

## **IRVINE SPORTS CLUB BOARD MEETING on THUR. 25<sup>th</sup> JULY 2024**

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

**Apologies:** L. Williamson, S. McCallum, M. Nish

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

Anne-Marie Hunter who has been the club's main point of contact with NAC for most of the the CAT process attended the first part of the board meeting to provide direct input about NAC's position. It would appear that NAC's legal department are now unwilling to provide advice on how the club's existing Articles of Association can be modified to take account of The Community Empowerment(Scotland ) Act of 2015 and are now recommending that the club completely rewrite their Articles of Association based on a template which has been specifically produced to ensure that organisations requesting Asset Transfers comply with the legal criteria. The board's main response to NAC's proposal was that the members felt let down that it had taken NAC almost six years to get to get to this position. After a further discussion about how best to take the situation forward Anne-Marie Hunter asked that the board let her know as soon as possible how the club intended to proceed and she left the meeting. The board subsequently agreed that a sub-committee of A. Rennie, R. Kidd and A. Keenan would meet the following week to analyse how it would be possible to incorporate the club's existing governing documents into the recommended template.

### **Finance and Banking**

The finance report for June had been prepared by Glen and issued in advance of the meeting. The report showed a loss for the month of approx. £10k. A contributory factor in this loss was a changeover to a new system for collecting membership direct debits which had been necessitated by the collapse of the Virtuagym system. The secretary again cautioned the board that a better balance of income and expenditure had to be achieved. The £25k grant which had been obtained from UKSPF for the Marress room upgrade was now in the club's bank account and an additional grant of £5,659 had been secured from The Scottish Council for I.T. equipment. The draft annual accounts for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 had been issued in advance of the meeting and the most relevant findings were: overall income was down by £9k and this was accounted for by decreases in income of £14k in grants and £4k in charitable activity alongside an increase in bar income of £9k(this is gross income and should be considered in context of bar expenditures). On the expenditure side the most relevant findings were: increases in heat and light of £6k and pavilion maintenance of £6k alongside an overall reduction in wage costs of £15k(but the grant income directly linked to the wage costs is also down). The overall outcome, taking depreciation into account, is a loss for the year of £24k. There are some expenditure items which require clarification and A. Rennie/G. Russell will pursue this with the accountant.

## **Development Manager's report**

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

**Staffing** – Glen has been negotiating with NAC in respect of a new member of staff to be funded via the Parental Employment Programme for 6 months at 20hrs per week with a start date of 24<sup>th</sup> Sept.

**Club Business Plan** – Glen reported that he is making progress with the update of the BP.

**Drugs Research Network for Scotland** – Glen will make a presentation to the Drugs Research Network for Scotland Webinar on 8<sup>th</sup> August - 80 other providers involved.

**Completion of forms required by OSCR** – Glen reported that the directors still need to contribute to the creation of a Reserves Policy and a Good Governance Policy

**Marress Room upgrade** – Glen provided a comprehensive update on the proposed upgrade to the Marress room including new windows and window cills, new fascia boarding on exterior, new flooring, improvements to interior walls and general redecoration. Allan Wilson and John McGarry are committing to significant personal input in respect of joinery and electrical work.

## **Playing Sections and Gym**

**Cricket** – the 1<sup>st</sup> X1 has had 3 wins in a row but the 2<sup>nd</sup> X1 continues to struggle with two defeats in the last two games. The summer camp went ahead successfully. The proposed start for the construction of the new bowling lane is 10 weeks away.

**Football** – Next week's summer camp will go ahead with 79 girls signed up. 76 girls attended the recent Scotland v Serbia game with 4 acting as mascots and 14 as flag bearers. The section has been looking at a reconfiguration of their existing pitches and their Plan B for this was shown to the directors. An issue had arisen with regard to a request for the 7-a-side pitch to be lined for this weekend and it was acknowledged that the sports club should try to accommodate such requests but it was also noted that the request had been submitted at short notice on this occasion.

**Rugby** – A summer camp was held over 3 days with 50 kids in attendance per day. The first game of the new season (a friendly) is scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> August.

**Running** – Jennie Jackson won a gold medal in F60 at the Scottish Masters 5000m Track Championships in a time of 22.21 and Steven Daye won a bronze medal at M35 at the same event in a time of 16.37. Club stalwart, John Surgenor, recently completed 400 parkruns. The junior section competed in the Ayrshire Track Championships and a selection of medals were won. The Running Section will continue their long support for the Marymass festival by organising the Marymass Children's races at the Low Green on 17<sup>th</sup> August.

## **AOB**

- G. Russell and A. Wilson outlined a proposal to create an enlarged furniture storage area and a referees room/treatment room in the dressing room 7 and linked shower area. There were no objections in principle to this proposal but any further action will be dependent on funding being available after the Marress room refurbishment is complete.
- Concern was raised by the cricket section that there had been minor damage caused to the existing cricket bowling cage by the removal of the trees at the bowling green.
- Concern was again expressed about the amount of rubbish which has accumulated outside the garage and it was agreed that a plan should be put in place to dispose of the majority of this rubbish by burning.
- A. Keenan will provide 'Money Matters Leaflets' to be used as part of the club's community support programme.
- Angela advised that the Football Section had asked Rugby on 16-7-24 if it was possible to move their 2<sup>nd</sup> pitch 10 yards down towards the running track. This is to allow maximum use of the parks when football is reconfiguring pitches within the space allocated. If approved, football would be happy to arrange for their coaches to move the goals.

Allan explained he had discussed this with his section but they don't feel it is something they can accommodate at the moment with their season due to start soon. However, they will consider this next year and advised the best time to raise this again is in April 2025.

Andy advised that the existing layout of the running track and the 2<sup>nd</sup> XV pitch had allowed for a buffer zone between the running track and the 2<sup>nd</sup> XV pitch to prevent damage to the running track surface by players having to retrieve balls which end up on the track. This should be taken into consideration in any new arrangement.

**The next board meeting was arranged for Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August.**