

IRVINE SPORTS CLUB BOARD MEETING on THUR. 22nd SEPT.2022

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

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

Finance and Banking

The finance report for August had been prepared by Glen and issued in advance of the meeting. The report showed a loss of £12,825 for the month and this was partly due to the month including three staff wage runs and a catch up on HMRC payments. However A. Rennie cautioned that the board would need to be careful about cash flow as regular monthly outgoings on wages/loans/insurance/utilities, etc would require to be matched by regular monthly income. Prompt payment of subscription income by the playing sections obviously plays an important part in ensuring that the club remains financially sustainable and A. Rennie encouraged all sections to make the appropriate payments. It was also noted that the energy assessment service to be provided by Utility Aid is delayed due to suppliers not quoting or offering new contracts until latest government announcements and pricecap has been enforced.

The board agreed to a request from the club accountant that he be allowed electronic access to the bank statements on a 'read only' basis.

Progress with club priorities

Roof of main building: G. Russell has obtained quotes from three companies with two others still to quote. The quotes are based on a rubberised roof with insulation. Potential Funders are The Robertson Trust, SportsScotland Facilities Fund and the NAC Community Investment Fund.

Installation of solar panels: G. Russell will pursue this with Resource Efficient Scotland but the roof project will need to be firmed up before this can be progressed.

Restructuring of Marress Room to a meeting room: This has now been completed as an 'inhouse' project with the work done by Graeme Cook and Allan Wilson.

Tarmac repair to access road: this work will be undertaken as an 'inhouse' project next week by Graeme Cook and a volunteer(Sandy Thomson)

Reinstate soak away drain outside garage: A. Rennie said that he had investigated if there is an existing soak away which might have been covered by silt but he could find no trace of anything. He said that he would try to get a contractor to quote to put one in.

Repair roughcast on main building:

Various areas of roughcast have now been repaired at a cost of £880 inc. vat.

Upgrade to cricket changing

The contractor has a small amount of snagging and tidying up to do and it is anticipated that payment of the contractor's invoice will be made next week after the final grant is received from Viridor. All internal painting and re-installation of benches will be undertaken by cricket. Well done to Derek Neil for co-ordinating this project from his original vision through to completion.

Development Manager's report

Glen had issued a comprehensive report to all members in advance of the meeting. His main concern at present is our ability to continue to staff the club at its present levels due to a severe reduction in funding available to pay staff on work placements at the club. The impact of this will be felt in three main areas – reception services including answering phone calls, cleaning all areas of the club and opening up/locking up. The option of the club funding some of the staff costs is very limited due to the expenditures we have committed on both the new tractor/cutter and the upgrade to the cricket/garage. It was agreed that R. Kidd and A. Rennie should meet with Glen to see if any workable solution can be found. The current tight staffing arrangements has also delayed the installation of an additional large 'no dog' sign but Glen hopes to have this in place shortly.

Glen reported that he had applied to the Community Learning and Development Fund for £15k for I.T. equipment to be used for the delivery of training.

Glen reached the final interview stage in the selection process to become a member of The Third Sector Employability Executive Committee but he was unfortunately unsuccessful. However he remains actively involved with local employability groups which should be of benefit to the club.

Board decision on request from Clark Drive Girls for a 'special meeting'

At the board meeting held on 25th August A. Keenan made a request, on behalf of Clark Drive girls, that the board meet with the committee of C.D.G. to discuss access to additional floodlit training areas at the club. No formal decision took place on this and during the period between the August and September board meetings a number of emails were exchanged regarding the request including an email from A. Keenan on 13th Sept repeating the request that the board meet with C.D.G. During this period both the Running and Hockey sections made it known that they could offer girls football access to the 'triangle' area on a Monday and on a Thursday from 7pm until the clocks changed in March 2023 and this was communicated to A. Keenan by email. On 18th Sept A. Rennie, after consultation with R. Kidd, sent an email to all board members asking if they thought it appropriate that the board meet separately with C.D.G. in respect of a matter which involved training areas allocated to two other sections. In advance of the board meeting on 22nd Sept. three board members who were not able to attend the board meeting informed the secretary that they did not feel it appropriate to have a separate meeting with C.D.G. There was no strong consensus view expressed at the Sept. meeting for the board to meet with C.D.G. The offer from the Running and Hockey sections was repeated and A. Keenan said that she would take the offer back to the committee of C.D.G. However she also expressed concern that the offer was for one winter only and A. Rennie made the point that each of the playing sections has a responsibility to develop the areas allocated to them to meet their needs and he encouraged C.D.G. to bring forward costed proposals to extend their floodlit area before the winter of 2023/24. In the event that extending the C.D.G. floodlit area proves impossible on that timescale the Running and Hockey sections would again be asked to consider giving C.D.G. access to the 'triangle' area during the winter of 2023/24.

Playing Sections and Gym

Cricket – all outdoor activity is finished for 2022

Football – all teams are currently training and playing matches. The Ladies team are out of the Scottish Cup after a defeat to Dunfermline. The group which organised the Summer Camp will be back on Monday to provide further input. The section has booked the club for 23rd Sept. for a Sally Buxton night.

Hockey – the section is actively working on developing their junior section and junior games can take place on grass. It was highlighted that the backboards to the hockey goals had recently been broken/vandalised by persons unknown. This is particularly frustrating as the backboards had only recently been replaced.

Rugby – the 1st XV beat Paisley in their most recent game, the Ladies team won all three of their matches in the Aspiring League competition held at Marress and the juniors played matches against Kilmarnock and Cumnock. The 60th Anniversary dinner will be held next week at Bar Sports.

Running – in October club teams will contest all of the road and cross-country relays where the club is the reigning Ayrshire Champions. It was agreed that the Running Section can display a promotional banner (approx. 10ft x 7ft) on the front of the main clubhouse.

AOB

Archery section - Glen reported that all attempts to communicate with Archery have been unsuccessful and it would appear that they now wish to discontinue their section status.

A. Rennie will write to Archery to formalise the ending of their section status and ask about their plans to remove their storage container and equipment.

The next meeting was organised for Thursday 27th October 2022.