

## **IRVINE SPORTS CLUB BOARD MEETING on THUR. 22<sup>nd</sup> FEB. 2024**

**Present:** R. Kidd, J. McGarry, A. Rennie, A. Wilson, S. McCallum, M. Ingram, A. Keenan.

**Apologies:** L. Williamson, M. Nish, G. Russell.

### **Finance and Banking**

The finance report for January had been prepared by Glen and issued in advance of the meeting. The report showed a profit for the month of £10,371 but this includes a grant from Community Mental Health Funding of £13,800 which effectively means that the club operated at a loss of approximately £3,500 during January. The club bank balance remains healthy but A. Rennie cautioned that the club would face a number of outlays in the immediate future including: approx. £2.5k for repairs to the boilers; approx. £5.5k for further repairs to the club roof; approx. £3k in back payments to Virtuagym; unknown costs for legal fees at the conclusion of the Asset transfer from Irvine Common Good Fund. In addition grant funding for staffing to provide cleaning and reception services will stop at the end of March and, at present, there is no further grant funding for staff in place.

### **Review of Club Priorities**

All board members had been issued with a template to suggest and prioritise what should be the board's priorities. Glen had collated the responses to create two sets of priorities – one set for 'Capital Works' and one set for 'Safety, Security, Saving'. A copy of the priorities is included with these minutes. A discussion followed and it was noted that most of the priorities are dependent on external funding and it would be helpful if board members had an indication of the approx. cost of each priority. Glen is to be asked to try to put a cost against each priority.

### **Update on Asset Transfer of a strip of land from Irvine Common Good Fund**

Representatives of the club met with representatives of NAC on 8<sup>th</sup> February and we were told that further changes to our Memorandum and Articles of Association will be required before the Asset Transfer can be finalised. The club representatives made it clear that they were very unhappy with this situation as the club had complied with all the original requests and worked to all of the timelines which we had been given. It now appears that the club has no choice but to agree further changes to our Memo and Arts and then to call an EGM to ratify these changes. The remaining issues with our Memo and Arts relate to:

- Definition of the 'community' of Irvine.
- Defining which members can vote (so that members from the 'community' of Irvine cannot be outvoted).
- Clarifying that any assets left if the club is wound up go to the benefit of the 'community'.

The club will continue to push NAC to finalise this saga within as short a timeframe as possible. A. Rennie issued board members with a document outlining all of the key meetings and communications with NAC during the six years since this process began.

## **Development Manager's Report**

Glen was unable to attend the meeting as the board had previously agreed that he should attend the Scottish Government Digital Inclusion Awards event in Edinburgh the previous evening and that he should stay on in Edinburgh to have face to face meetings with some of our other funders on 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

Glen had provided a separate, comprehensive report covering staffing, clubhouse issues and grant applications. He had requested that the board discuss and take decisions on a number of matters including:

### **Staffing for cleaning and reception duties**

Glen had prepared a separate discussion document giving options on how the club could provide staffing for cleaning and reception services when grant funding for the existing placements stops at the end of March. The board's view was that all of Glen's options were unaffordable and that he should be asked to provide alternative models.

### **April wage increase**

On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 there is a national requirement that for all adult workers the minimum wage should go up to £11.44 per hour and that the living wage should go up to £12.00 per hour. Glen had pointed out that there is an expectation that grant funded staff should receive the living wage of £12.00 and the board agreed to this. The board also agreed that there would require to be a review of the post of Development Manager before July 2024 as the subsidising grant being received from NAVT would end at that time. In the meantime the portion of Glen's wage which did not relate to his development manager duties should also rise to £12.00 per hour.

### **Provision of extra food and drinks(non-alcoholic) at weekend sporting events**

The board decided that the provision of food and drinks for people attending the club for sporting events at the weekend should be restricted to tea, coffee, soft drinks and packaged food meantime. Glen will be asked to provide clarification on the arrangements, including staffing, for any hot food provision and the board will discuss this again at the next monthly meeting.

### **Deferred discussions and decisions**

There was insufficient time at the Feb. meeting to discuss the following: proposed new door entry system; register of controlling interest – name of responsible person; proposed new director paperwork to comply with new OSCR requirements.

### **Grant Applications**

Glen is continuing to pursue numerous grant applications linked to the club providing a range of supports to the community.

### **Request from the Boys' Brigade to use Marress for their annual fun runs.**

This event involves fairly small numbers and the routes used do not encroach on any pitches. The date has still to be confirmed but the board saw no issues with this.

### **Archery portakabin update**

Archery has now sold the portakabin and arrangements are being made to remove it.

## **Playing Sections and Gym**

**Cricket** – The section has secured the services of both a professional and an overseas amateur for the 2024 season. Indoor nets practice is ongoing and membership is building. A race night is planned for 9<sup>th</sup> March and the annual dinner has been arranged for 19<sup>th</sup> April.

**Football** – 127 players registered and teams are back to training one night per week. Under 14 and under 16 teams are playing grading games just now with the leagues starting in April. The under 16's lost to Queen of the South and the under 14's won against Dalbeattie Star. The under 16's are advertising for a new head coach. New 11-a-side goals are being delivered and the players will have new training kit sponsored by Irvine Storage Centre.

**Rugby** – The men's team will play the semi-final of the Scottish Bowl against Birkmyre at home and they have two league games to play before the season ends on 27<sup>th</sup> April. The women's team will play their final game against East Kilbride on 10<sup>th</sup> March. The juniors are doing well and the club has been asked to host a schools' festival on 6<sup>th</sup> March and then hopes to hold an Easter camp on 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> April in partnership with KA Leisure.

**Running** – coaching for juniors is ongoing and they will have the opportunity to compete in an Open Graded meeting in April.

## **AOB**

Both sets of rugby posts had suffered damage during the recent storms. The section has been able to salvage enough of the damaged posts to create one set on the 1<sup>st</sup> XV pitch and consideration will now need to be given about how to ensure that the section has two sets of functioning posts for next season. Glen has checked the sports club's insurance policy and the posts are not included.

A Wilson requested funding to convert changing room 7, which is currently used as a changing/showering area for referees, into two areas to include a smaller changing/showering area for referees and a medical/physio room. He provided a diagram of the layout of the new areas. After discussion the board decided not to provide funding for this project on the basis that there were greater priorities for any available funding.

M. McGuire brought forward a proposal from cricket to create a two-bay, fully enclosed batting/bowling practice area. Cricket had provided a diagram showing the dimensions of the proposed structure. The area identified by cricket for this proposed facility is the area where the archery portakabin currently sits along with the grass area which lies alongside the bowling green. It was pointed out by A. Rennie that the board had already agreed that this area would be included within plans to construct an all-weather training facility which would both be used by the sports sections and also let out for significant additional income. He provided a copy of the plan of the proposed all-weather facility which had been previously agreed by the board and emphasised that the entire area was needed to make the project viable. There was no objection in principle to cricket establishing their proposed practice facility at Marress but the section was asked to go and investigate other unused parts of the playing field for its location.

**Date of next meeting – Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March**