



Merisham Sports Club

Flood Street, Merisham, Ashford, Kent, TN25 7HE
www.merishamsportsclub.com



Merisham Sports Club AGM Monday 31st March 2025 Merisham Sports Club 7.30pm

- Attendees – Kevin Burton (KB) Fred Ambler (FA) Jane Fagg (JF) Leigh Lloyd (LL) Ian Fagg (IF) Matt Fagg (MF) Helen Fagg-Lenihan (HFL) Kenton Stewart (KS) Bob Beaney (BB)
- Apologies - Dave Fagg – Kerry Morris – Chelsea Fagg-Lenihan – Pat Smithers - Rob Clark (RC)– Steve Darlington – Andrew Lloyd – Steve Baker

Meeting opened: 7.30pm

- Minutes of last AGM**

- Approved – However, JF wished it to be noted that the role of treasurer had not been taken over by Steve Darlington as recorded in the 2024 minutes.

- Chair's report**

Good evening, Vice-Presidents and members. Unfortunately, our President cannot be with us tonight, but she does send her apologies and well wishes.

Whilst writing my report I sat back and began to recollect all the things that I have witnessed and been a part of over the 5 and a bit decade I've been associated with our club. I can recall watching my dad play both football and cricket alongside the likes of Fred Fagg, John Harman, Roy Adams, Dave Stevens, Danny Swaffer, Biffo Sharp, Nobby Southern, Ralph Young, Robin Lightfoot and many, many more. And then being asked to play alongside these legends and the new and up and coming Merisham super stars of that era. A young Ian Fagg, Dick Fagg, Martin MacDonagh, Ollie Cater, Trevor Banyard, Fred Ambler, the list goes on.

Then I began to think, how many clubs can say that they have as many old players still apart of the club, how many generations of families have stayed associated with their club? Everyone knows the Fagg's with 4 generations past and present. Burtons with the same, Stevens, Southern's and more recently Darlington's, the list goes on!

I think of the many friends I have made, playing football and cricket, enjoying their company on and off the field of play. We have seen many faces come and go, sadly, as we get older, more have left us, but

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we still remember them all, Jim Hodges being the last of the stalwarts to declare his innings, fondly remembered and sadly missed.

I have had the pleasure of sitting in the premier seat for this club over 30 years. I have seen it grow from a small 1 team cricket and football club to the massive charity organisation it has become today. But it is down to the old basic belief that we are and will always be a family club with family values, long may that continue.

As we close another chapter, we can all be proud of our many achievements over the past 12 months. The continued success of the 3 sports sections, all of which we will hear more of later, but the completion of the new Annex ground must be the feather in the Merisham Sports Club cap with great reports feeding back as to how well it has played, looks and the fact how few fixtures have been lost to the weather. There is still work to be done in maintaining the new facility and ensure it continues to be a magnificent playing surface but I'm confident the upkeep will be continued, and further work will be carried out this week. We will continue to hear more over the rest of the evening of work in progress and needing to be done over the course of the evening. However, as always, I'm sure we would all like to thank our brilliant committee for all their hard work making this achievable, alongside the everyday running of a very busy club!

Jane Fagg, Leigh Lloyd, Fred Ambler and Ian Fagg the club owes you a massive debt of gratitude for making this project such a huge success and the jewel and envy of the surrounding sporting venues. Thank you

Next project a new Club House!!!!

Bertie
Club Chair

• Secretary's report

The hard work, dedication and determination of the Merisham Sports Club committee, has this year provided the membership an enviable sporting facility that will benefit many for years to come and I take immense pride in what we have achieved for the club.

We thank all those that provided us with funding and assistance, more of which I am sure Fred will touch on. We owe particular gratitude to the Football Foundation for their £460,000 investment in our future, alongside crucial support from Merisham Parish Council, Ashford Borough Council, and the ECB. These partnerships have given us facilities that are the envy of clubs across the county.

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The use of the new field and the all-weather wicket for junior cricket began in June 2024 and the football section were able to utilise from November. The difference the new field has made to the football section is remarkable – where other clubs have been cancelling fixtures due to waterlogged pitches, our new drainage system has kept us playing week after week.

