

IRVINE SPORTS CLUB BOARD MEETING on THUR. 9th DEC. 2021

Present: R. Kidd, A. Rennie, J. McGarry, L. Williamson, S. McCallum, M. Nish, A. Wilson, J. Kidd, J. Whyte, G. Russell

Apologies: D. Neil

Finance/Banking

The finance report to 30th November 2021 had been prepared by Glen and issued in advance of the meeting. The report showed an overall loss for the month of £4819.85 but this included approx. £3k for roofing repairs, £580 for PPL/PRS music licence and bar stock bought in for the hogmanay event. A. Wilson requested that the Sports Club cover the cost of the cherry picker hire which had been used to install the new training lights for rugby and girls' football. It was agreed to cover this expenditure (£580) with the payment set against the grant which had been received from Irvine Common Good Fund. A. Rennie expressed concern that rugby had not paid any junior membership subscriptions since 2017 and A. Wilson said that he would take this matter back to the rugby board. J. Whyte requested a breakdown of section numbers and G. Russell said that he would email the information to all members of the board. A. Rennie and G. Russell will participate in a virtual meeting with Ian Knox of Resilient Scotland on 17th December.

Investing in Communities Fund 2023 – 2026

A. Rennie and G. Russell had taken part in a webinar on 30th November when this fund was launched by the Scottish Government. The key slides from the presentation were issued in advance to members of the board. The fund plans to issue grants totalling approx. £10m each year over the three year period 2023 – 2026 with a maximum of £350k being the total any organisation can receive. Only two categories of organisation can apply for the funds and ICSC qualifies as we are registered as a charity with OSCR and we are a company limited by guarantee registered with companies' house. Funding is primarily for revenue projects and there are four key aims and objectives for qualifying projects set out in the slides. The fund will open for applications at the end of March 2022 with applications to be submitted within a 6/7 week timescale. It was agreed that a sub group involving all of the sections should be set up to prepare a bid to the fund.

Update on the Asset Transfer of a strip of land from North Ayrshire Council to the club

The club received a letter from NAC on 29/11/21 offering to transfer the land via an Asset Transfer for a nominal fee of £1 but with the club paying its own legal fees. A. Rennie has been in touch with Alan Reid of Murray, Gillies and Wilson who will accept the offer and progress the matter on behalf of the club.

Voting figures for election of directors at the 2020 AGM

These figures were issued by A. Rennie following a request from A. Wilson at the 2021 AGM.

Request for Scotrail/AMCO to access playing fields to undertake work on railway bridge

The club has been contacted (via G. Russell) regarding access to the railway bridge which crosses the river at the north west corner of the club's land. In view of the club's previous negative experience of reinstatement to playing surfaces caused by access work in 2015 it was agreed that no vehicle access would be allowed until a formal written agreement is in place and G. Russell will ensure that the companies involved are clearly aware of the Sports Club's position.

Development Manager report

G Russell had issued a comprehensive report to board members in advance of the meeting. His report covered: staffing; ventilation grants; proposed changes to the front reception area; bar supplies; Xmas opening times; possible new room lets; Time to Talk project; Heartstart and potential environmental projects. A. Rennie commended Glen on his work, particularly on maintaining a full complement of staff in face of a number of challenges.

Building maintenance

A Wilson pointed out that the showers had run out of hot water during days when both 1st and 2nd XV teams were playing at home. A. Rennie realised that only one of the three water heaters had been switched on following the lockdown period and said that the situation would now be rectified.

Ground maintenance

The tractor is now back in operation but the club has still to receive an invoice from Hamilton Brothers for the work.

Update on proposal to develop bowling green area

Six x 10m lighting columns have now been ordered from Mallatite at a cost of £3,105.

Letter from Stuart Neil on behalf of Friday 5 o'clock club

A letter of complaint had been received from Stuart Neil objecting to the Friday 5 o'clock club now only being open on one Friday per month – a copy of the letter had been issued in advance to all board members. After discussion it was agreed that the secretary would write back to Stuart outlining why the board had adopted this position but pointing out that the board was hoping to create better opportunities for all members to be able to socialise at the club in the future. A copy of the secretary's letter to Stuart is included with these minutes.

Playing Sections and Gym

Cricket - a grant of £7,750 has been secured for the pavilion upgrade project with decisions awaited on a further £13k. Indoor winter training is ongoing and a dinner is planned for 29th April.

Football – season is now finished with over 200 games played and 400 training sessions. £10k has been spent on the new training lights and the new container. Next season the section intends to purchase a further set of 7-a-side goals. The section currently pays £1k per year for astroturf facilities. A heated discussion then took place on the current allocation to the sections of training/playing areas, most of which have been in place for over 30years, and which were confirmed at the special board meeting held on 17th June 2021. Kenna Gentles has been selected for the SW regional squad.

Hockey – plan to play a home game on 15th Jan. and are in talks with Kelly Fillingham, West Region Development Manager, about playing surfaces. Working in partnership with Phoenix Junior Hockey who train at the Glebe School. Have arranged a meeting with Alan Wade of NAC Community Benefit Fundraising Opportunities and are working with Acorn to fund repairs to the dugouts.

Rugby – have recently played two 1st XV and one 2nd XV games at home and plan to play a match between Xmas and New Year. A successful sponsors lunch was held. Request made for the main bar area to be made available for use by members again and G. Russell stated that it would be re-opened after the Xmas break. Request made for Rugby to refurbish the Marress servery area for use by junior rugby and this was agreed subject to it being available for all sections. Request made for more cupboard space and a possible use of the cupboard in the Marress room to be considered provided the cupboard in changing room 5 can be reallocated to the Sports Club.

Running – the senior men's team won the Ayrshire Cross Country 10k Team Championship in November to add to the Ayrshire Cross Country Relay Championship won in October. Steven Day won the individual Ayrshire title with Billy Richardson and Colin Miller taking the M50 and M60 titles respectively. The annual Cyclists V Harriers is planned for Sunday 18th December and the Xmas Handicap for Monday 27th December.

AOB

A small plaque celebrating the achievements of Clark Drive Amateurs has been installed in the club entrance hall and John Kidd stated that the amateur team, which ceased to exist in 2017, wished to donate the residue of their funds to Irvine Sports Club with a preference that the money be used to buy something which might benefit members with a disability. The next meeting was arranged for Thursday 27th January 2022.