

- Installed pavement signage covering lake safety - do not walk on sea wall; slippery surface on slipways; no diving graphics around lake perimeter in line with 2024 safety plan.
- Extended the slipway - provided a mass concrete approach slab to the end of the shallow end access slipway to remove the current sharp transition that impeded access for maintenance during lake drain, and was a hazard for users.
- Repaired erosion to the inside sea wall at the end of the slipway: replenished stone and fines adjacent to the sea wall where there is localised scouring associated with overtopping.

Major repairs – outer sea wall

In 2022-23 NSC commissioned a drone inspection followed by structural engineer's report of the outer sea wall, which identified that critical repairs were necessary. Cost was



Trustees' report to AGM April 2025



estimated at ~£80,000. NSC funded and carried out (via contractors) this important work in 2024.

We are very grateful for NSC's unstinting support throughout the period of this report and wish to record particular thanks to those below:

- Ed McKay, Principal Parks and Open Space Officer
- Sam Phillips, Senior Parks and Open Spaces Officer
- Simon Bunn, Flood Risk Manager
- Paul Hillman, Seafront and Parks Manager.

The Hive and accessibility

In 2022 we converted the crazy golf kiosk on the seafront at the south end of the lake into The Hive, a volunteers' hub with accessible changing room. In 2023 we resolved final snagging issues including electrics and certification, roof repair and installed a new ramp to make it fully accessible.

In 2023-24 Trustee Helen Sharp led work to finalise arrangements to use a hoist to enable swimmers with physical disabilities to get into the water. The work was painstaking but critical because of the important safety arrangements which must be in place, including training, risk assessments, insurance and hoist inspection. We finally concluded that unfortunately hoist was unsuitable due to safety issues, so we are now exploring alternative accessibility options.

Lake safety

We must keep our lake users safe. Paul Sidney of Astute Safety Consulting (local professional safety consultant) is the competent person to manage Health and Safety at Marlens. He continued to assist the trustees and volunteers in identifying and controlling risks and ensuring that the working methods adhere to UK legislation. He helped to set safety policies, prioritising safety improvements and produced Marlens' Safety Plan 2024.

We ask that all lake users respect these policies and refrain from banned activities, and also that any breaches are reported to Safer Stronger North Somerset's Community Response (<https://saferstrongerns.co.uk/report>) in order that enforcement activity can be



Trustees' report to AGM April 2025



considered.

Paul leads a Safety item at trustees' monthly meetings. A QR code allows people to record accidents/occurrences/defects and generates an alert to Paul.

Other safety actions:

- Cleaned the ramp at the shallow end as much as possible, but with lake full of water we can't remove the algal growth which makes it slippery (hence slippery ramp notice).
- Regularly cleaned the splash pools to avoid build-up of slippery algae.
- Regular water quality checks from May to September. If bacteria levels are high, we warn users (via red flag and social media).
- Updated safety advice (including water quality) on website and social media.
- Kept open the penstock between the model boat lake and main lake to reduce stagnation in the model boat lake.
- Our volunteers litter picked early every morning in the summer to keep the lakeside clean and clear.

Funding

The lake costs over £25,000 a year to run (repairs, equipment, improvements, training, insurance, website and more), so we must build a reliable income for the future.

National Lottery Heritage Fund

Helen Sharp (trustee) led the preparation of a National Lottery Heritage Fund bid, submitted in 2024 and critical to sustain the charity and marine lake. The bid was successful and secured £95,481. We held a celebratory event on 20 July at the Salthouse and lake with coverage on the BBC and local media.



The project will ensure that Marlens and the lake are resilient and sustainable for the



Trustees' report to AGM April 2025



future so more people can continue to enjoy and benefit from our fantastic and important site. Income must keep pace with lake use so we can meet the mounting operational and administrative demands as these outgrow the capacity of our current, nearly entirely volunteer-led, operating structure.

In September 2024 Kerrie Bruce was appointed as Business Development Manager and Ellie Hookham as Volunteering and Community Development Officer. The project will deliver:

- development of website / customer relationship management systems
- engagement of a fundraising consultant
- development of systems, processes, policies and central storage
- data management
- volunteer support
- community engagement/outreach
- trustee governance review.

It will propose a future operating structure and how to fund it.

Quartet

Helen also led a bid to Quartet under the North Somerset Community Partnership Grants Programme which secured £17,054 to focus on engagement of young people. It funds one day / week of VANS support and a proportion of the Volunteering and Community Development Officer time.



Other funding

Despite membership, website donations and lottery income holding up well, our income has decreased compared to the prior year which had been inflated by filming revenue. We were particularly grateful to Winterfest (£850), Channel Events (£300 for SwimRun), Supway Hire (£250 raffle) and to Jenny Ellis for organising the Bristol Channel Marine Life evening (with speaker Maggie Gamble) which raised £441.



Trustees' report to AGM April 2025



We are incredibly grateful for this ongoing support.

Marlens was the nominated charity of Clevedon Flower Show in 2024 and had a stall on the Salthouse Fields at the August show. We are very grateful to the Flower Show for nominating us. They very generously donated £200 to Marlens, which will appear in next year's report (this current report covers an earlier time period).

Other funding sources for Marlens during 2024:

- Becoming a 'Friend of Clevedon Marine Lake'. These members have a vote in formal decisions, take part in social events and get discounts at Marlens training courses. Trustee Lily Southam runs our membership arrangements and deals with enquiries from the public.
- Marlens Lottery, run by Maggie Norman. This is growing and can be joined online from the lake website. The lottery is a type of membership with the same voting and newsletter benefits.
- Affiliation contributions from clubs who make regular use of the lake, some of whom are from outside Clevedon.
- Registration fees from qualified instructors and coaches who teach clients at the lake. Trustee Mike Perrott checks on registration that instructors are appropriately qualified and have professional insurance.
- Selling merchandise such as our ever-popular Marine Lake bobble hats, led by Lily Southam.
- Donations via QR code on new signs at the lake – led by trustee Helen Sharp (funded by Clevedon Openwater); and donation boxes, maintained by Lily Southam.
- Organising events such as the very successful Lake and Pier Day and Light Up the Lake (unfortunately cancelled at short notice in 2024 due to poor weather) – led by Myles Podmore and Viv French.
- Hire of the lake for external commercial activities – led by trustee Mike Perrott. The fundraiser Level Water 24-hour relay swim was again unfortunately cancelled at the last moment in 2024 due to adverse weather conditions.
- Being visible and raising money at community events run by other organisations e.g. Clevedon Sunday market.



Trustees' report to AGM April 2025



Digital, communications and marketing

Communication with Marlens members and wider audiences is critical. We continued a quarterly newsletter (led by Lily Southam and Viv French) and grew our Facebook following to ~14k. North Somerset Times and BBC Radio Bristol covered Marlens events including lake drains and Lake Day. We continued to host open 'Coffee with Marlens' get-togethers and lottery draws in the Salthouse pub every third Saturday of the month.

In 2023 Digital Consultation (a local business) produced Marlens' digital business plan and in 2024 following confirmation of National Lottery Heritage Funding, they started redesigning the website, alongside a new customer relationship management system. Both will go live in 2025.

Environment

We care for the environment by collecting and binning plastic rubbish from the lake and its surroundings during our frequent clean-ups.

The lake supports a rich ecosystem of marine life. Tim Clouter continued to develop our lake drain activities to preserve this ecosystem. Mike Perrott explored AQUA accreditation for Invasive Non-Native Species safeguards.

Finance and policies

The final accounts for 2023-24 were prepared by our Treasurer Lily Southam and Jill Sandiford. They were inspected by an external examiner and will be posted to the Charity Commission website.