However, maintaining these new grounds presents new challenges and we are on a learning curve when it comes to cost and required maintenance. Whilst we appreciate that majority of our adult members / parents work and are unable to assist when weekday works are scheduled, we will endeavour to organise some work mornings or afternoons asking for just a few hours help. The great response to our recent drainage work appeal – where 15 volunteers associated with the football section completed in hours what would normally take days – shows what we can achieve together.

We must also recognise that some jobs are beyond perhaps not the skillset, but what the age of our mainstay of helpers will allow and must accept that we will have to pay professional contractors so fundraising remains vital.

As I close, I would like to thank the committee for their continue drive to make this best club it can possibly be, and hope that the next year brings continued success for all sections. I must pay special tribute to Bertie and Ian. Bertie's quiet dedication behind the scenes and Ian's tireless work on the grounds often go unseen, but they're the bedrock of this club. Gentlemen, on behalf of us all – thank you.

Leigh Lloyd

Club Secretary

- **Treasurer's report**

CLUB ACCOUNT YEAR ENDING 28/02/2025

The year started with £71,281 brought forward.

Donations from VPs were £590. We are always very grateful for their support.

Membership of £10,425 was received together with £8,000 from club sports sections, plus £2,445 from EWCB Allstars and Dynamos program.

Bar and Social functions bought in £12,000. Many thanks to all those involved in raising these funds.

Grants to the Club totalled £98,057.

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The Charities Trust supported us with donations of £1,000 on behalf of HSBC and Barclays.

The Savannah Trust gave us £2,496 in respect of our golf days at London Beach.

Ashford Borough Council's Community Lottery raised £667.

The Recycle Bank raised £152

Now for our spending.

Insurance premiums this year were £4,403.

We paid £152 in Business Rates; we receive 80% rate relief. The additional Retail, Hospitality and Leisure discount scheme has been scrapped therefore our rates for 2025/26 will be £365.

Bank charges came to £204, (£17 per month).

Team fees came to £128 (now £32 monthly) and Internet fees £503 (£42 monthly).

Website fees came to £273, with Security and CCTV systems costing £911

We also paid £25 for our annual Kent Playing Fields Subscription.

Costs for electricity were £2,819, and water £115.

The on-going problems with the cesspool cost £1,735 for emptying and £718 for a sewage management report. We now pay £145 for a monthly clearance.

Waste management and recycling clearance was £625.

Housekeeping, cleaning and maintenance of the buildings was £1,004.

Ground care and preparation came to £5,601 with line marking expenses £826.

Repairs, maintenance and servicing for ground machinery was £1,038, with fuel costs £2,110. The increase in the cost of our fuel (£1,570) has been, in part, due to now mowing the annex field, but largely as a result of a change in legislation that prevents us from purchasing red diesel.

The annual inspection of the Play Park and repairs was £216.

Other maintenance expenses included costs for Cinque Ports Pest Control, Hire of Skip, cleaning and maintenance of BBQs, and painting of bench seating.

Payments to Agripower were made totalling £38,698. This included their Final Contract Payment.

A Non-turf Wicket has been installed in the annex field, at a cost of £10,368.

The final payment for the Cricket practice net facility was made, £2,849 (£55,000 being paid previously). Canvins completed works on the access road for £1,708.

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An area of land near the Sports Ground entrance has been prepared for car parking use, this came to £9,688.

The access ramp into the clubhouse has cost £1,692.

The Open Day expenses came to £290 with a further £300 for marquee poles following damage caused by the wind!

Finally, a new tractor has been purchased for £24,600.

To facilitate all of these projects, we are very grateful for the grants received this year from The Football Foundation, EW Cricket Trust, Archery UK and Kent Community Foundation.

We appreciate all their support, and many thanks must go to all those who worked to secure the grants.

At the end of the year the Club has £84,060 in the Development Account, £8,609 in the Club Account and £230 in cash.

We end the year with £92,899 to carry forward.

Mr David James, once again, will be carrying out an audit of the accounts before I submit a copy, with his report and the AGM minutes, to The Charity Commission.

Jane Fagg

Club Treasurer

- **Welfare Officer's report**

No serious incidents reported this season.

