

IRVINE SPORTS CLUB BOARD MEETING on THUR. 31st AUG. 2023

Present: R. Kidd, J. McGarry, A. Rennie, A. Wilson, M. Ingram, S. McCallum, M. Nish, G. Frater

Apologies: L. Williamson, A. Keenan, G. Russell

Finance and Banking

The finance report for July had been prepared by Glen and issued in advance of the meeting. The report showed a loss for the month of £3,867 but this included a payment of £2,000 to Seamill Electrics for an inspection of the wiring within the clubhouse and garage for insurance purposes. CDG has paid an additional subscription amount of £2,320 making a total payment for the new season of approx. £5k and the Running Section has made an interim payment of £2k, with further payments to follow. This income along with grants received from NAVT (£10k) and Awards for All (£10k) have helped to stabilise the club's bank balance. A number of other grant applications were highlighted in the Development Manager's report and he is particularly optimistic about a successful outcome to the UKSPF application which is for £25k.

A. Rennie indicated that the accountant had now provided a draft version of the club accounts for the year ending 31st March 2023. Board members will be provided with a copy of these draft accounts for discussion at the September board meeting

Discussion on proposals to increase prices for hall lets

Glen had prepared a discussion paper with the current rates paid by the various hall users along with suggested increases. The board members felt that they would also like to see some comparison figures from our nearest competitors e.g. Fullarton Connexions and the Fullarton Hub and it was decided to delay a decision until this information was available. The board also agreed that all hall lets should be subject to a written agreement.

Asset Transfer of strip of land from Irvine Common Good Fund

The solicitor for NAC has raised a further issue in respect of the Articles of Association of the club needing to be consistent with the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. A meeting has been arranged with representatives of NAC and the club to discuss this on 6th September. At this meeting the club's representatives will be expressing their disappointment that the club has only been alerted to this possible problem more than 4 years after it made its initial CAT application and that there have been three club AGMs since then when any necessary changes could have been made.

Development Manager's report

G. Russell had provided a separate report covering staffing, clubhouse issues, ground issues and grant applications. The following are being highlighted for inclusion in the minutes:

Staffing – through our working relationships with TACT and NAC we have been able to source three fully paid 6-month placements through the Skills for Life – Parental Employment Programme. These posts will run from the end of September and Glen has initiated a quick recruitment process. This would allow the club to make significant savings on staff costs on reception and cleaning duties. Glen also requested that we retain Andrew Coyle at approx. half his current hours as his commitment and experience would be extremely helpful in the training of the new staff. This was agreed.

Additional Hall Lets – the function hall has been let to a company offering training in hairdressing to teenagers for an 8 week period and this let will bring in approx. £400 per week. Glen is also in discussion with a local remote-control club about hire of the bowling green area along with a room at the club.

Upgrade to club reception area – Glen had submitted a detailed proposal to build a partition across the front reception area at a maximum cost of £1,000. The purpose of this is both to create a more functional space for users as they enter the building and to save heating costs by shielding our staff from draughts from the main club entrance door. The board agreed to this expenditure and Alan Wilson volunteered to project manage the build.

Digital Lifelines Conference – Glen will represent the club at this conference to be held in Perth on 5th September. The club received a grant from this funder in 2022 and we are very optimistic that we will receive further funding in 2023.

Signage and notice boards – G. Frater made three requests which he was willing to implement and these were agreed to – better signage for the defibrillator, white boards for match day information in the rugby changing rooms and a rugby notice board in the main changing room corridor.

Playing Sections and Gym

Cricket – the season has now ended with the 1st X1 avoiding relegation and the 2nd X1 winning promotion. Further painting and decoration is planned for the pavilion and the completion certificate for the rebuilding work will be pursued.

Football – the U14's hosted Inverness Caledonia in the 3rd round of the SWF Youth Challenge Cup but were sadly defeated. The Summer Camp went ahead as planned and was a huge success with the remaining Sunday Coerver coaching sessions planned for 17th Sept., 8th Oct. and 5th Nov. 75 girls and lots of volunteers took part in the Marymass Parade and had a fantastic day. The section also had a 'tombola stall' and 'beat the goalie' at the moor. The section is moving its kit supplier from Hummel to Puma due to supply and delivery issues and is in the process of securing new match kits and rain jackets. Mark Welsh is stepping down as Lead Coach and Depute Chairman but will continue to coach the U14 team. David Connelly who is a coach with the U12 7v7 team has taken on the role of Media Officer. The coaches want to thank Graeme for the great job he did in moving the pitch.

Goals on the U10 pitch have been vandalised with wheels snapped off, possibly on the night of the Marymass fireworks. One of the coaches will try to repair them.

Hockey – structured training has been introduced for juniors and a meeting is being held with Phoenix Juniors to explore common ground. The section is fund raising for new goals and is meeting with Scottish Hockey to discuss the best way forward for Irvine Hockey.

Rugby – the men's 1st XV played 2 and won 1 and the ladies team played 1 and won 1.

An S1 team played on Sunday and a primary rugby world cup tournament is planned.

A request to erect a rugby banner on the front wall of the sports club was agreed.

Scottish Gas is the new main sponsor for Scottish Rugby and an application is being made to the new SRU net zero fund.

Running – the Marymass 10k road race was successfully held with an entry of 400runners.

Members of the junior section competed in a series of events to count towards the club summer championships. The section would like to reintroduce coaching for high jump but previous high jump mats were destroyed by vermin which nested in them while they were stored in the container. A basic high jump mat costs £3,000 and the section has received a lottery award of £1,400 towards this. A request for £600 towards the cost from the Sports Club was agreed.

AOB

Archery – A. Rennie will again attempt to contact Archery to find out what they intend to do about their storage container

Funds from Clark Drive Amateurs – a small amount had been donated to the Sports Club by Clark Drive Amateurs following them going out of existence and A. Rennie felt that this should be noted in the minutes.

Date of next meeting – Thursday 28th Sept