During the year we updated our reserves policy and made the following amendments:

- Increased the contingency reserve, an amount we set aside as a permanent hedge against future uncertainties, to £35,000. The contingency reserve is only spent when income drops to such an extent that the charity cannot continue to operate without support from the reserve.
- Increased our long term provision to £30,000. Long term provisions are built up to cover specific expected substantial items of expenditure which do not recur on an



Trustees' report to AGM April 2025



annual basis, for example, renewal of the Marine Management Organisation licence, accessibility improvements and infrastructure repairs not funded by North Somerset Council. Our lease makes Marlens responsible for the first £3,000 each year spent on maintenance, so we must hold at least this sum in reserve. For larger challenges we can look to NSC for support but there is no guarantee that they could take action quickly, so a larger amount is realistic if we want to keep the lake in service.

- Maintained the project reserve at £10,000 to pay for any significant one-off items of expenditure. Any surplus income from the financial year is added to this reserve.

Over 2024, we also completed work to review the charity's other policies and guidelines, including:

- Health and Safety
- Safeguarding

As part of the National Lottery Heritage Fund work, we will be reviewing all policies over the coming months.

Looking forward

It is important that Clevedon Marine Lake remains a semi-wild, unspoilt open water space accessible to all regardless of income. But we recognise the needs of the lake and its community are changing significantly.

We intend to enhance the value of the lake to the community and expand the groups which can benefit from its safe use. We will continue to identify those changing needs and strive to improve both the lake and Marlens, building our capacity and capability so we are fit for the future.

In 2024-25, we will:

- Explore accessibility options including use of the Hive.
- Develop our reach into and support of the local community (including volunteers), through working with new organisations and audiences.
- Deliver the National Lottery Heritage Fund project (see above).
- Improve the charity's visibility, including through our new digital business plan,



Trustees' report to AGM April 2025



including new website and customer relationship management system – to support fundraising.

- Expand our range of merchandise.
- Organise and deliver 'Lake and Pier Day' and 'Light up the Lake'.
- Support open water swimming events – including Clevedon Triathlon (July 2025).
- Support lake hire for clubs, coaches, events and commercial filming.
- Consider providing additional concrete benches.

Sarah Swash, Chair of Trustees, April 2025

on behalf of Marlens

**Marine Lake Enthusiasts
(MARLENS)
Charity No. 1156426**

ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31st October 2024

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF MARINE LAKE ENTHUSIASTS (MARLENS)

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31st October 2024, which are set out on pages 3 to 5.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed

Xeinadin South Wales & West Limited
Accountants and Business Advisors

Date

Edinburgh House
1-5 Bellevue Road
Clevedon
North Somerset
BS21 7NP

07/03/2025

Profit and Loss

Marlens

For the year ended 31 October 2024

	2024	2023
Turnover		
Bucket Collections	-	846.00
Collection Goblets	363.00	85.00
Events	3,040.00	1,560.00
Friends - new	2,100.00	1,400.00
Friends - renewals	2,900.00	3,939.00
Fundraisers	691.00	143.85
General Donations	2,278.40	1,145.17
Gift aid	2,558.12	3,029.75
Grants	8,810.24	-
Interest Income	950.84	404.13
Lakeside Boxes	912.11	1,199.40
Lottery income	7,885.00	7,575.00
Memberships - Clubs & Coaches	2,030.00	1,860.00
Paypal donations	24.00	20.00
Sales of Goods	5,488.13	3,116.05
Use of Lake - Clubs & Coaches	683.00	1,050.00
Use of Lake - Commercial	680.00	11,200.00
Website Donations	5,408.43	4,743.62
Total Turnover	46,802.27	43,316.97
Cost of Sales		
Closing Stock	(1,194.00)	(3,200.00)
Cost of Goods Sold	1,468.91	3,224.38
Event Costs	1,727.93	1,073.16
Fundraising Costs	704.00	95.06
Lake Camera & Connection	702.86	636.06
Lake Equipment (not capital equipment)	818.19	6,531.54
Lake Improvements	7,407.00	3,599.93
Lake Repairs & Maintenance	141.43	760.77
Lake Samples	3,408.00	-
Lottery Prizes and Expenses	3,680.00	3,725.93
Opening Stock	3,200.00	577.45
Paypal, Sumup & Give As You Live Fees	530.96	373.96
Salary costs	6,684.29	-
Silt Removal	7,254.30	7,064.75
Volunteer Costs	72.81	11.30
Website	210.99	2,610.99
Total Cost of Sales	36,817.67	27,085.28
Gross Profit	9,984.60	16,231.69
Administrative Costs		

Profit and Loss

	2024	2023
Audit & Accountancy fees	192.00	180.00
Bookkeeping & Admin Fees	4,170.35	4,354.50
Depreciation Expense	251.00	-
Health & Safety	1,681.62	240.00
Hive - ongoing costs	50.00	449.00
Hive Refurbishment	-	1,320.00
Insurance	4,465.15	862.60
IT Software and Consumables	262.97	-
Postage, Freight & Courier	20.18	124.40
Recruitment costs	558.00	-
Secretarial & Trustee Costs	919.17	369.35
Telephone, Printing & Stationery	24.98	127.34
Total Administrative Costs	12,595.42	8,027.19
Operating Profit	(2,610.82)	8,204.50
Profit on Ordinary Activities Before Taxation	(2,610.82)	8,204.50
Profit after Taxation	(2,610.82)	8,204.50

Balance Sheet

Marlens
As at 31 October 2024

	31 OCT 2024	31 OCT 2023
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Assets		
Fixed Assets	753.00	-
Total Tangible Assets	753.00	-
Total Fixed Assets	753.00	-
Current Assets		
Cash at bank and in hand		
Boathouse/Heritage Fund	79,757.19	20,000.00
Lottery	9,612.50	4,992.50
Marlens Current Account	7,764.47	14,385.10
Marlens Paypal	1,607.47	616.50
Petty Cash Tins x 2	50.00	50.00
Savings Account	64,133.42	63,182.58
Total Cash at bank and in hand	162,925.05	103,226.68
Stock	1,194.00	3,200.00
Total Current Assets	164,119.05	106,426.68
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
Accounts Payable	5,241.93	170.00
Total Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	5,241.93	170.00
Net Current Assets (Liabilities)	158,877.12	106,256.68
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	159,630.12	106,256.68
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year		
Other Creditors	55,984.26	-
Total Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	55,984.26	-
Net Assets	103,645.86	106,256.68
Capital and Reserves		
Current Year Earnings	(2,610.82)	8,204.50
Retained Earnings	106,256.68	98,052.18
Total Capital and Reserves	103,645.86	106,256.68

Treasurer's report for the financial year ending 31 October 2024

2023/2024 saw a drop in funds coming into Marlens overall. This is a very similar situation to the previous year. We had some planned fundraisers not go ahead due to the poor weather we had in the summer and a reduction in donations via the website and in the lakeside boxes.

We have finished the year with £103,645.86 in capital and reserves, (£106,256.86 in 2023) with a loss of £2,610.82 compared to 2023 surplus of £8,204.50.

The major sources of income and expenditure in the Profit and Loss with any significance to 2023 are:

Receipts:

- We were awarded a grant of £95,481 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for the Clevedon Marine Lake 'Fit for the Future' project. 50% of the grant was received during the year and £8,810 has been recognised in this year's accounts to match the expenditure incurred. We were also awarded a grant of £17,054 from the Quartet Community Foundation. These funds, together with the unspent National Lottery funds are held on the balance sheet as deferred income (£55,984) and will be released in the coming year against the relevant expenditure. These funds are held in a separate account and all expenditures that fall under the terms of the grants allocated to that account.