MF has generated QR code reporting for incidents and accidents and would appreciate all using these to include injuries – he will hold records.

- **Club Development Report**

Good evening

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Well after many years, meetings and problems I am pleased to say that the sports club has now completed its plan to have a new entrance, car parking and the new annex ground, which was purchased and converted from a field into one of the best pitches in Kent.

The overall project was to change the entrance to the club making it much safer to come in and out. The portacabin was added originally to give us more options while the new pavilion was built.

At this point 2 things happened, funding for new pavilions was suspended in favour of improving pitches and the Church commission then finally agreed to sell us the land next to the club.

After years of negotiations, the price of the land and how much we could have was agreed and ABC added £50k to what we had raised, and the PC had given us which meant we could buy the land.

We then started negotiations with the FF, Sport England and ECB to fund changing the field to pitches, included in that was improvement to the parking and the roadway to the new field.

The money was conditional on us improving other sports not just football, so we added a new 2 lane enclosed net and an all-weather wicket in the annex.

Before the work began, we got an agreement from the farmer next door to take the spoil which saved us thousands.

The work has now been completed, apart from some work to be done in the spring which we have the money for.

As well as the land we have completed another car park for 15 to 20 cars and a disabled ramp for access to the pavilion.

Finally, we have agreed with the FF that the money left over could be used to buy a new larger tractor.

So, all in all we have completed the job and at the same time improved our facilities and equipment.

Of course, the pavilion is far from perfect, but that is a project for the future.

The committee have worked amazingly hard to make this happen and at many stages in looked that it may not happen.

Leigh and Bertie have spent many hours of effort and countless meetings and form filling, and Jane has always been there to sort out the finances no mean feat.

Also, Ian's work on the field, which meant the FF were always happy to deal with us as they could see how well the pitches were looked after.

So now it is finished and is there for the future generation of Sports club members, and it is now time for the younger members to come forward and get more involved this is your sports club and will only survive with new people getting involved and helping.

Cheers Fred

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Development Chair

The next steps for the sports club development were touched upon – with a new club house being potentially the next major project. Based upon a simple layout looking towards the clubs needs rather than those stipulated by governing bodies – this may reduce the costs; however, it is still believed that this would still be in the region of £300-350K. Without compliance to the sporting authorities, we would not be able to approach them for funding (and the Football Foundation are extremely unlikely to fund anything to Merisham for the foreseeable future given their funding for the new land) where would the monies come from?

- **Grounds Report**

With 2024/25 being the first year of our full use of the “Annex” ground we have certainly noticed the change. In what has been a very wet winter being able to utilise the excellent drainage of the annex football pitches on a regular basis has definitely been a benefit to the club, which will hopefully demonstrate in us not having too much football over running into the start of the Cricket Season, but it has also greatly benefitted us not having to try to use main ground football pitches when due to the wet weather they would have cut up badly.

So just to say at the moment all main ground football pitches are in a very good condition, and with regards to the condition of the annex ground we are currently awaiting Agripower our main contractors to do their “final work” of over seeding, topdressing and vertidrainage of the annex pitches.

We have also booked that they vertidrain the main ground pitches whilst they have got their heavy-duty machinery on site. This work will be carried out early April 2025 and will be part of the pitch improvement grant for the main ground pitches.

Due to the much-improved drainage of the new Annex pitches, for the future we will need to look at increasing our fertilizer regime for the annex ground to give the grass a couple of boosts, due to how dry the sand-based soil remains especially during the summer months.

With both grounds to maintain we identified that using our current mower (Trimax Striker 190) and tractor took more than 4 hours to cut both main and Annex ground and again with a lot of financial assistance from the football foundation, we have purchased a new bigger more powerful tractor (old =26hp new =40hp) which has allowed us to purchase a much wider mower (3.2 metres wide instead of 1.9m) this new machinery will drastically reduce mowing time required during the growing season.

Our pitch improvement grant (for main ground pitches only) continues with us currently in year 4 of the 6-year grant. This means we can receive a grant of up to £3,732 for remedial work on the main ground pitches like overseeding, fertilizer application, and vertidrainage.

