

IRVINE SPORTS CLUB BOARD MEETING on THUR. 18th JAN. 2024

Present: R. Kidd, J. McGarry, A. Rennie, L. Williamson, A. Wilson, A. Keenan, G. Russell

Apologies: S. McCallum, M. Nish, M. Ingram,

Finance and banking

The finance report for November and December 2023 had been prepared by Glen and issued in advance of the meeting. The report showed a loss for the two-month period of £13,718 despite the fact that the club had grant income of £10,000 from Digital Lifelines during the same period. The major expenditures which contributed to this loss were: £4,336 for an emergency roof repair; £4,986 to SCVO for device purchases which were funded by a previous grant from SCVO; £1,211 for door entry cards; the loan repayment to Resilient Scotland had restarted at a cost of £1,011 per month.

G. Russell and A. Rennie also reported that it had been discovered that Virtuagym (the company which operates our membership package) had not taken any payment from the club for about 15 months and that the club is starting negotiations with Virtuagym about how much back payment is to be made.

G. Russell provided an update on all current grant applications – he is particularly optimistic about our application to the Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund.

Discussion on co-opted directors for 2024

A Rennie expressed the view that the current board of nine elected directors is adequate to manage the ongoing business of the club and there seemed to be general agreement with this. Therefore adding any additional co-opted directors should be on the basis that they have skills and aptitudes in specific areas which can enhance the work of the board - expertise in generating additional income for the club would be an obvious area where the board would welcome assistance. It was decided that the board would interview any prospective co-opted directors who felt that they could provide extra benefit to the club.

Discussion on implementation of subscription increases agreed at AGM

The following are the new subscription rates agreed at the club AGM in December 2023:

Ordinary - £99, Junior - £25, Retired - £50, Associate - £50, Non-playing - £45,

Ordinary + Gym - £240, Retired + Gym - £180

It was confirmed that the new rates are agreed in principle at the AGM but, in the case of playing section memberships, they become effective on the established renewal months i.e. cricket, football and running by the end of June, hockey and rugby by the end of September. It was also confirmed that the subscription for a playing section membership is an annual subscription, which may be paid monthly, but must be eventually paid in full i.e. a playing section member cannot opt to pay monthly then stop after a certain number of months.

Revised Memorandum and Articles of Association and update on Asset Transfer

G. Russell will email all directors an electronic copy of the current Memo and Articles.

A meeting with NAC regarding progress with the Asset Transfer has been requested.

Development Manager's report

G. Russell had provided a separate, comprehensive report covering staffing, clubhouse issues and grant applications. The following are highlighted for inclusion in the minutes:

Register of Controlling Interest – a new register showing who has controlling interest in any land has been created and passed by parliament. This register is legally enforceable which means that we may need to complete it. G. Russell is investigating exactly what the club requires to do and he will keep the board informed.

Central Heating Boilers – the club has been experiencing ongoing problems with both of the central heating boilers since November and the club has been operating with restrictive heating in the main rooms of the club. There have been multiple visits by our boiler maintenance company(Kennedy's) but the issue is still not resolved.

Rubbish removal – the staff have been proactive in clearing unused materials from various areas of the club and it was agreed that, if necessary, a skip be hired.

Staff placements via the Parental Employment Programme – this has been a very successful project for the club but the funding will stop at the end of March and G. Russell continues to pursue alternatives to provide staff for reception and cleaning duties.

Repairs to the playing field exit door and leaking gutter – to be progressed 'in-house' via A Wilson, G. Russell and G. Cook

Club Priorities – Glen re-issued the sheet on Club Priorities for directors to return in advance of the next meeting with their updated preferences.

Glen has now been shortlisted in the final three(from 138) of the Scottish Government Digital Inclusion Awards and he has been invited to attend the Awards Event in Edinburgh on 21st February. The board congratulated Glen on this achievement and the club will pay hotel and travel expenses for him to attend the Awards Event.

Application from Ayrshire Referees' Association in respect of training facilities

G. Russell provided details of discussions which he had held with the above group regarding the club providing outdoor training facilities, changing rooms, meeting rooms and occasional bar/catering facilities. Their requirement would be for both summer and winter facilities and would therefore involve a floodlit area on one evening per week. A. Rennie said that in the short term he did not see an issue with Running allowing the use of the 'triangle' area on a Monday and/or Wednesday evening but in the long term the Running section hoped to develop the 'triangle' for field events with synthetic run ups for both high jump and long jump which would probably not leave a sufficient area for the referees' needs. He also pointed out that the lighting level on the 'triangle' area might not be adequate for their needs. The referees have indicated that they felt that the bowling green area would probably meet their needs at times of the year when floodlights are not required. It was agreed that there should be further discussion with the referees to see if what was being offered met their needs but that it should also be emphasised that any let would need to be reviewed annually as the proposed areas might not be available in the future, particularly if the Running Section are able to progress their development of the 'triangle' area for field events.

Playing Sections and Gym

Cricket – G. Russell confirmed that the sports club has purchased an electric heater for members of the cricket section to use during any refurbishment work being undertaken on the cricket changing rooms. G. Russell also confirmed that he had checked the sports club insurance and that the new decked area was covered by the current policy.

Football – A. Keenan reported that 122 players are registered, an extra 4 coaches have been certificated and all training has resumed after the winter break. The teams are playing friendlies at present in preparation for the leagues starting and three Co-erver led coaching sessions have been booked. She also reported that a wheel has been broken off one of their goals and that some members took part in the New Year Polar Dip.

Rugby – A. Wilson reported that the men's team has had as many as 30 turn up for training, the 1st XV has won ten matches in a row and are top of their league. They are due to play Moffat away in a 'double header' as both a league game and the 1st round of the National Bowl competition. The women's team has had 20 turn up for training and they won on Sunday at Greenock. The juniors are currently playing at The Portal and the S1 team will play 8 games when their season starts. Some members also took part in the charity Kiltwalk.

Running – A. Rennie reported that 2024 is the centenary of Irvine Running Club which has existed under three names – 1924 to 1972 as Irvine YMCA Harriers, 1972 to 2013 as Irvine Athletic Club and 2013 to present as Irvine Running Club. A centenary committee has been formed and a number of projects are planned including: a special track day in May, a commemorative T-shirt for the Marymass 10k, a dinner in September, a history of the club to be published, a compilation of testimonials from past and present members, a list of club records in all events to be compiled, a new trophy to be inaugurated. He also reported that the new high jump mat has been purchased at a cost of £3k and it is the section's intention to develop the triangle area for field events.

Gym – it was agreed to purchase an 'aquabag' and some extra plates at a cost up to £250.

AOB

Archery Portakabin – A. Rennie reported that he had again been in touch with Archery about the portakabin and that a different person is now dealing with the matter. He suggested that he offer Archery a nominal sum of £100 in respect of the sports club taking ownership of the portakabin and it was agreed to try this.

Rugby posts – the two recent storms have caused damage to both sets of rugby posts and Glen is liaising with Rugby and the club's insurer to see if a claim is viable. If not alternative proposals for replacing the posts will need to be considered.

Moles, fertiliser, grass spiker -discussion took place on pitch maintenance which included these three issues. The discussion will continue when information is available on costs.

Publicity sheet – A. Keenan suggested that the club should have a basic publicity hand out which highlights the range of sports/activities which are available through the club. It was agreed that this is a good suggestion and should be taken forward.

Date of next meeting – Thursday 22nd February 2024