- Bucket, goblet and Lakeside Donation boxes decreased at £1,275.11 (2023 £2,130.40), presumably because visitors carry less cash. However, we saw an increase in activity via the website, £5,408.43 for 2024 and £4,743.62 for 2023. General donations which includes donations received via the QR codes displayed at the lake showed an increase at £2,278.40 (2023 £1,145.17).

- Fundraisers includes the proceeds from 2 small events and increased ever so slightly with £691 being taken vs £143.85 in 2023. This was due to a large-scale fundraiser being cancelled due to poor weather and due to this being the 2nd year it was cancelled it is unlikely to return.

- Interest income comprises interest received on the Barclays savings account.

- Lottery income continues to do well, with £7,885 in 2024 and £7,575 in 2023.

- Membership is comparable to 2023. Clubs and coaches for 2024 £2,030 with £1,860 in 2023. Friends (both new and renewing) £5,000 in 2024 and £5,339 in 2023, however we have not had the people power to chase this revenue, therefore we are happy that this remains as strong as it is for this year.

- Events income saw an increase thanks to our committed events team and their efforts, £3,040 for 2024, with £1,560 in 2023.

- Lake hire, Commercial use of the lake decreased this year as we had not large commercial bookings with us taking £680 in 2024 and £11,200 in 2023. Unfortunately, clubs and coaches were down, again due to poor weather meaning less usage and then also the lack of an admin role to chase for payment and manage the calendar efficiently. 2024 saw us with £683 vs £1,050 in 2023.

- Sale of goods, this year we have increased our range of merchandise we have sold alongside the Marine Lake bobble hats, however due to last year's delivery was late so a section of the revenue

will be recorded in this year's accounts, the revenue being £5,488.13 in 2024, compared to £3,116.05 in 2023.

Expenditure:

-The largest single expenditure for 2024 was the cost of extending the slip way, this cost us £6,840, followed by silt removal of £7,254.30 which was comparable to 2023's costs. We also incurred costs of £3,408 relating to the testing of samples which had not been incurred previously.

- Another substantial cost the increase in our insurance costs – this has had a huge jump from last year and is now sitting at £4,465.

-Event costs are slightly higher at £1,527.93 for 2024 compared with £1,073.16 in 2023.

-Lake equipment purchases were down on 2023. 2024 costs are £818.19 against £3,782 in 2023.-
Health and Safety expenditure related to payments to a health and safety consultant which the Trustees appointed part way through 2023/24.

Following receipt of the National Lottery Heritage Fund grant, expenditures from this account were mainly the reimbursement of salaries for two staff employed by North Somerset Council on a short term contract seconded to MARLENS and they were £6,684.29. We also spent £200 for a celebratory event to thank the Heritage Lottery Heritage Fund and post on social media. The remaining admin costs relating to the grant are mainly recruitment costs £558, bookkeeping invoices £775 and depreciation of £251 relating to the 2 laptops we bought for two staff members.

At the year end the charity held reserves of £103,645.86. In line with the reserves policy, these are designated as follows:

	£
Contingency reserve (unplanned and urgent)	35,000
Project or capital reserve (planned minor works)	10,000
Long term provisions	30,000
Surplus (to add to project/capital reserve)	28,645
Total	103,645

Lily Southam
.....

Lilyblue Southam

Treasurer

7 March 2025

**Marine Lake Enthusiasts
(MARLENS)
Charity No. 1156426**

ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31st October 2024

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Marlens
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Treasurer's report for the financial year ending 31 October 2024

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We have finished the year with £103,645.86 in capital and reserves, (£106,256.86 in 2023) with a loss of £2,610.82 compared to 2023 surplus of £8,204.50.

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Receipts:

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- Events income saw an increase thanks to our committed events team and their efforts, £3,040 for 2024, with £1,560 in 2023.

- Lake hire, Commercial use of the lake decreased this year as we had not large commercial bookings with us taking £680 in 2024 and £11,200 in 2023. Unfortunately, clubs and coaches were down, again due to poor weather meaning less usage and then also the lack of an admin role to chase for payment and manage the calendar efficiently. 2024 saw us with £683 vs £1,050 in 2023.

- Sale of goods, this year we have increased our range of merchandise we have sold alongside the Marine Lake bobble hats, however due to last year's delivery was late so a section of the revenue

will be recorded in this year's accounts, the revenue being £5,488.13 in 2024, compared to £3,116.05 in 2023.

Expenditure:

-The largest single expenditure for 2024 was the cost of extending the slip way, this cost us £6,840, followed by silt removal of £7,254.30 which was comparable to 2023's costs. We also incurred costs of £3,408 relating to the testing of samples which had not been incurred previously.

- Another substantial cost the increase in our insurance costs – this has had a huge jump from last year and is now sitting at £4,465.

-Event costs are slightly higher at £1,527.93 for 2024 compared with £1,073.16 in 2023.

-Lake equipment purchases were down on 2023. 2024 costs are £818.19 against £3,782 in 2023.-
Health and Safety expenditure related to payments to a health and safety consultant which the Trustees appointed part way through 2023/24.

Following receipt of the National Lottery Heritage Fund grant, expenditures from this account were mainly the reimbursement of salaries for two staff employed by North Somerset Council on a short term contract seconded to MARLENS and they were £6,684.29. We also spent £200 for a celebratory event to thank the Heritage Lottery Heritage Fund and post on social media. The remaining admin costs relating to the grant are mainly recruitment costs £558, bookkeeping invoices £775 and depreciation of £251 relating to the 2 laptops we bought for two staff members.

At the year end the charity held reserves of £103,645.86. In line with the reserves policy, these are designated as follows:

	£
Contingency reserve (unplanned and urgent)	35,000
Project or capital reserve (planned minor works)	10,000
Long term provisions	30,000
Surplus (to add to project/capital reserve)	28,645
Total	103,645

Lily Southam
.....

Lilyblue Southam

Treasurer

7 March 2025

MARINE LAKE ENTHUSIASTS (MARLENS)

England & Wales - Charity number 1156426

Accounts

**Marlen Lake Enthusiasts
(MARLENS)
Charity No. 1156426**

ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31st October 2023

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF MARINE LAKE ENTHUSIASTS (MARLENS)

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31st October 2023, which are set out on pages 3 to 5.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed

Newsham Hanson Accountants Limited
Accountants and Business Advisors

Date

14/03/2024.

Edinburgh House
1-5 Bellevue Road
Clevedon
North Somerset
BS21 7NP

Profit and Loss

Marlens

For the year ended 31 October 2023

	2023	2022
Turnover		
Bucket Collections	846.00	1,365.14
Collection Goblets	85.00	299.91
Events	1,560.00	693.00
Friends - new	1,400.00	3,350.00
Friends - renewals	3,939.00	2,999.00
Fundraisers	143.85	13,697.78
General Donations	1,145.17	1,096.54
Gift aid	3,029.75	4,860.85
Grants	-	20,012.00
Interest Income	404.13	16.35
Lakeside Boxes	1,199.40	3,130.02
Lottery income	7,575.00	7,685.00
Memberships - Clubs & Coaches	1,860.00	1,910.00
Paypal donations	20.00	-
Sales of Goods	3,116.05	6,399.38
Use of Lake - Clubs & Coaches	1,050.00	3,386.00
Use of Lake - Commercial	11,200.00	11,333.00
Website Donations	4,743.62	3,867.85
Total Turnover	43,316.97	86,101.82
Cost of Sales		
Closing Stock	(3,200.00)	(577.45)
Cost of Goods Sold	3,224.38	4,115.00
Equipment Repair	-	30.00
Event Costs	1,073.16	1,859.24
Fundraising Costs	95.06	740.58
Lake Camera & Connection	636.06	812.02
Lake Equipment (not capital equipment)	6,531.54	3,781.94
Lake Improvements	3,599.93	-
Lake Repairs & Maintenance	760.77	1,528.33
Lottery Prizes and Expenses	3,725.93	3,734.60
Opening Stock	577.45	409.45
Paypal, Sumup & Give As You Live Fees	373.96	332.67
Silt Removal	7,064.75	9,406.20
Volunteer Costs	11.30	116.37
Website	2,610.99	2,560.00
Total Cost of Sales	27,085.28	28,848.95
Gross Profit	16,231.69	57,252.87
Administrative Costs		
Audit & Accountancy fees	180.00	151.20

