

St Mawes Recreation Ground Committee AGM, 25 April 2026, Minutes

Chair welcomed members of the public

Apologies: Georgie Toogood, Joanna Cecil, Chris Williams, Analisa Marchant

Attendees: Simone Kennett, Kate Morse, Charlie Pridmore, Lynda Pridmore, Christa Lowe and Di Garside

Recap of last AGM minutes – no comments made and adopted unanimously

Noted that the 3 items previously raised by members of the public had all been dealt with.

Treasurer's Report:

ST MAWES RECREATION GROUND ACCOUNTS

Year ending 30th September 2025

Charity Number 300618

	£
Current account - Lloyds	24,847.79
Total funds at 1st October (opening balance) 2024	24,847.79

INCOME	Current Year (2024/25)	Previous Year
	£	£
Rent/Hut Bookings	860.00	40.00
Pennon / SW Water	1,746.36	0.00
Donations	5,000.00	23,615.84
Tennis - Membership	2,542.00	2,050.00
Tennis - court bookings	2,041.41	1,208.90
Tennis Coaching	45.00	720.00
Bags	1,100.00	910.00
Misc	160.00	0.00
Reimbursement of Insurance PC	0.00	1,625.86
TOTAL INCOME	13,494.77	30,170.60
EXPENDITURE		
Advertising	523.85	273.58
Pennon Water	0.00	1,584.94
Bank Account Charge	29.75	0.00
Hut Refurbishment	28,423.28	28,197.64
Electricity (Opus/Octopus)	463.75	941.32
Play Equipment	0.00	1,386.00
Insurance	1,628.65	1,591.12
Tennis court maintenance	0.00	0.00
Inspection of Play Equipment	196.20	271.20
Cornwall Wildlife Trust	36.00	18.00
Tennis Coaching	145.99	690.00
Misc	481.39	0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	31,928.86	34,953.80
SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR	-18,434.09	
Total funds at 30th September 2025	6,413.70	
Carried forward	6,413.70	
Current account - Lloyds	6,413.70	

Treasurer's Report April 2026

Started the year with a balance of £24,847.79

1st October 2024 – 30th September 2025

Total Income: £13,494.77

Total Expenditure: £31,928.86

Deficit: £18,434.09

Most of our expenditure (£28,423.28) was for the Hut refurbishment.

The accounts up until 30th September show we ended our financial year with a balance of £6,413.70.

Since then however we have had quite a few outgoings e.g. for the planning application, insurance and the fire alarm system.

The current balance of our account is £3,438.20, which has increased recently due to the renewal of the Tennis memberships. Our tennis court bookings have started picking up now the weather is getting better - approx. £170 received in bookings over the last month.

I've applied to the Parish Council for reimbursement of our yearly insurance premium.

Our electricity is still provided by Octopus and I've renewed our contract to try and ensure we get the best rate.

We are now registered with Gift Aid. Simone donated her income from the table top sale and we completed a form to test it out – the 25% was received into our account.

Lloyds have started charging a fee for our clubs and societies bank account - £4.25 per month. I believe as a registered charity we could possibly be exempt but I need to look into this further.

Tennis Coordinator Report

Di Reported that, as of now there are 30 paid up members of the tennis club generating an income of £2100. She said she was trying to arrange more junior coaching sessions for the holidays via Josh who did such a great job. She noted that ad hoc bookings for the tennis court continued to bring in more income but that there were issues with a lack of available racquets and balls if people haven't brought their own. Di said she happily lent out two of her own racquets, but this was thought unreasonable. Di wishes, she can buy for racquets to loan out. Agreed that we should inform the hotels that this was an ongoing issue, and perhaps that they might buy their own for stock. Di noted that the return valve for the water supply was not yet fitted so tennis players had to remember to turn the water off. Chair to chase plumber.

Chair's Report

It makes a very pleasant change not to start by discussing the issues to do with water because finally, and after extensive argument and negotiation with Southwest water, they mended the leak that was on their land. It was a ridiculous waste of time but at least they paid us £1000 in compensation as well as refunding all monies that we had paid.

We have had a frustrating year in other ways, not least to do with the planning application we made to build a PADEL court, a mini tennis court, a Multi use games area known as a MUGA, and a petanque piste. This was after we'd held the four public meetings to seek opinion about what was desirable locally. So Plan 1 was to build the Padel below the tennis court and the MUGA below that meeting up with the skate ramp, that was rejected by the Community because we would lose all the grass open space so in Plan 2 the Padel moved to the top side of the tennis court and the MUGA moved up thereby releasing grassy space.

Since those plans were drawn up, we've had huge issues with the biodiversity net gain required by the government in any area where open grassland is repurposed as ours would be to be able to install the MUGA. The ecologist decided we needed to keep the two large ash trees at the back of the zip wire but we questioned that as one already has ash dieback disease and we suspect the other will succumb in due course. A further complication was the planners initial desire to plant the area of open grass adjacent to the skate ramp with 27 trees, which went against the desire of the community to keep that open. So it's been a lot of emailing /discussion /proposals & counterproposals all the while using up valuable time that could've been spent getting the project underway.

