

IRVINE SPORTS CLUB BOARD MEETING on THUR. 27th JUNE 2024

Present: R. Kidd, A. Rennie, A. Wilson, M. Ingram, A. Keenan, G. Russell

Apologies: J. McGarry, L. Williamson, S. McCallun, M. Nish

Finance and Banking

The finance report for May had been prepared by Glen and issued in advance of the meeting. The report showed income from grants totalling £2,590 and a vat refund of £1,369. However when other routine expenditures related to staffing, insurance, utilities and loan repayments are taken into account it meant that the club traded at a loss of approx. £2k for the month of May. The contract with the company which administered the club membership package(Virtuagym) has been brought to an end due to lack of communication on the company's part. This has resulted in a considerable amount of extra work for the Club Manager who has had to set up a completely new membership system which staff will be able to administer at a significantly reduced cost to the club. Glen was congratulated on his prompt action with regard to this matter. A. Rennie reported that the club accountant had now provided a draft copy of the club accounts for the year ending 31st March 2024. He said that he had still to study the detail in the accounts but he hoped to issue copies to the board members for discussion at the July meeting. Girls Football and Running are due to make annual subscription payments by the end of June and representatives for both sections said that the matter was in hand.

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

A Rennie provided board members with a copy of emails which had been exchanged between the club and NAC since the last board meeting. The net result of these is that no progress has been made with the Asset Transfer(again) as the legal department of NAC has still not provided the feedback required by the club in respect of the changes to the club's Articles of Association. In the most recent email to the club, NAC had proposed that the matter could be decided at an NAC cabinet meeting on 29th October provided Irvine Sports Club could provide all checked governance documents by 16th September. A. Rennie was advised to write back to NAC stating that the Sports Club are willing to meet this deadline but are only able to do so if NAC legal department provide the required information, and he should suggest this information needs to be provided by 25th July for the timetable to have any prospect of success.

Development Manager's Report

Glen had provided a separate report covering a range of issues. The following is a summary for inclusion with these minutes.

Ground issues – It was confirmed that the groundsman does have a written contract and that R. Kidd and L. Williamson are actively involved with the groundsman about his contractual duties. It was again confirmed that the main priority for the groundsman is to cut and line the playing areas and that areas irrelevant to the playing of the outdoor sports will only receive limited maintenance. Glen had prepared a separate report on the savings

which the club can make in respect of both staff hours and fuel by adopting this approach. A request from the groundsman to use weedkiller on certain areas was rejected as the board considered that the club should always choose environmentally friendly maintenance options. A second request by the groundsman for the club to purchase a grass rake as a tractor attachment was also rejected as the board considered that the grass should be maintained at a length where no raking was required.

Marress Room upgrade – Glen has secured a grant of £25k which is specifically to upgrade the Marress room – new windows, new flooring, redecoration, etc. The work on this will start immediately.

Health and Safety – Glen is currently attending to a number of issues linked to safe use of the club including upgrading signage and Legionella testing.

Completion of forms required by OSCR – All directors were reminded to complete the paperwork which Glen had issued by email. In addition Bobby and Andy will assist Glen to formulate a 'Reserves Policy' and a 'Good Governance Policy' which are both required.

Club Business Plan – Glen is currently drafting a new club business plan which is required by grant funders. Included in the plan this time will be the club's Social Impact Framework.

Club income – Glen provided a comprehensive breakdown of all current sources of income (excluding bar): individual section subscriptions, gym subscriptions, income from clubhouse lets and income from playing field lets

Playing Sections and Gym

Cricket – The section is having a poor season with both teams in a relegation battle. The 1st X1 won at Dingwall in the Scottish Cup but then lost in the quarter final. Maintaining player numbers has been an issue with a number of players taking extended holidays. A summer camp for juniors has been arranged for July. The entrance to the picnic area has been enlarged so that Graeme can cut it with the zero-turn mower.

Football – The under 16's are top of their league of 9 teams and a new lead coach has been appointed. The under 14's are 5th in their league of 9 teams. They lost in the quarter final of the S.W. League Cup but won the plate at two festivals. The section had 60 youths at the Kilwinning Festival. Some teams are stopping for a summer break and the broken training lights have now been replaced. Discussions have taken place involving Girls Football, Hockey and Running and an agreement has been reached for four 11-a-side matches to be played on the hockey pitch subject to each match being a 9.30am k.o. and the football goals removed from the hockey area after each game. The agreed dates are: 31st August, 21st September, 26th October and 30th November.

Rugby – The new 2nd XV posts have now been erected and pre-season training starts next week. The kids' activities have stopped until the end of July and 'tartan touch' continues to be a success.

Running – Preparations are well under way for the Marymass 10k on Wednesday 21st August. The section has had competitors at: the Dalry 12k, the Glasgow Men's 10k, the Loch Lomond 5k and 10k, the Sky half marathon and the Kilmarnock 10k(20 runners). The 500th Eglinton Parkrun took place on 1st June with 20 runners from the section participating.

AOB

- The directors considered a request from Jim Whyte of the football section to raise the height of the storm water manhole at the corner of the playing field nearest the railway bridge. His argument is that when the river level is high, water from the river is forced out of the top of the existing manhole causing flooding to the football pitches in that area. A counter argument from members of the board is that the predominant cause of flooding to the playing field is when there is continuous heavy rain after the flap drain in the manhole has closed due to the river level being high. In addition the Sports Club simply does not have funds to undertake raising the height of the manhole. However if Mr Whyte is able to provide a specialist report to justify his argument and he is able to source funding for the work then the board will re-consider the matter.
- The cricket section asked for clarification on the size of the area to be used by any future playing/training area on the existing bowling green area. A. Rennie provided a copy of the plan for this proposed development which had been previously agreed by the board. The proposed playing/training area would require to be 65m long by 47m wide and an additional 2m strip would need to be left between the Sports Club Building and the playing/training area. The overall affect of this is that the cricket proposal to establish a new bowling practice area would require to be 49m away from the outside wall of the Marress Room.
- A. Wilson submitted a proposal on behalf of the Rugby section to site a second portakabin alongside the Marress Room facing the 1st XV pitch. The proposal is to site the unit between the exit door to the playing field and the fire exit door from the Marress room. The board agreed to this proposal.

The next board meeting as arranged for Thursday 25th July