	2023	2022
Bookkeeping & Admin Fees	4,354.50	3,853.70
Health & Safety	240.00	-
Hive - ongoing costs	449.00	10.00
Hive Refurbishment	1,320.00	22,259.27
Insurance	862.60	1,020.30
Postage, Freight & Courier	124.40	189.11
Secretarial & Trustee Costs	369.35	-
Telephone, Printing & Stationery	127.34	360.25
Travel & Subsistence	-	560.67
Total Administrative Costs	8,027.19	28,404.50
Operating Profit	8,204.50	28,848.37
Profit on Ordinary Activities Before Taxation	8,204.50	28,848.37
Profit after Taxation	8,204.50	28,848.37

Balance Sheet

Marlens

As at 31 October 2023

	31 OCT 2023	31 OCT 2022
Current Assets		
Cash at bank and in hand		
Lottery	4,992.50	872.50
Marlens Current Account	14,385.10	19,580.45
Marlens Paypal	616.50	858.19
Petty Cash Tins x 2	50.00	50.00
Reserves Account	20,000.00	20,000.00
Savings Account	63,182.58	52,778.45
Total Cash at bank and in hand	103,226.68	94,139.59
Accounts Receivable	-	1,400.00
Other Debtors	-	2,071.00
Prepayments	-	862.60
Stock	3,200.00	577.45
Total Current Assets	106,426.68	99,050.64
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
Accounts Payable	170.00	998.46
Total Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	170.00	998.46
Net Current Assets (Liabilities)	106,256.68	98,052.18
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	106,256.68	98,052.18
Net Assets	106,256.68	98,052.18
Capital and Reserves		
Current Year Earnings	8,204.50	28,848.37
Retained Earnings	98,052.18	69,203.81
Total Capital and Reserves	106,256.68	98,052.18

Treasurer's report for the financial year ending 31st October 2023

2022/2023 saw a drop in funds coming into Marlens overall. Going into this year we thought that we may see a reduction in donations due to the cost of living crisis and increases in costs. Due to the wet summer, we saw one of our biggest fundraisers cancelled which had an impact. We invested in new signage lake side towards the end of the summer with QR codes for people to make donations using their phones, this is slowly gaining traction and recognition as we are seeing an increase in donations coming in this way. We are hopeful that we will see an increase of donations this way over 2024. Despite increases in costs and the drop in donations via our physical donation boxes and the website, we have maintained our earnings via commercial hire and lake usage and some fundraisers. We have finished the year with £106,256.68 in capital and reserves, (£98,052.18 in 2022) with a decrease on last year for receipts against expenditure, 2023 £8,204.50 compared to 2022 £28,848.37. Of these reserves, £8,000 has been designated as restricted. The remaining reserves are unrestricted and have been designated as follows: £25,000 held to protect the charity against a significant drop in income; £10,000 held for licence costs, a replacement hoist, utility charges and capital expenditure liabilities.

The major sources of income and expenditure in the Profit and Loss with any significance to 2022 are:

Receipts:

-Bucket, goblet and Lakeside Donation boxes decreased with 2023 standing at £2130.40 compared to £4795 in 2022. However, the donation activity via the website saw an increase, £4743.62 for 2023 and £3867.85 for 2022.

- Fundraisers saw a drop in income, largely due to a cancellation due to poor weather of our biggest fundraiser. £143.85 was taken in 2023 compared to £13,698 being taken in 2022.

- Lottery income has remained consistent, with £7,575 in 2023 and £7,685 in 2022.

- Membership has decreased, we lost someone from an administration role half way through the year who chased renewals and I believe that this has seen us see a drop in membership. This financial year sees friends income at £5,339 for 2023 compared to £6,349 in 2022. Clubs and coaches remained pretty level, £1,860 in 2023 and £1,910 in 2022.

- Events income is £1560 for 2023, which is up on 2022 (£693) with most of the income coming from the return of Winterfest at the Salthouse.

- Lake hire, commercial & clubs is very healthy for 2023 as we had a repeat filming booking and the yearly revenue was £11,200 compared to £11,333 in 2022. For clubs and coaches, we took £1,050 in 2023 against £3,386 for 2022. This was another category that got hit by the lake admin and also the wet summer.

-Sale of goods, again this year we sold Marine Lake bobble hats, however the stock paid for in 2023 did not arrive and we could not sell it until after the end of year, therefore this revenue will appear in the 2024 accounts. The revenue was £3,116.05 in 2023, compared to £6,399.38 2022.

Expenditure:

-The largest expenditure for 2023 was the silt removal at £7,064 which is a decrease from 2022 which was £9,406.20, this however was higher due to the timings of the invoices.

-Event costs were lower at £1,073.16 for 2023 compared with £1,859.24 in 2022.

-Lake equipment & improvements are both higher this year as we invested in some new large floor signage to ask patrons to not bring dogs lakeside. We also invested in some new handrails as part of our promise to keep the lake fit for use and accessible. 2023 costs are £6,531.54 in equipment and £3599.93 in improvements. We have changed the way we report on this for this year splitting the two categories. In 2022 the costs were £3781.94.

Aged Creditors and Debtors:

-At the end of the financial year there was 1 creditor which was 1 cheque for £170 which is an uncashed lottery winning.

As a board of trustees, we are aware we are very lucky with the donations and generosity that we see a good level of donations coming in. We are going to focus on seeking out opportunities to host additional fundraisers, apply for grants and funding and look at less weather reliant fundraisers. We also need to look into the costs of hiring an administrator to manage memberships and fees against what we potentially would earn. We are hopeful that as the weather warms our new signage will see the online donations increase over the falling cash donations. We also have our big summer swim fundraiser booked in and are hopeful for good weather. Marlens will continue to promote the lake and do our best to seek new fundraising opportunities and maintain the lake to make sure it is accessible and safe, whilst remaining within our financial capabilities.