Ground improvements have also taken place through the year with the car park being extended, and we have also been donated a large wooden building (currently stored beside garage) which we plan to erect soon as a shelter/ small clubhouse for the annex ground.

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With a very busy Cricket season soon to get underway, the football season just coming to an end, and the Archery club continuing, sports and participation at the club continues to increase and pleased to report that the condition of our grounds is also improving.

Regards

Ian Fagg

Grounds Keeper

• Bar and Social Report

- Bar profits are up approximately £4000 year on year
- Part of the increase can be attributed to the café running throughout the football season (which it didn't last) – the section is calling on each squad to run the café 2-3 times a season and this has worked incredibly well with takings increasing by over 50% on 23/24 to £4700 for the same period. However, whilst increased I feel that takings have been affected by majority of games taking place on the annex field where spectators do not have time / inclination to walk back to the club house at half time – we will have to see if the new 'Café Cabin' when installed will improve this, and this too will apply to junior cricket season.
- Allstars continues to be a major source of income for the bar, boosted significantly by the running of the BBQ at every session – thanks must go to all those that jump on and assist – but special mention to Dick and Trev. As cash sales were not always historically entered into the till by item it's difficult to definitively compare year on year but the jump in BBQ sales is significant, based on information available across the year the BBQ in 23/24 brought in around £1500 and £3750 in 24/25
- Events 2024/25
 - 30th June Village Day and official opening of field
 - Softball tournaments
 - Football presentation night
 - Cricket week events
 - Golf days
 - Christmas Quiz
 - Raffles with a huge thank you to Sue Banyard for all her endeavours to get us some fantastic prizes.

We thank those who attend, but a heartfelt thanks to all those that give up their time to assist in the setting up, running & tidying up.

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- DrinksWarehouse is our current supplier for our tapped drinks, but we did experience some supply issues through last season – Dick is looking into alternatives, but we remain with them for the time being.
- We make every effort to source soft drinks, snacks, chocolate, canned and bottled alcoholic drinks when on offer, with an overall aim of allowing us to remain reasonably priced.
- A new tablet was purchased this year and along with the improved connectivity to the internet we have had few issues with taking card payments.
- A new floor in the kitchen and fancy new glass storage system is in place
- On the practical side, we're facing some necessary investments:

Replacing the failed oven & freezer

Upgrading our ageing glass fronted fridges

We've had several members express interest in running events – now's the time to turn that interest into action – please, please come forward - I am hoping to organise a Silent Disco, Murder Mystery evening and our annual Christmas Quiz for this coming year but we will always need new initiatives.

Once again thank you to all those that assist us at events and are happy to jump on the BBQ or behind the bar – this section really does provide a significant sum of money to the club – if you have an idea for an event or would like to take on organising something please approach Dick or myself.

Leigh Lloyd / Dick Fagg

Bar Committee

• Cricket Report

A successful year with both Saturday sides getting promoted and for the 1st time ever we managed to field a 3rd XI which we have plans on increasing the number of matches they play – on Saturdays we have really good availability – unfortunately the same cannot be said for the Sunday side.

Ladies cricket here at Merisham seems to go from strength to strength – they now have teams in the Premier league and Development League – also they are setting up a girls U16 team.

The AllStars & Dynamos is also a major success story for the club.

Junior sides – under the guidance of Matt Fagg are also increasing the number of sides this year.

As always, big thanks for looking after the ground.

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• Football Report

Well, what a year... we finally managed to play football on the new Annexe pitch and what a fine playing surface it is. We had minimal cancellations and it is clear that we are the envy of all teams within the league. A big thank you to the main committee to drive this forward, without you, we probably would have had minimal football due to the bad weather affecting the main ground.

In terms of success, a big well done to both U14s and U16s for getting to their respective cup finals. The U13s achieved another league title and on the whole, there was progress across all age groups. Training has gone well, and we welcomed new coaches and players throughout the year, with more due at the beginning to the season! We are expecting three more teams to join the club.

We will be saying some goodbyes this year with the U14H leaving his year (currently managed by Charlotte Burke). We wish you all the best, and it was pleasing you managed to see the season considering the uncertainty. A special thank you must also go to Dave Fletcher who after over a decade of coaching is leaving us – he has coached so many of our current youth membership and now our ladies – he will be missed.

