

## **IRVINE SPORTS CLUB BOARD MEETING on THUR. 7<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2022**

**Present:** J. McGarry, A. Rennie, A. Wilson, A. Keenan, S. McCallum, M. Nish, G. Russell

**Apologies:** R. Kidd, L. Williamson, D. Neil, J. Kidd

In the absence of Bobby Kidd(chair) the meeting was chaired by John McGarry

### **Publication of minutes of board meetings**

It was confirmed that board minutes (redacted if necessary) will be published on the club website and one copy will be emailed to a nominated member of each section after they have been ratified by the board.

### **Finance and Banking**

The finance report covering Feb. and March had been prepared by Glen and issued in advance of the meeting. This report covered a two month period as the previous board meeting had been held on 24<sup>th</sup> Feb. and the report showed a considerable drop in the bank balance during the two months. The main reason for this is the delay time between paying temporary staff and receiving reimbursement from SCVO and this was compounded by the club making 5xtwo week salary payments during the period and there was also an overlap between two groups of placements. In addition the club had outlays for tractor repairs, heating repairs, purchase of a new dishwasher for the bar and we made very little profit from functions. G. Russell issued a sheet summarising the subscription payments made by the sections in the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March. A. Rennie also highlighted that the club was due to renew its insurance cover on 20<sup>th</sup> April and that Aviva were proposing an increase in the annual premium from £5685 to £6962(22.5% rise). Andy and Glen are in discussions with our broker about this matter and S. McCallum also offered to assist if required.

### **Investing in Communities Fund 2023 – 2026**

A further meeting to consider the club's submission had been held on 9<sup>th</sup> March with 7 people present. The group spent time refining what our project is focussed on, particularly the staffing element and also discussed draft answers to some of the questions in the application. The challenge for the club is to match what we think our club needs (better links with schools, provision of a social hub – a café/bar, more daytime lets) with the 'areas for action' required by the funder. Glen has completed the Community Consultation and will produce a document to highlight the main findings. The submission date for applications to the fund has been delayed until May 2022.

### **Business Ventilation Fund**

The background to the club's application is that Glen identified that replacing fixed windows with windows with openings would qualify for this fund as we could make a case that we would be able to have better airflow in the building. The fund is administered by NAC on behalf of the Scottish Govt. Glen made his original application in Nov. 2021 to replace some windows in the Marress room and updated the application on 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022

when NAC contacted him about a technicality in his application. We then received a grant offer of £2,500 on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 provided we carried out the work and paid any invoices by 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022. This was obviously an impossible condition and after requests for an extension were refused by NAC and the Scottish Govt., A. Rennie sent letters of complaint to both our MSP and the senior civil servant overseeing the scheme.

### **Development Manager's report**

Glen had issued a comprehensive report to all board members in advance of the meeting. His report covered: bar functions; update on lets; possible installation of an electrical vehicle charge point; proposals for layout changes in the reception area and the marress office area; active schools taster day in May. Two issues which were discussed by the board were: hourly wage increases for Glen and Graeme – increases of 50p per hour were agreed; purchase/lease of a good quality coffee machine as existing provision within the club is poor – Glen will look at options.

### **Update on proposal to upgrade facilities in the cricket pavilion**

The known costs associated with this project were discussed. These included: a quote from a builder/plumber for the internal works and two quotes for the roofing work to include both the cricket pavilion part and the garage part and expenditure on an architect and a building warrant. The only grant secured so far is from Viridor for £7,748, two other grant applications have failed and a decision on a third has still to be received. A. Rennie felt that there was lack of clarity about the overall cost and what the financial commitment from the Sports Club would be and he proposed that more exact information be obtained and that a special board meeting be held the following week to reach a decision. S. McCallum felt strongly that a decision should be taken immediately to allow the project to proceed. It was agreed to delay a decision for no longer than one week to allow specifications and quotes to be clarified.

### **Update on proposal to purchase a new tractor along with a new grass cutter**

A sub group consisting of R. Kidd, J. Kidd. A. Rennie and G. Russell had met with representatives of both Hamilton Brothers(Kubota tractor) and JS Montgomery(John Deere tractor) and G. Russell had provided a summary of the information from both suppliers. There was a price difference of about £8k but the more expensive option was favoured. A. Rennie proposed that, in the absence of R. Kidd(on holiday) and J. Kidd(ill) and taking account of the significant expenditure involved, a decision be delayed and taken at the same time as the cricket pavilion proposal. This was agreed.

### **Update on proposal to develop the bowling green area**

A Rennie reported that he had not met with representatives of Clark Drive girls due to other commitments but still hoped to do so.

## **Playing Sections and Gym**

**Cricket-** An Easter Academy for 160 juniors is underway, summer training has started and the first games are scheduled for this week. The new electronic scoreboard has been installed on the pavilion, the overseas amateur has arrived and a fundraising dinner is being held on 29<sup>th</sup> April

**Football-** all groups are back training at Marress. A Ladies presentation night is to be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April and a Race Night and a Carwash fundraiser are planned. A Just Giving page has been opened to assist with the purchase of a new set of goals. One of the Ladies players is now also coaching and three new youth coaches are going through the qualification course.

**Hockey-** The section is meeting with representatives from other West Teams to discuss playing games on grass next year.

**Rugby-** the first XV has managed to play some games but others have been cancelled due to covid. The ladies team has played at various development tournaments.

**Running** – A 5year development plan is being prepared by a sub group and a club open day is planned for Sat 28<sup>th</sup> May from 12.00 till 3pm. Jennie Jackson has become Scottish 10mile champion at W60, Susan and Amy Rhodes competed in the Berlin half marathon, Ross Harvey was 1<sup>st</sup> in the Edinburgh Meadows half marathon and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Beith Harriers 10k, 11 members competed in the Alloa half marathon including 2 who have progressed from the club's couch to 5k programme, John McGarry was 2<sup>nd</sup>(60m) and 4<sup>th</sup>(200m) at the British Masters indoor championships.

## **AOB**

At the previous board meeting A. Keenan had reported that one of the football players had been injured when retrieving a football from the floodbank. She had cut herself on either barb wire or sharp pieces of metal hidden in the long grass. Glen said that he would ask Graeme to try to remove any obvious risks but that it would not be practical to trawl through all of the long grass. A. Rennie added that the Sports Club did not actually own the floodbank and did not maintain it.

The next meeting was arranged for 5<sup>th</sup> May but was subsequently changed to 12<sup>th</sup> May.