Lilyblue Southam

Treasurer

4/4/24

MARINE LAKE ENTHUSIASTS (MARLENS)

England & Wales - Charity number 1156426

Accounts

**Marlen Lake Enthusiasts
(MARLENS)
Charlty No. 1156426**

ACCOUNTS

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF MARINE LAKE ENTHUSIASTS (MARLENS)

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31st October 2022, which are set out on pages 3 to 5.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed Newsham Hanson

Newsham Hanson Accountants Limited
Accountants & Business Advisors

Edinburgh House
1-5 Bellevue Road
Clevedon
North Somerset
BS21 7NP

Date... 28/03/2023

Profit and Loss

Marlens

For the year ended 31 October 2022

	2022	2021
Turnover		
Bucket Collections	1,365.14	-
Collection Goblets	299.91	-
Events	693.00	-
Friends - new	3,350.00	-
Friends - renewals	2,999.00	-
Fundraisers	13,697.78	3,484.66
General Donations	1,096.54	1,957.37
Gift aid	4,860.85	3,667.39
Grants	20,012.00	-
Interest Income	16.35	2.88
Lakeside Boxes	3,130.02	5,323.42
Lottery Income	7,685.00	7,050.00
Membership & Friends up to Oct 2021	-	10,623.00
Memberships - Clubs & Coaches	1,910.00	-
Sales of Goods	6,399.38	120.80
Use of Lake - Clubs & Coaches	3,386.00	1,752.00
Use of Lake - Commercial	11,333.00	-
Website Donations	3,867.85	4,458.86
Total Turnover	86,101.82	38,440.38
Cost of Sales		
Closing Stock	(577.45)	-
Cost of Goods Sold	4,115.00	-
Equipment Repair	30.00	-
Event Costs	1,859.24	90.00
Fundraising Costs	740.58	1,187.30
Lake Camera & Connection	812.02	504.00
Lake Equipment (not capital equipment)	3,781.94	4,618.89
Lake Repairs & Maintenance	1,528.33	835.87
Lottery Prizes and Expenses	3,734.60	3,377.92
Opening Stock	409.45	-
Paypal, Sumup & Give As You Live Fees	332.67	382.59
Silt Removal	9,406.20	3,030.00
Volunteer Costs	116.37	-
Website	2,560.00	194.00
Total Cost of Sales	28,848.95	14,220.57
Gross Profit	57,252.87	24,219.81
Administrative Costs		
Audit & Accountancy fees	151.20	120.00
Bookkeeping & Admin Fees	3,853.70	2,673.88

Profit and Loss

	2022	2021
Hive - ongoing costs	10.00	-
Hive Refurbishment	22,259.27	-
Insurance	1,020.30	266.40
Postage, Freight & Courier	189.11	99.64
Secretarial & Trustee Costs	-	445.00
Telephone, Printing & Stationery	360.25	95.55
Travel & Subsistence	560.67	7.81
Total Administrative Costs	28,404.50	3,708.28
Operating Profit	28,848.37	20,511.53
Profit on Ordinary Activities Before Taxation	28,848.37	20,511.53
Profit after Taxation	28,848.37	20,511.53

Balance Sheet

Marlens

As at 31 October 2022

	31 OCT 2022	31 OCT 2021
Current Assets		
Cash at bank and in hand		
Boathouse Project	20,000.00	22,500.00
Lottery	872.50	842.50
Marlens Current Account	19,580.45	3,416.52
Marlens Paypal	858.19	526.14
Petty Cash Tins x 2	50.00	35.00
S Price Restricted	-	778.00
Savings Account	52,778.45	40,979.39
Total Cash at bank and in hand	94,139.59	69,077.55
Accounts Receivable	1,400.00	60.00
Other Debtors	2,071.00	-
Prepayments	862.60	-
Stock	577.45	409.45
Total Current Assets	99,050.64	69,547.00
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
Accounts Payable	998.46	343.19
Total Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	998.46	343.19
Net Current Assets (Liabilities)	98,052.18	69,203.81
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	98,052.18	69,203.81
Net Assets	98,052.18	69,203.81
Capital and Reserves		
Current Year Earnings	28,848.37	20,511.53
Retained Earnings	69,203.81	48,692.28
Total Capital and Reserves	98,052.18	69,203.81

Treasurer's report for the financial year ending 31st October 2022

Marlens has finished the year in a much stronger position than we thought we would midway through the year. Despite increased costs and a small reduction in donations via the website and in the lakeside boxes, we have increased earnings via commercial hire and lake usage and fundraisers. We have finished the year with £98052 in capital and reserves, (£69204 in 2021) with an increase on last year for receipts against expenditure, 2022 £28848 compared to 2021 £20512. Of these reserves, £9556 has been designated as restricted.

The major sources of income and expenditure in the Profit and Loss with any significance to 2021 are:

Receipts:

- Bucket, goblet and Lakeside Donation boxes decreased slightly with 2022 standing at £4795 compared to £5323 in 2021. This is also inline with the donation activity via the website, £3868 for 2022 and £4459 for 2021.
- However fundraisers increased dramatically with £13698 being taken vs £3485 in 2021. It seems donations have increased but the method of donation has varied.
- Lottery income has increased slightly with £7685 in 2022 and £7050 in 2021.
- Membership has been recorded slightly differently for this financial year but sees us at £8259 for 2022 which does see us down from 2021 but inline with pre-covid times as 2019 was £8138.
- Events income is £693 for 2022, which is down on 2021 (£1437) with most of the income from Light up the Lake and Lake Day being categorised under bucket collections.
- Lake hire, which now has two income lines, commercial & clubs is very healthy for 2022 at £11333 for commercial use and £3386 for clubs and coaches, against £1752 for 2021.
- We took receipt of a grant from North Somerset Council of £20000 for the refurbishment of the golf course kiosk into a disabled changing room and volunteer space.
- Sale of goods, this year we sold Marine Lake bobble hats, the revenue being £6399, compared to 2021 £121.

Expenditure:

- The largest expenditure for 2022 was the refurbishment of the Hive which at the end of the financial year sits at £22259.
- Event costs are higher £1859 for 2022 compared with £90 in 2021 as there were no events due to covid in 2021.
- Lake equipment purchases were down on 2021. 2022 costs are £3782 against £4618 in 2021.
- Silt removal costs are higher for 2022 as there was a late invoice submission in the previous accounts which ran over into this year's accounts. The costs for 2022 are £9406 and 2021 are £3030.
- Cost of goods costs – the cost of the bobble hats we have bought looks high as we ordered a second batch at the end of the financial year.

Aged Creditors and Debtors:

-At the end of the financial year there were 6 supplier invoices awaiting payment totalling £998. These just happened to fall at year end and were all paid within 2 weeks.

-2 lake hire invoices were outstanding for payment at financial year end totalling £1400. Both have indicated that they wish to make payment but have financial delays. We will continue to chase these.

Other Debtors and Prepayments:

-Other debtors of £2071 represents bobble hat sales made in October 2022 where the income was received early November 2022.

-The prepayment of £863 is insurance paid in October 2022 which relates to the following year.

Due to the current economical climate the Trustees are hopeful that our income may stay the same however do not expect to see a huge increase as the cost of living crisis may impact donations. Our budget for 2023 has been cautiously adjusted to reflect this. Marlen's are going to continue to promote the lake, seek out fundraising opportunities and improve the facilities to make the lake accessible to more users, whilst remaining within our financial capabilities.

.....

Lilyblue Southam

Date:

MARINE LAKE ENTHUSIASTS (MARLENS)

England & Wales - Charity number 1156426

Accounts

**Marlen Lake Enthusiasts
(MARLENS)
Charity No. 1156426**

ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31st October 2021

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2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed Newsham Hanson.

