

The Seend Lye Recreational Field Report for the Seend Parish Council

The SLRF remains without a Chair. Therefore, as secretary I am submitting the following report.

Rights of Way – Ric Ellinger

Ric has received legal guidance from both Sir Matthew Thorpe and Frankie Goddard.

Over the past 12 months, Frankie served as an invaluable right-hand support in Ric's dealings with Wansbroughs. His unwavering commitment and strategic insight ensured Ric stood firm in the face of significant legal pressure regarding their charges. Thanks to these efforts, the Lye Field successfully retained £96,000 of its capital assets. This outcome preserves the financial integrity of the Lye Field and safeguards its future. A tremendous result.

Bookings – Jo Vaux

Field and Pavillion bookings continue to provide essential income, and support a range of activities. Seend United FC enjoyed a winning season, with regular use from Lavis FC and Trowbridge U14s. Melksham Cricket returns this summer, alongside the Big Heads vs Little Heads match. Playgroup and Toddlers remain key users, with new bookings from Grit Wellness Hub. Community events, parties, and meetings - Seend WI and the Devizes Eisteddfod – have kept the pavilion busy. One recent highlight included the transformation of the pavilion into a casino-themed fundraiser.

Grateful thanks to Jo Vaux for her excellent coordination, ensuring all bookings and hires run seamlessly.

House & Field – Steve Vaux

Steve Vaux continues to lead and oversee all House and Field projects. His ongoing support for the Lye Field continues to be greatly appreciated.

Improvements to the Pavilion are progressing, with cavity wall and loft insulation installed with 50% being external funding. Next steps include replacing the oil boiler and repairing the roof in preparation for solar panels.

Thanks go to Paul Taylor for enhancing biodiversity by creating a wildflower margin, reducing mowing, and supporting local wildlife.

The American Red Oak, planted in memory of Archie Kidd, is thriving, but the pink Horse Chestnut must be removed for safety reasons. Other mature trees will receive remedial care, and the northeast Paulownia will be pollarded while preserving woodpecker habitat.

The children's play area remains popular—many thanks to John Williams for his regular upkeep.

Finally, sincere thanks to the entire LOTSW team and all volunteers for their valued contribution.

Seend Fete Committee Report - Liam Bergin

Planning for the 2025 Seend Fete is well underway, with a positive outlook and strong support reports Liam Bergin. Rather than expand, the focus is on refining the event and maintaining a manageable workload for volunteers.

Sponsorship is currently below 2024 levels, although £600 has been confirmed, and further efforts are ongoing. We are still seeking a car-related sponsor.

Event infrastructure is mostly confirmed, mirroring 2024, with adjustments to parking and signage under review. Bookings include artisan stalls, 2 food vendors and 5 charities. Plus, the traditional village stalls and games.

New features include bushcraft demos, a pop-up health clinic, and a “Visible Mend” demonstration. Kids' activities, music acts, and arena attractions are coming together.

A new Instagram account has been created @SeendFete

Seend Tennis Club Report – Sally Jackson

STC's highlight of 2024 was the renovation and resurfacing of its two courts, completed in July. This was funded through savings, generous donations from many including Lye Recreation Field Committee, and Seend Parish Council, plus fundraising activities. A SmartGate was installed, allowing non-members to access the courts for a fee, which has been well received.

Careful budgeting and increased income resulted in a small surplus by year-end.

Membership remained stable despite a shortened season. League teams were successfully run by Liam Bergin and Frankie Goddard, with the men's team winning all their matches.

Coaching resumed for Seend School Year 4 pupils and will continue in summer 2025.

Communications are maintained via the website, Facebook, and regular updates in Spotlight.

SLRF AGM is at 7.30pm Thursday 22 May at the Irene Usher Pavillion.