

Bere Regis Sports Club

Trustees Annual Report for Year Ending September 2024

Introduction

The northern part of the recreation ground in North Street, Bere Regis, Dorset, BH20 7LA, came under the ownership of the 'National Playing Fields Association' (now known as 'Fields in Trust') by means of a conveyance in 1929. That 'conveyance' remains the governing document of the charity, along with the current version of the 'club rules/constitution.' In October 2019, the three trustees became the named 'owners' of the southern part of the recreation ground, previously leased. Both plots of land have now been vested with the Charity Commission Official Custodian and are 'restricted' by the terms in a Deed of Dedication agreed between Fields in Trust and the trustees of the charity. The objects of the charity (as defined by the Bere Regis Sports Club rules/constitution) are for the benefit of the public, "the support of social, recreational and sporting activities in the village of Bere Regis and the management of the Bere Regis Recreation Ground and properties entrusted to the club."

The current trustees are Peter Cheeseman, Alan Green and Andrew Kent. Trustees are elected by the management committee and serve for an unspecified term, while the management committee is elected at the AGM.

Statement regarding reserves

Despite the easing of inflation over recent months, overheads continue to rise. We've managed to increase income however, mainly through an increase in membership and consequent turnover. Experience has also shown that potential funders are more likely to fund organisations which are able to demonstrate sustainability, and mindful of that, as well as the potential costs of updating club buildings and facilities when necessary, the Trustees and Management Committee maintain the resolve to keep cash assets at a reasonably high level while, at the same time being prepared to spend as necessary in order to maintain the field and the buildings in good order. Considering the cost of some major pieces of equipment, both within the club buildings and for field maintenance, the trustees and committee continue to hold the opinion that it is prudent to keep a minimum of 4% of the value of club buildings reserved for maintenance/potential replacement purposes and current estimates put this figure alone above £30,000. Much of our hardware and equipment is reaching an age where maintenance costs will rise and potential need for replacement increases, in an economic climate where grants cannot always be relied upon as a source of finance.

The trustees remain confident that the charity is financially viable in both the short and medium-term, but any major outlay necessary as a result of the pressure mentioned in the previous paragraph, could threaten that viability.

Higher interest rates in recent years have enabled us to take advantage of our existing cash assets and even to allow some relaxation of our policy that a considerable proportion of those cash assets should maintain high liquidity, with some now placed in 'notice accounts'. We are confident that the amounts involved still allow us to respond quickly to changes in circumstances, as well as be in an advantageous position to take opportunities to upgrade facilities further should external funding become available which requires a certain degree of self-funding. The trustees remain open minded about using other methods of investment in the future, should suitable opportunities arise.

Annual Report

The trustees once again report that the recreation ground and associated buildings have been maintained to good standard throughout the year and that regular maintenance has been undertaken.

The trustees continue to keep in mind possibilities for further developments, including the building a Multi-Use Games Area which could be used for both our own training sessions and for hire to other groups. At this point in time though, no major developments are planned for the immediate future, although some smaller projects may be possible should grants for such be awarded.

We continue to keep a close eye on the development plans submitted by Godwin Developments for the field opposite the Shell filling station, as well as potential housing development in the immediate area. The trustees objected to the initial plans for a 'service station' style development because of the conflict between our own objects as a charity and those of the fast-food outlets being proposed, as well as the potential car parking issues likely to be caused by local customers not wanting to drive around the by-pass and to avoid access via the roundabout and the increased security risks posed both by the increased amount of traffic to the north end of North Street and the apparent elevated position of the proposed development overlooking the recreation ground. We will look closely at any plans for housing adjacent to the ground in terms of additional traffic and potential car parking issues, as well as potential 'ball strike' issues from the cricket square.

A new 'risk' identified this year is that the trees on the highway side of the eastern boundary fence have grown into the fence itself, threatening the stability of the structure. The cost of repair, or even replacement of the fence, which protects the highway from cricket balls, will be far greater than the cost of any work to cut the trees back and this is something we've alerted Dorset Council/highways of and await their response.