Newsham Hanson Accountants Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants

Date 07/02/2022

Edinburgh House
1-5 Bellevue Road
Clevedon
North Somerset
BS21 7NP

Profit and Loss
Marlens
For the 12 months ended 31 October 2021

	Oct-21	Oct-20
Income		
Bucket Collections	£0.00	£1,530.76
Collection Goblets and Lakeside Boxes	£5,323.42	£4,401.14
Events	£0.00	£1,437.65
EveryClick Donations	£0.00	£1,244.42
Fundraisers	£3,484.66	£2,739.63
General Donations	£1,957.37	£581.32
Gift aid	£3,667.39	£1,033.52
Interest Income	£2.88	£35.50
Lake hire	£1,752.00	£845.00
Lottery income	£7,050.00	£5,430.00
Membership	£10,623.00	£8,138.00
Sales of Goods	£120.80	£219.35
Website Donations	£4,458.86	£0.00
Total Income	£38,440.38	£27,636.29
Less Cost of Sales		
CML Website Development	£0.00	£935.00
Event Costs	£90.00	£889.06
Fundraising & Volunteer Costs	£1,187.30	£958.03
Lake Improvements	£0.00	£840.00
Lake Camera & Connection	£504.00	£504.00
Lake Equipment (not capital equipment)	£4,618.89	£6,730.62
Lake Repairs & Maintenance	£835.87	£883.08
Lake Samples	£0.00	£240.00
Lottery Prizes and Expenses	£3,377.92	£2,418.52
Silt Removal	£3,030.00	£8,892.00
Website	£194.00	£0.00
Total Cost of Sales	£13,837.98	£23,290.31
Gross Profit	£24,602.40	£4,345.98
Less Operating Expenses		
Audit & Accountancy fees	£120.00	£148.80
Bookkeeping & Booking Fees	£2,673.88	£2,156.30
Insurance	£266.40	£1,624.20
Secretarial Fees	£445.00	£180.00
Paypal Fees	£382.59	£185.20
Postage, Freight & Courier	£99.64	£117.39
Printing & Stationery	£95.55	£112.04
Travel - National	£7.81	£0.00
Total Operating Expenses	£4,090.87	£4,523.93
Net Profit	£20,511.53	(£177.95)

Balance Sheet
Marlens
As at 31 October 2021

	31-Oct-21	31-Oct-20
Assets		
Bank		
Boathouse Project	£22,500.00	£13,500.00
Marlens	£3,416.52	£3,064.14
Marlens Lottery	£842.50	£1,542.50
Marlens Paypal	£526.14	£1,068.92
Marlens Savings	£40,979.39	£27,976.51
Marlens Tin	£35.00	£35.00
S Price Lake Repairs Restrict	£778.00	£778.00
Total Bank	£69,077.55	£47,965.07
Current Assets		
Accounts Receivable	£60.00	£510.00
Stock	£409.45	£409.45
Total Current Assets	£469.45	£919.45
Total Assets	£69,547.00	£48,884.52
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	£343.19	£192.24
Total Current Liabilities	£343.19	£192.24
Total Liabilities	£343.19	£192.24
Net Assets	£69,203.81	£48,692.28
Equity		
Current Year Earnings	£20,511.53	(£177.95)
Retained Earnings	£48,692.28	£48,870.23
Total Equity	£69,203.81	£48,692.28

Treasurer's report for the financial year ending 31st October 2021

Marlen's financial position at year end despite the continuing uncertainty of the Covid crisis, once again finished the financial year in a fairly strong position with capital and reserves for planned future projects, standing at £69,203.81 (£48,692.28; 2020) a healthy £20,511.53 (-£177.95; 2020) increase in Receipts against Expenditure.

The major sources of income and expenditure in the 'Receipts & Expenditure' (Profit & Loss) account with any significant variance to 2020 are;

Receipts

- Bucket donations, Goblets and Lakeside boxes show a small decrease down to £5,323 (£5,931; 2020) however a shift in how money was deposited by individuals saw Membership & Friends increase to £10,623 up from (£8,138; 2020).
- Also Website Donations increased to £4,458 (£1,244; 2020)
- Lottery Income increased to £7,050 (£5,430; 2020).
- Membership receipts also saw a big increase to £10,623 (£8,138; 2020) and this was largely due to increased footfall and many of the regular visitors to the lake joining Marlen's.
- Events income shows zero (£1,437; 2020) simply due to only a few scheduled events being run due to Covid and Fundraisers being the main recipient of how the money was accounted for in the accounts £3,484 (£2,739; 2020).
- Lake hire revenue increased to £1,752 (£845; 2020).

Expenditure

- Event costs not surprisingly were low £90 (£889; 2020).
- Lake Equipment purchases were down £4,618 (£6,730; 2020) although allocated funds in the budget were not used in the financial year.
- Silt Removal (Dredging) costs are lower at £3,030 (£8,892; 2020). However, this is an invoice timing issue as the contractor provided a November dated invoice and will be entered into the 2021/22 accounts.
- Overheads are also lower at £4,090 (£4,529; 2020). This is due to some Insurance costs for 2020/21 not being submitted by the underwriters before year end and will be entered into the 2021/22 accounts.

The Trustees are again optimistic that the income for the coming year will be at a similar level, although the continuing Covid crisis means the budget for 2022 will be cautiously adjusted to reflect this. Marlen's will continue to improve facilities and encourage more activity on the lake within our financial capabilities.



..... 11.11.21
Mr Robert K Slee

MARINE LAKE ENTHUSIASTS (MARLENS)

England & Wales - Charity number 1156426

Accounts

The Marlens CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) is a local, volunteer-run community organisation which runs Clevedon Marine Lake for the benefit of the community. Marlens has a 50 year lease on the lake from North Somerset Council (from 2015- 2065).

A major refurbishment in summer 2015 (funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, North Somerset Council and Clevedon Council) restored the lake to "as new" condition, and triggered an explosion in use by a wide range of people. This report covers the year November 2019 to October 2020 with a look ahead to 2021.

Objectives

Marlens main objective is still "To bring life to Clevedon Marine Lake" but now we are a registered charity this has to be expressed more formally as:

The Objects of the CIO are:

1. *To provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances or the public at large with the object of improving their conditions of life.*
2. *To advance in life and help young people through:*
 - (a) *The provision of recreational and leisure time activities provided in the interest of social welfare, designed to improve their conditions of life;*
 - (b) *Providing support and activities which develop their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as mature and responsible individuals.*
3. *To secure, preserve, protect, develop and improve the features of historic or public interest in relation to Clevedon Marine Lake and its surrounding area.*

Key elements this year have been Recreation and Social Welfare, while continuing to provide for Young People.

What have we done to meet these objectives?

The renovation of the lake in 2015 dealt with the leaks, improved the drainage, re-instated an island for swimmers, improved wheelchair and disability access to the lakeside and created a new splash pool area for young children and families.

The renovation did not change the basic "look and feel" of the lake (other than dealing with the dilapidation) and installed interpretation boards to explain the lake history. We also have a Discovery Trail leaflet leading from the pier to the lake which highlights heritage features such as the ring bolt which used to secure changing cubicles on the lakeside and the "core seat" taken from the

hole drilled through the outer wall to put in the new sluice.

Young people and families have been quick to use the lake and paddling pools for recreation when the sun shines.

Clevedon Canoe Club and Clevedon Sailing Club still have enthusiastic youngsters who are developing their skills, and Clevedon Marine Active runs regular paddle skills courses for St.Nicholas Chantry primary school, as well as ad-hoc sessions for other schools and youth organisations. We also have registered coaches: independent operators who provide personal tuition to individuals and groups.

We have not ignored the older generation, installing additional concrete seats around the lake where they can rest while watching the activity.

However this year has been dominated by the Covid-19 Pandemic. The lake is considered to be part of the public beach so has remained open for individual exercise throughout the pandemic. It has been in regular use by individual walkers, swimmers, cold-water dippers and paddleboarders, providing valuable wellbeing (both physical and mental) for those concerned.

Lake Users

The lake is part of the Clevedon seafront promenade, so has a steady footfall throughout the year of people who enjoy the view as they pass or sit to watch what is going on.

Once "Covid Lockdown 1" had ended, the summer of 2019 saw regular use of the lake by our member clubs, coaches, individuals and the public in general.

The boat hire concession was intermittent but will continue with improvements in 2020.

A new user in 2020 has been the Clevedon Parkrun at 9-9:30 each Saturday morning. It is growing rapidly in popularity and, when Covid permits, now has hundreds of runners of all ages and abilities. The regular route includes the lower promenade along the lake and we are happy to accommodate this popular community activity.