One of the most irritating aspects of this whole interaction has been the requirement to pay for a BNG survey which we are now told will not be required by the Government after the 1st of August, but we couldn't progress without having it done. The third version of the plans now move the development further down the site with the PADEL and mini tennis court being relocated to the existing tennis court, and that court moving down onto the MUGA alongside the basketball court. So the MUGA will accommodate Tennis, Basketball and Football. This reduction in size makes it a much simpler – and hopefully faster - project to build and a much cheaper one as well!

So if our application is approved, we should end up with what we asked for in the first place a super facility that provides things we really want. Courts to accommodate up to 12 players at any one time – a significant increase on the current 4 and the introduction of Padel which seems to be very popular locally with around twice as many people playing that as do tennis. However, we don't have any money yet to make any of it happen because we couldn't submit grants to the major organisations without having the planning permission in place – so that will be the next job.

During the year, we have tried a number of activities that have not taken off due to a lack of support. Yet the same activities were the ones mentioned as being desirable at our community meetings. Our coffee, boardgames and chat mornings attracted three people during the winter, so that was just not viable. The Youth Group attracted to 12 year olds who decided it was too spooky to continue due to the lack of lighting at the top end of the Car Park and up our path so we couldn't even grow that idea. Our Art lessons were successful with between eight and 10 people attending, but proved to be unsustainable for the tutor. Our indoor car boot sale was a partial success, but a lot of work for £200 of income. The drama group for kids up to the age of 12 failed to attract any takers despite it also being requested and offered by a well-known local teacher. However, a success story is table tennis which continues to run on Mondays attracts a regular six people- sometimes more.

In partnership with SportForAll there have been three adventure activity days for children up to the age of 11 and they have been really successful and will be repeated during the next school holiday. Despite extensive enquiries, we have failed to find a qualified youth leader to open up the building for teenagers as a club. If we get the PADEL complex built then, we will also acquire an income that will enable us to make more things happen at this site.

The mainstay of our current income is the tennis court and its playing members – efficiently organised by Di, who provide a vital income to enable us to pay the basic running costs of this building. Casual bookings generate further income which is crucial. Our young coach Josh continues to run sessions for juniors, which are very well attended and highly valued. Di also keeps an eye on the

surface of the court, which is in need of replacement – though if we move it down the site it won't - and keeps the moss growth under control.

The booking of this facility is now online, thanks to the huge efforts of Kate who has set up the website and the whole process so it is very easy to use and takes payment through PayPal, which makes Georgie our treasurer smile as again it is very easy in comparison with the previous arrangements. We have to pay a subscription to use the booking software, but this more than pays for itself.

In addition, we have had one-off bookings for the use of the building for the Heritage group, Parish Council, physiotherapy, classes, and children's birthday parties but none of these generate sufficient income to be able to employ a part-time handyman, caretaker. The indefatigable Pridmores Charlie and Lynda provide an enormous amount of support in this regard, and we also have a cleaner able to come in after any major letting on an ad hoc basis, which is working very well.

Our annual safety inspection of the site amounting to 117 pages of detailed assessment of the site revealed some areas where immediate action was required. We employed a Gardener to deal with the excessive growth on the adventure trail which is usable again. A meeting of the safety subcommittee, agreed to accept items of low or very low risk, but to deal with anything qualifying as moderate. Charlie once again is on that case, and Christa is using her gardening expertise to improve the appearance of the grounds and is also researching and coming up with ideas to update the equipment and layout for the younger children as and when funds allow.

We are extremely grateful to the St Just and Roseland and Parish Council for their continuing support particularly with the grounds maintenance, and with paying the insurance premium for the building and park. Helen, the parish clerk has been incredibly helpful and supportive with all the issues we have encountered.

We shall be very sorry to lose Joanna who has been our efficient secretary as she has now managed to organise her life to avoid winter in St Mawes by marrying off her son to an Australian! So we are looking for a new person to join the committee to take on that role. If you know of anyone, please encourage them – it's not a huge amount of administration, I promise! Chris is a whizz at producing information posters and Lynda did the publicity for today's AGM so others do roll up their sleeves and pitch in – which is what a Committee should really be about!

Now to the future-if the planning application is approved – actually I'll risk it and say WHEN because the Planning Officer told me that she thought it was a good project and wanted to pass it but we still have to get the right boxes ticked -, then we need to generate the funds to build the two areas. All three of our local hotels

have agreed to make a financial contribution. We will need to get some big grants if we are to progress and certainly with any speed. Andrew Ayres at the football club is very keen to get an all-weather pitch established locally and the SMART team have expressed support as it helps offset the loss of the playing field owned by the primary school for the affordable housing scheme.

So anyone interested in helping us move this all forwards – please do talk to us at the end of this AGM. Thank you for coming.