

IRVINE SPORTS CLUB BOARD MEETING on THUR. 24th FEB. 2022

Present: R. Kidd, A. Rennie, J. McGarry, S. McCallum, A. Wilson, J. Kidd, A. Keenan,
G Russell

Apologies: L. Williamson, D. Neil, M. Nish

Finance and Banking

The finance report to 31st January had been prepared by Glen and issued in advance of the meeting. The report showed a slight profit for the month of £1,526 but this included a special payment of £8,900 from the NAC Strategic Business Fund to offset covid restrictions in December and January. The club has also received notification that the repayments on the covid bounce back loan (£40k) will commence in May with payments of approx. £710p.m. for five years. It was agreed that this was a good option for the club and that we should continue with the arrangement. A. Wilson said that he would report to the next board meeting on the rugby section's intention regarding outstanding junior membership payments.

Investing in Communities Fund 2023 – 2026

A small sub-group (G. Russell, A. Rennie, J. McGarry, A. Wilson) had met on 20th February to discuss how to prepare a bid to this fund based on the four areas for action required by the fund. The main proposal from the meeting was that the club should promote itself as a 'Social and Fitness Hub' or a 'Community Hub' with the following features:

- Work placements with training for skills and qualifications
- Low cost fitness sessions and lifeskills sessions
- An expanded range of daytime and evening activities – fitness, dance, drama, cinema, advice and support, social hub/café, disability classes
- A hub for walking and cycling groups and an electric bike hub

Glen is carrying out an online members survey. A further meeting of the sub group was arranged for 9th March at 7pm.

Development Manager's report

Glen had issued a comprehensive report to board members in advance of the meeting. His report covered: staffing - we will lose 5 of our Kickstart/CJS placements at the end of March but these will be replaced by a new group including one person in the 25+ age group classed as long term unemployed(LTU); The recent bar openings for the six nations rugby had not been successful but the club has good bookings for future functions; a sports 'come and try' is proposed for May; ongoing plans for developments within the clubhouse.

Update on proposal to upgrade facilities in the cricket pavilion

A Rennie had obtained costings for repairs to the timbers of the pavilion/garage roof and replacement of the roofing felt. At the present time no further grant funding has been achieved other than the £7,750 from the Landfill Trust.

Update on proposal to develop the bowling green area

A Rennie reported that removal of the trees would be undertaken in the Spring when the ground became firmer. He requested that Clark Drive Girls nominate person(s) to work with him on the project as he felt that the football section would gain the most benefit from this additional training/playing area. A. Keenan said that she was sure that football section representatives would be willing to participate in this project.

Building maintenance

There have been some recent boiler plant issues but that these are being attended to.

Ground maintenance

The club tractor has become unreliable and was unavailable most of the summer of 2021 due to problems with the power take off(PTO). Cutting of the playing fields was maintained in 2021 by the purchase of a 'zero turn' ride on mower but this is not a long term solution – it is too small, it is very expensive on fuel and there is no cab to protect the operator from the weather. The club should now consider the purchase of a new tractor and a sub group has arranged meetings with both Hamilton Brothers(Kubota tractor) and JS Montgomery (John Deere tractor) to find out about options to replace the tractor and its associated mower. The main criteria are: power output, able to use 'red diesel', a cutting height down to at least 25mm and price. There also appears to be a worldwide shortage of tractors meaning that good second hand are hard to find and even buying new there will be a considerable waiting time for delivery. The sub group will report back to the next meeting.

Playing Sections and Gym

Cricket – The section now has a full-time coach in place to work with both junior and senior players.

Football – The section has worked with the groundsman to provide a new pitch layout which will accommodate 11-a-side, 9-a-side and 7-a-side games and they have purchased two new sets of goals. 101 girls are now registered and fixtures are organised until June. Four new parent helpers/coaches have been recruited and the considerable work previously done by Mel McPherson has been redistributed. The club has been booked for presentation nights in December.

Rugby – 1st XV has played 2 games and the ladies team participated in a tournament but the 2nd XV has withdrawn from their league. The juniors have not trained recently due to the weather. The rugby container is nearing the end of its useful life and the section are looking at options to replace it. A. Wilson suggested that the sports club should look to prioritise developments within the clubhouse.

Running – Congratulations to John McGarry for winning gold in his age group in both the 60m and 200m at the Scottish indoor championships. Also to Billy Richardson who was 4th in his age group at the Scottish Masters cross-country in Aberdeen and to Ross Harvie who was 4th at the Kirkintilloch Road Race. Big congratulations to Peter Taylor following his marriage proposal before the start of last week's Eglinton Parkrun.

Gym – extra dumbbells, a new incline bench and a new punch bag have been purchased.

AOB

Email from Jim Whyte requesting clarification on disposal of goals from green portacabin

A Rennie provided the following response:

- The goals were acquired by Clark Drive Amateurs from Kilwinning Sports Club in 2010 and when Clark Drive Amateurs went out of existence in 2017 they effectively became the property of Irvine Sports Club
- The goals were probably about 20years old and were in poor condition with cracks at the top of the uprights
- The goals had to be carried from the portacabin to the pitch and assembled before each game. The assembly process involved two people simultaneously climbing step ladders while holding the heavy crossbar and repeating the process when dismantling the goals. This is considered an unacceptable safety risk.
- The goals can only be used on a pitch which has metal cylinders embedded in the ground to accommodate the uprights and these only exist on the pitch within the running track which is now designated as a hockey pitch.

Taking all of the above into consideration it was decided to free up space in the green portacabin by disposing of the goals. A. Keenan said that she would convey this information to Jim Whyte.

Date of next meeting

The next board meeting was arranged for Thursday 7th April 2022