Finally there has been heavy use by the general public: individuals from far and near using the lake for crabbing, swimming, boating, having picnics or just going for a stroll to enjoy the view. The island was very popular with swimmers, especially young people, and throughout the summer there was rarely a daylight hour when the lake didn't have somebody swimming and somebody paddling in the splash pools. The lake is also a place where local young people can hang out, relax and meet their friends. We would like them to value and protect the lake, and use it to grow their own capabilities, and we see some indication of this happening.

Managing the Use

We see several kinds of use:

- Individuals using the lake. This is free of charge but we appreciate donations. We try to make it easy for those who enjoy the lake to contribute to its upkeep through our lakeside donation boxes or online.
- Member club sessions.
- Classes run by individual instructors who have registered with Marlens (registration includes a check on their qualifications, safeguarding check, first-aid qualification and risk assessment)
- Paid services such as boat hire, training courses, parties, events. These are provided by our registered coaches, our member clubs or our boat hire concessionaire.
- People hiring the lake from Marlens for their own activities and events.

All activities and events should be on the lake calendar which you can see on the Marlens web site. Viv French (bookkeeper@marlens.org.uk) keeps this up to date with the help of trustees Mike Perrott and Rowan Clarke.

In most cases these different activities can share the lake at the same time. There are some safety issues as the lake becomes busier, especially when people are learning to sail, so in 2020 the Sailing Club launched a new scheme during sailing sessions. A floating rope divides the lake in two with sailing at the pier end and all other activities asked to keep to the island end.

Other safety actions:

- There are now two defibrillators (AEDs) near the lake, one on the Coastguard station and one on the Salhouse pub.
- Slippery ramp notice on the ramp into the water at the splash pool end. We clean the ramp as much as we can, but with lake full of water we can't remove the algae which make it slippery.
- In 2021 we will install steps near the ramp as an alternative way into and out of the lake.
- Regular cleaning of the splash pools to avoid the build-up of slippery algae. This is made easier by the new drain onto the beach.
- Safety advice on the web site in the FAQs.
- First aid courses for volunteers (though our course had to be canceled in 2020 because of Covid).
- Regular water quality checks from May to September. If bacteria levels are high we warn users (red flag), empty the lake at the next spring tide and refill from the Bristol Channel.

Maintenance and Improvements

In 2019, North Somerset funded a new drain from the splash pools onto the beach. This was something we knew we wanted originally, but couldn't afford at the restoration in 2015. It has made it much quicker and easier to drain and clean the pools (no need for pumping). Our volunteers now aim to do this

every weekend, which should enable us to stop the pools getting slippery.

The 5 concrete seats we installed in 2019 proved very popular and are heavily used by swimmers, families and people who just want to sit and look. We therefore installed additional seats in March 2020.

Our marine lake fills from the turbid Bristol Channel, and every overtopping tide deposits some silt in the lake. This has been building up since the lake was renovated in 2015 and was becoming a problem. The Bristol Channel is an important wildlife site and it has taken us a whole year to get official approval to dredge our silt and tip it back into the channel. We now have a 10-year licence to dredge for one week each October and March, starting October 2019. Results so far have been encouraging. It looks as though this regular dredging will clear the backlog of silt within two or three years, and then keep on top of it.

Funding

We need to build a reliable income. The lake costs money to run properly (repairs, equipment, improvements, training, insurance, web site...) these activities need coordination and we also need to market the lake and lake activities.

Principal funding sources for Marlens in the past year, have been:

- ☐ Marlens Lottery which is slowly growing and can now be joined online from the lake web site. People can also join Marlens directly without joining the lottery, as "Friends of Clevedon Marine Lake". These members have a say in formal decisions such as the election of trustees, and in return... well we don't yet have much to offer in return apart from our thanks, an exclusive swim hat or tote bag, and the satisfaction of helping Marlens to succeed. We will have social events as a thank you to volunteers and members and there will be discounts for members at Marlens training courses and other events.
- ☐ An affiliation contribution from clubs who make regular use of the lake, some of whom are from outside Clevedon.
- ☐ Registration fees from qualified instructors who wish to teach clients at the lake. We check on registration that instructors are appropriately qualified, have current DBS checks and have professional insurance.
- ☐ Donation boxes at the lake, which we encourage the many people who use the lake to put something in each time they use the lake.

The pandemic caused the cancellation of other activities we would usually have run:

- ☐ Events throughout the year (for example Winterfest, Lake Day, Open Water Series, visit to Concorde museum, Clevedon Long Swim, Last Night of the Proms, Light Up the Lake)
- ☐ Hire of the lake for external commercial events such as triathlons and filming.

- Being visible (and raising some money) at community events run by other organisations (Hill Road St Nicholas Fayre...).
- Talks to local groups (WI, Probus, Bridge Business Club...)
- Grants for specific projects associated with our objectives.
- Donation buckets at events such as Light up the Lake.

As you can see from the accounts, all this normally adds up to a useful sum of money each year. The pandemic impacted many of our usual sources of income, but lake users largely made up the shortfall by donations and memberships. We are very grateful for this support.

Structure

We have to make sure that we continue to listen attentively to the views of the whole community, not just those who pay, so we have a working structure with three parts:

- An operations team responsible for day-to-day running of the lake and associated activities, composed largely of lake users and volunteers.
 - Maintenance team led by Bob Slee and Alan Wilson.
 - Love the Lake cleaning team which is now coordinated via WhatsApp.
 - Lake activities led by the clubs and lake users
- A board of unpaid volunteer trustees who carry formal responsibility, set the budget for the operations teams and make sure we don't go bankrupt.
- Informal consultation and listening to provide a communication channel with active users, our volunteers, young people and the wider community. This is implemented in various ways:
 - Our online presence (Facebook and Twitter) managed for us by Carol Price (who has now handed over to Laura Nesbitt)
 - Publicity and Marketing led initially by Kate Gay, and now by Rowan Clarke.
 - An open “Coffee with Marlens” get-together in the Salthouse bar every second Saturday of the month – 9am at the community boat store for an hour or so cleaning up the lake then 11am in the Salthouse for a natter over coffee. Everyone welcome.
 - Open discussion meetings with lake users 2-3 times per year, plus our open discussion at the AGM.
 - Informal feedback from our volunteers, users and concerned citizens, plus contact with schools.

Volunteers

Volunteers are a key to success – and every organisation in town is looking for them!

The lake cleaning team, have cleaned the lake every weekend through the summer and after over-topping tides through the winter.

The technical work has continued, following the “how to” guides left by Alan Wilson, again all done by volunteers (except where we employed a contractor for a specific task, such as installing concrete seats);

In the background we have been thinking about how to make sure that our volunteers are trained, kept informed, properly looked after and proud of their role ...and (most important) enjoying being Marlens volunteers.

A WhatsApp group has been set up for the active volunteers, and is proving a success. A useful tool for gathering a working party, and it keeps everyone in touch.

Anybody can come and clean the lake at any time, without asking Marlens, and many people do pick up litter and put it in the litter bins on the upper promenade. We really appreciate this community effort.

Marlens volunteer “love the lake” team gathers at the lake every Saturday morning throughout the year to clean and maintain it. New volunteers are always welcome, whether they can come regularly or only occasionally.

Trustees

The people with formal responsibility for the lake are the Marlens Charity Trustees.

The trustees at 31st October 2020 were: Chris Blades, Barry Cherokoff, Rowan Clarke, Hilary Jenkins-Spangler, Joe Norman, Steve Price, Bob Slee. Two trustees retired at the 2020 AGM (Linda Knott, Tony Cherry) and two resigned during the summer (Kate Gay, Gavin Price) after making a valuable contribution. Though not a trustee, Carol Price retired from running our social media activities after many years of service to Marlens in a variety of roles.

