



Trustees' report to AGM April 2025



Marine Lake Enthusiasts (Marlens)

Registered charity no 1156426

Trustees' annual report

November 2023 – October 2024



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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



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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.*



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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



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- 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



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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.



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- 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



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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



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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



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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.

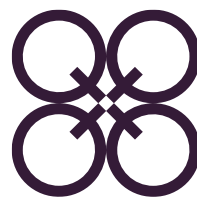
In September 2024 Kerrie Bruce was appointed as Business Development Manager and Ellie Hookham as Volunteering and Community Development Officer. The project will deliver:

- 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.



**Quartet
Community
Foundation**

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.



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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.



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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



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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,



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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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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 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.-
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	£
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
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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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Income & Expenditure Account

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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 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.-
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