The committee remain intact for now, but if there are enthusiastic volunteers who want to support, you can approach any committee member to express an interest!

While the bank balance looks healthy, it is clear that we still expect an outlay for new goals and kits for a number of teams. We have had success in ensuring the cafe remains open for some bacon butties and hot drink through the season. We have achieved this through a rota system across the teams and it worked very well.

To summarise, it has been a great start to the new era on the new pitch! Really excited for the future!

Rob Clark

Football Chair

• Archery Report

The Archery section has had a relatively quiet year, concentrating on the quality of shooting and progress awards.

A member achieved 4th place in the National Field Championships

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Tony Harris, who is a national judge, is currently sitting his continental exam and assuming he passes will be one of the top judges in the country a real feather in the Merisham cap!

Managing to continue to self-finance.

Bob Beaney

- **Election of Officers**

All members of the committee are happy to stand for another year, however FA did make it clear that the time was near when the current committee would stand down and we need to have some succession planning.

No members had put themselves forward to take on any of the required roles.

Chair	Kevin Burton
Vice Chair	Fred Ambler
Secretary	Leigh Lloyd
Treasurer	Jane Fagg

Nominated by Dick Fagg – Seconded by Bob Beaney

Welfare Officer – appointed person - Matt Fagg

Bar & Social Committee

Leigh Lloyd
Dick Fagg
Jane Fagg

Nominated by Fred Ambler – Seconded by Ian Fagg

Pat Smithers has kindly stated that she is happy to continue her tenure as Club President.

- **Membership**
- The committee agrees that the club membership fees should be sufficient for the club to run without other monies and would need to be reviewed annually, however do not feel it necessary to increase these this year.

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- *The matter was voted upon, and no objections received –Membership fees to remain the same was accepted.*
- Bat & Trap / social / coaching / committee membership will stand at £12.

- **Outstanding Debts**

The committee wish to add to the terms and conditions of membership that no member will be able to participate in any sport – training or matches – if their debt to the club exceeds £50.

The member will be suspended until the debt has been paid to below this amount.

The matter was voted upon, with no objections – the capping of debts to £50 with player suspension was accepted.

- **AOB**

DF - With the low turnout of attendees could we hold this meeting in person and on Zoom / Teams next year – it had been successful with adding numbers to the cricket AGM – agreed.

IF - The website continues to be outdated and of little use – RC had in committee meetings said he would be looking into working through our Teamo system to host.

MF – could we have sub committee to create a universal kit for the whole club. LL stated although football has a new supplier of kit, but the design remains unchanged, no change to coaches' kit but are looking to have a club shop which would be great for the club as a whole.

FA – Feels that the fencing around the play park is coming to the end of its life – will approach AGM Fencing for a quote to replace.

Has any progress been made with Stone Green Hall for the replacing of their fence – KB has had a discussion with Isobel Mahoney and she has said that it is in hand – no timescale given.

Could the outer roadside fence be replaced – this would have a fairly significant cost – could certainly be improved by straightening.

Could the light switch be moved to the exit door.

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Could we have an outside light on a timer switch.

Meeting closed 21.00pm

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MERSHAM SPORTS CLUB - CLUB ACCOUNT

01/03/2024 TO 28/02/2025

INCOME:

Balance B/Fwd on 01 March 2024	£	71,281.18	
	£	-	##
Vice Presidents' Donations	£	590.00	
Membership:			
Stripe Collections	£	10,425.32	
Other	£	-	£ 10,425.32
Club Sections:			
Archery Section	£	-	
Cricket Section	£	4,000.00	
Football Section	£	4,000.00	
200 Club	£	-	
Bar & Social	£	12,000.00	£ 20,000.00
Other Sports:			
EWCB Allstars & Dynamos	£	2,445.90	
Sports Camp	£	-	£ 2,445.90
Grants:			
Kent Community Foundation	£	5,375.00	
Archery UK	£	500.00	
Football Foundation	£	85,682.50	
EW Cricket Trust	£	6,500.00	
Football Foundation(Groundcare)	£	-	£ 98,057.50
Donations:			
Charities Aid Foundation (Banks)	£	1,000.00	
Savannah Trust (Golf Days)	£	2,496.00	
Misc. Donations	£	-	£ 3,496.00
Other:			
ABC Community Lottery	£	666.90	
Recycle Bank Receipts	£	153.00	
Misc. Other	£	-	£ 819.90