Marlens is governed by our constitution, which has been agreed with the Charity Commission and was adopted by our members on 12 November 2013. It is a public document and you are welcome to have a copy – just ask.

According to our constitution there are three ways you can become a trustee:

- ☐ Be appointed by the members (normally at the AGM).
- ☐ Be co-opted by the trustees, in which case the members must approve the appointment at the next AGM.
- ☐ Be appointed by Clevedon Town Council (1 trustee).

Trustees are appointed for three years and can serve up to 3 terms (which should be enough for anyone!). There is no formal training for trustees, but they are expected to familiarise themselves with the Marlens constitution and

Charity Commission guidance.

1/3 of the charity trustees must retire at each AGM, so Steve Price, Bob Slee and Joe Norman are retiring this time at the 2020 AGM (held on 21 March 2021).

All three have served 3 terms as trustees, so must stand down as trustees, though they will continue to help the lake. Fortunately we have 4 excellent candidates to replace them.

We have a lot of knowledge and experience within the Board, but there are some gaps we would like to fill (for example accountancy, law, young people). We would like a more diverse mix of trustees – anyone interested, please contact the acting Secretary (secretary@marlens.org.uk) or any trustee.

Vivien French has taken on the job of Bookkeeper, which is really helpful, and Andrew Wait has taken on the role of Secretary. Both of these are part-time paid posts.

Marketing

The Clevedon Marine Lake website clevedonmarinelake.co.uk launched last year has worked well, while the Marlens web site was facing maintenance problems, so early in 2020 the Marlens web site material was folded into the lake web site. This also avoids confusing duplication.

Technology

In addition to the CML website, we invested (in16-17) in an electronic timing system for the open water swimming events. This not only gives more accurate timing, it also improves safety by telling us quickly if there is a swimmer missing. Member clubs interested in hiring this system for their own events should contact the Secretary.

We also set up a camera which used to show still pictures of the lake via the CML website, and now shows live video. The purpose of LIVE LAKECAM is to enable people – locally, regionally, nationally or internationally – to ‘visit’ the lake remotely, to help plan their trip. The feature streams live footage from the lake to whet people’s appetite if they haven’t been before and to enable regulars to check out conditions, much like the cams you find at popular surf beaches. More visitors means more people engaging with the lake and local businesses in Clevedon.

Environment

We care for the environment by collecting and binning plastic rubbish from the lake and its surroundings during our frequent clean-ups. We have also fitted a water bottle refill tap to the outside of the community boat store, alongside the cold water shower and dog bowl.

The lake develops a rich ecosystem of crabs, worms, fish and birds, so when we clean mud from the lake we try to leave some mud undisturbed to conserve

the crabs, and refill the lake again on the next tide cycle.

Finance

This year our Treasurer will present our final accounts at this AGM. They have been inspected by an external examiner and then posted to the Charity Commission web site.

Some of the funds in our bank account are earmarked for repair of the lake. Our lease makes Marlens responsible for the first £3000 each year spent on maintenance, so we need to hold at least this sum in reserve. For challenges bigger than £3000 we can look to North Somerset for support, In the current financial climate there is no guarantee that N.Somerset would take action quickly, so it is realistic to have a cushion beyond £3000 if we want to keep the lake in service. The Trustees have decided on £10,000 as our working reserve, to cover this and other eventualities.

We have started saving towards the boat-store rebuild project so that we have resources to back up grant requests when the time is ripe.

Looking Forward

Assuming there are no further waves of the pandemic, we expect to see the following:

- Discover Clevedon - The lake feature as an attraction on the new DiscoverClevedon website and promotional leaflet – aimed at attracting more visitors to the town as a whole – which was launched pre-Easter 2019 by the BID team.
- Schools - Will be able to engage with our registered instructors to use the lake as it suits them. This could be regular training session or a couple of days during the school's own “activity week”.
- Open water swimming events (provisional dates) – This summer there will be events for our open-water swimmers including the annual Clevedon Long Swim which has been running since 1928.
 - Saturday 14 August: Swim Run
 - Saturday 28 August Long Swim
- Triathlons – Portishead and Clevedon Triathlon Club (PAC-TRI) will be using the lake for training sessions, but so far nobody has come forward to run a public Triathlon.
- Musical Extravaganza Friday 2 October at Clevedon Community Centre.
- Drain-down and dredging 24 October. - 3 November
- Light Up the Lake Saturday 4 December, complete with lantern parade along the prom and entertainment at the lake.
- Tour of Bristol Old Vic Theatre, details tba

- Tour of Arnos Vale Cemetery, details tba

Development Vision:

We don't want to stop at renovating the lake itself. Further changes can enhance the value of the lake to the community.

1. **Artwork:** A lake blackboard, with regular turnover of poems from local poets. This came from an initiative by Clevedon Community Bookshop as part of their Literary Festival planned for June 2021.
2. **Boathouse expansion:** The current Community Boat Store is a great asset but could be so much better. We envisage a total rebuild replacing the existing buildings with a bigger and more convenient building which could also provide toilets, teaching space and other facilities. It would also give us the resources to launch water sport activities for people with disabilities. This would need to be a high-quality building because of its position on the sea front, so would be an expensive project requiring long-term planning and financing. We have started building a fund for this, as you can see from our accounts.

Joe Norman, Chair

on behalf of Marlens Trustees

Receipts & Expenditure

Marlens

For the year ended 31 October 2020

	2020	2019
Receipts		
Bucket Collections	1,530.76	1,273.90
Collection Goblets and Lakeside Boxes	4,401.14	1,421.98
Events	1,437.65	12,825.70
EveryClick Donations	1,244.42	234.84
Fundraisers	2,739.63	1,068.00
General Donations	581.32	1,029.58
Gift aid	1,033.52	1,330.21
Interest Income	35.50	61.85
Lake hire	845.00	3,685.00
Lottery income	5,430.00	3,705.00
Membership	8,138.00	3,222.00
Sales of Goods	219.35	741.88
Total Receipts	27,636.29	30,599.94
Expenditure		
Cost of Goods Sold	-	504.00
Event Costs	889.06	3,718.13
Fundraising & Volunteer Costs	958.03	350.17
Lake Camera & Connection	504.00	640.14
Lake Equipment (not capital equipment)	6,730.62	568.49
Lake Improvements	840.00	-
Lake Repairs & Maintenance	883.08	401.28
Lake Samples	240.00	450.00
Lottery Prizes and Expenses	2,418.52	2,055.00
Silt Removal	8,892.00	11,404.14
Website	935.00	610.00
Total Expenditure	23,290.31	20,701.35
Gross Surplus of Funds	4,345.98	9,898.59
Administrative Costs		
Audit & Accountancy fees	148.80	120.00
Bookkeeping, Calendar & Membership Fees	2,156.30	2,548.34
Insurance	1,624.20	258.00
Paypal & EveryClick Fees	185.20	59.49
Postage, Freight & Courier	117.39	8.04
Printing & Stationery	112.04	10.00
Secretarial Fees	180.00	-
Travel - National	-	40.00
Total Administrative Costs	4,523.93	3,043.87

	2020	2019
Net Surplus of Funds	(177.95)	6,854.72
Net Surplus of Funds	(177.95)	6,854.72
Surplus of Funds after Taxation	(177.95)	6,854.72

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF MARINE LAKE ENTHUSIASTS (MARLENS)

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31st October 2020, which are set out on pages 3 to 5.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed



Newsham Hanson
Chartered Certified Accountants

Edinburgh House
1-5 Bellevue Road
Clevedon
North Somerset
BS21 7NP

Date.....5/2/2021.....