Our role within the wider community remains an important element of our work, but a severe downturn in income generated by the decrease in use of the old clubhouse reported last year, remains a concern. The expense of maintaining the old clubhouse is currently greater than income generated from it, a situation which we must carefully consider. Attempts to rectify this by finding new regular user groups are being made, but without success to date. Should that remain the situation over the longer term, an alternative strategy may become necessary.

The trustees are pleased to report on an organisation in a healthy state and one which is continuing to achieve its aims and objectives as a community-based organisation, although a close eye must be kept on the potential risks listed above.

Andrew Kent
Peter Cheeseman
Alan Green

Trustees, September 2024

BERE REGIS SPORTS CLUB
FIELD ACCOUNTS

Income & Expenditure a/c
YEAR END 2023/2024

	2023/2024	2022/2023
<u>INCOME</u>		
Football Club	£2,160.50	£2,852.02
Junior Football	£8,227.08	£5,916.06
Cricket Club	£12,410.89	£6,707.35
Golf Tournament	£690.00	£2,620.00
Cricket Grant	£0.00	£6,835.00
Clubhouse rental	£1,635.00	£2,185.00
Junior Cricket	£3,370.60	£2,044.69
Rent	£11,250.00	£4,500.00
Bank interest	£4,472.94	£937.99
Membership	£1,777.09	£1,715.69
ROGS Membership	£200.00	£200.00
Sundry Donations	£0.00	£40.00
Senior Football Grant	£0.00	£3,713.00
Misc	£52.00	£24.00
Cricket Vice Presidents	£1,080.00	£0.00
TOTAL	£47,326.10	£40,290.80
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Football Club	£1,637.19	£2,420.93
Cricket Club	£8,561.38	£2,129.35
Six-a-side Tournament	£0.00	£0.00
Ground Maintenance	£5,392.93	£3,188.83
Film Licence	£0.00	£150.00
Ground Equipment	£470.67	£0.00
Plant/equipment repairs	£813.87	£316.31
Fuel	£647.01	£648.33
Club repairs/improvements	£6,177.17	£5,439.88
Membership scheme	£0.00	£51.39
Youth Cricket	£1,631.29	£874.38
Donations	£0.00	£0.00
Website	£48.00	£62.40
Insurance	£2,268.18	£2,243.36
Defib Costs	£79.20	£77.99
Land purchase	£0.00	£900.00
Postage/stationery	£0.00	£29.94
Sundry expenses	£116.16	£71.09
Golf event	£0.00	£1,489.60
Cleaning	£1,525.00	£1,850.00
Junior Football	£7,501.71	£4,331.61
Cricket Artificial	£0.00	£8,052.00
Snr Football Fence	£0.00	£4,950.00
Electricity Old Club	£50.00	£0.00
TOTAL	£36,919.76	£39,277.39
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	£10,406.34	£1,013.41

BERE REGIS SPORTS CLUB

FIELD ACCOUNTS

Balance Sheet

YEAR END 2023/2024

	30/09/2024	30/09/2023
	£	£
<u>ASSETS</u>		
Santander	£15,298.79	£9,241.49
Cash	£2.06	£125.96
Co Op account	£5.61	£5.61
Loan to Bar acc	£1,200.00	£1,200.00
United Trust Bank	£84,826.33	£80,353.39
Total Assets	£101,332.79	£90,926.45
<u>Funds</u>		
Funds brought forward	£90,926.45	
Surplus/Deficit	£10,406.34	
TOTAL FUNDS	£101,332.79	

2 MANOR FARM ROAD
BERE REGIS, WAREHAM
DORSET. BH20 7HB

EMAIL: DEANANTONYMERRITT@GMAIL.COM

Mr A Kent
Chairman, Bere Regis Sports Club
North Street
Bere Regis
Wareham
DORSET
BH20 7ND

25th July 2025

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Bere Regis Sports Club

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Bere Regis Sports Club (BRSC) for the year ended 30 September 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report - As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the BRSC accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act;
or

2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Name:

DEAN MERRITT