TOTAL £ 207,115.80

EXPENDITURE

Administration:			
Insurances	£	4,403.15	
Business Rates	£	152.19	
Barclays Bank A/C Charges	£	204.00	
Teamo Fees	£	127.96	
Website Fees	£	273.60	
Security	£	911.64	
Internet Fees	£	503.28	
Kent Playing Fields Subscription	£	25.00	
Misc. Admin.	£	8.10	£ 6,608.92
Utilities:			
Electricity - EDF Energy	£	2,819.19	
Castle Water Ltd	£	115.73	
Cesspool	£	2,453.80	
Waste Management	£	625.85	£ 6,014.57
Maintenance:			
Property & Housekeeping	£	1,004.79	
Ground Care & Preparation	£	5,601.72	
Line Marking	£	826.79	
Machinery Repair & Servicing	£	1,038.00	
Fuel (Tractor & Mowers)	£	2,110.59	
Play Park Inspection & Repair	£	216.00	
Other Maintenance	£	600.52	£ 11,398.41
Club Development:			
Non Turf Wicket	£	10,368.00	
Cricket Net Facility	£	2,849.60	
Canvins - Access Road	£	1,708.01	
Car Park Area	£	9,688.00	
Preparation of New Land	£	38,698.12	
Clubhouse Access Ramp	£	1,692.73	£ 65,004.46
Other:			
Haynes Tractor	£	24,600.00	
Open Day	£	290.20	
Misc. Expenses	£	300.00	£ 25,190.20
On Hand:			
Barclays Bank Development A/C	£	84,059.76	
Barclays Bank Number 2 A/C	£	8,609.31	
Cash	£	230.17	£ 92,899.24

TOTAL £ 207,115.80

MERSHAM SPORTS CLUB

Income and Expenditure Report for Year Ending 29 February 2025

Income		2023/24	2024/25
Membership		£ 11,055	£ 10,425
Income from Sports Sections + Allstars		£ 12,529	£ 10,446
Social Funds Raised		£ 12,500	£ 12,000
Grants:	Football Foundation	£ 386,803	£ 85,682
	EWCB Cricket Trust	£ 16,000	£ 6,500
	Archery UK	£ -	£ 500
	Kent Community Foundation	£ -	£ 5,375
Donations including Vice Presidents		£ 7,430	£ 4,086
Other Income		£ 176	£ 820
		£ 446,493	£ 135,834
Expenditure			
Admin:	Business Rates	£ 156	£ 152
	Insurance & Security	£ 5,148	£ 5,315
	Other Admin	£ 1,168	£ 1,142
Utilities:	Electricity	£ 3,030	£ 2,819
	Water & Sewage	£ 1,337	£ 2,570
	Waste Management	£ 539	£ 625
Maintenance:	Property	£ 247	£ 1,821
	Ground	£ 9,853	£ 6,429
	Machinery	£ 1,893	£ 3,149
Club Development Projects		£ 391,552	£ 65,004
Material Purchases		£ 1,720	£ 24,600
Other Payments		£ 250	£ 590
		£ 416,893	£ 114,216
Surplus/ Deficit for the Year		£ 29,600	£ 21,618
		£ 446,493	£ 135,834
Cash on Hand:		2023/24	2024/25
	Development Account	£ 60,976	£ 84,060
	Club Account	£ 10,001	£ 8,609
	Other	£ 304	£ 230
		£ 71,281	£ 92,899
Represented by:			
	Accumulated Reserves at Beginning of Account Period	£ 41,681	£ 71,281
	Surplus/ Deficit for the Year	£ 29,600	£ 21,618
		£ 71,281	£ 92,899

Prepared and submitted by Mrs Jane Fagg.

I have examined the books and vouchers of
the Mersham Sports Club – Club Account
for the year to 28th February 2025 and
confirm that the foregoing is in accordance
therewith.

 David C James

15 July 2025