



Chairman's Report Recreation Ground A.G.M & Annual Parish Assembly 2025/26

As from previous reports I like to start by saying thanking all the committee members for their time helping in the running of the Recreation Ground matters over the past year and also to the Parish Council representative for his support who sits on our meetings, these positions are all voluntary.

Many will know that an annual 10k and 5k run held every year on the grounds was supported in considerable numbers and was very well organised as ever. The event puts Wingham on the map for that day. The organiser told me that they were pleased with the attendance

The Management Committee wish to thank the contractors for the good work in keeping the grounds cut to a nice standard, the same contactors (Harmer & Sons) also trimmed the trees and hedges around the perimeter of the grounds and tennis court during March so that there was no impact of the bird nesting season.

Some will know that the Parish Council placed a porta loo for the use of the public when using the grounds this was vandalised on a couple of occasions and the Parish Council made a decision to remove as the cost of the hire and repairs was not financially viable.

I must congratulate the various sports clubs that are based at the Recreation Ground on another successful year. Wingham Football Club have been awarded by Kent FA advanced pitch one of the best in grassroots football locally.

As many are aware over the past year, we have still have the old problem of dog excrement where dog walkers not clearing up behind them. The committee are still looking at proposals to move forward with this problem.

Some will know that we also operate a sports and social club based in our pavilion on the grounds. This, again, is managed by volunteers and is governed under the same charity umbrella with Trustees and Charity Commission supervision. The premises are used by the various sports club members, particularly on home match days. We are also open on various nights as a social club. Whenever we are open the public are also welcome. The pavilion can be rented for any private functions with or without the licenced bar. We are really keen for our facilities to be better used and would like to hear from anyone with a potential need.

We would really like to attract other groups or individuals from the village to join the committee to bring fresh ideas and help to maintain and promote the grounds, this precious village asset. If

any other groups wish to use the grounds and facilities, please contact us via Facebook - or committee members or to the Parish Council who can get in touch with us.

We recently placed a leaflet in the community news explaining that a grant is in waiting once a certain number of houses have been sold on the new development. It seems that this allocation of money is intended for use in updating the facilities at the Clubhouse and for improvements to the cricket square. Once the grant has been agreed and passed over to DDC, the Parish Council and the Management Committee will be working together to make the best use of the monies within the terms defined.

Lastly, I would like to thank Rob Jones when he walks his dog around the grounds he also picks litter up on a regular basis

This concludes my report to the AGM.

Below please find a brief report from our treasurer on the Recreation Ground finances

Ian Pettman

I. Pettman

Chairman

Finance Report

We publish our full accounts annually, they are not yet available for the year to end March 2026, drafts will be presented at our AGM on May 12th.

Financially, the year continued our general downward trend, determined by poor weather, increased costs and diminished interest from villagers. In the year to end March 2025 we made our first loss for many years. Only £1,022 but significant. This year it looks as if we will break even, just. However, we are carrying a surplus of Parish Council Grant monies, these can only be spent on ground maintenance. For remaining funds, we are reliant on membership fees and bar sales. Both of these show a gentle decline. Our bank balance is healthy with funds reserved for the Club House upgrade. If we can get the upgrade under way we will need all our funds plus the DDC award and additional grant monies from somewhere, it will be a big project.

The parish council granted us £1,400 which we received in May 2025. So far, we have spent

Insurances	- £468
Ground Maintenance	- £600

We carry forward a balance of £900 in the grounds bank account and as a consequence reduced our request for Parish Council monies this year. We have been awarded £1,000 largely as a contingency.

As always, we must mention that the Parish Council also pays for regular 'rough cutting' during the spring and summer. Our volunteers do the fine surfacing and pitch preparation, we would not be able to keep the grounds in such good condition without this help.

David Rothschild
Treasurer