

## IRVINE SPORTS CLUB BOARD MEETING on THUR. 28<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2024

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

**Apologies:** M. Nish, M. Ingram

### **Finance and Banking**

The finance report for February had been prepared by Glen and issued in advance of the meeting. The reports showed a loss for the month of approx. £21k. Part of this loss can be attributed to it being a month when three payments for staff wages had to be made but A. Rennie again cautioned the directors that the club was effectively surviving on income from grants. G. Russell outlined further grant applications which he was preparing including: UKSPF; Volant(Time to Talk); BarChapel; Scottish Children's Lottery; Yorkshire Building Society. It was noted that the renewal of the club's insurance is due in April and that G. Russell is in touch with various companies to secure the most effective deal for the club.

### **Review of Club Priorities**

This item was deferred for G. Russell to attempt to produce an approximate costing for the main priorities.

### **Update on Asset Transfer of a strip of land from Irvine Common Good Fund**

A Rennie reported that he had sent an email on 4<sup>th</sup> March to Anne-Marie Hunter and Denise Fraser of NAC and John Beattie of TACT expressing concern that the situation was again drifting since the meeting held at the Sports Club on 8<sup>th</sup> February and the request for NAC's Legal team to check proposed changes to the club's Memo and Arts which A. Rennie sent on 12<sup>th</sup> February. A response by email was received on 15<sup>th</sup> March stating that **'the legal point of contact that we have for this CAT is leaving the council and we were hoping to have confirmed their replacement for this CAT but unfortunately we don't have this yet'**. The email then went on to apologise for the delay.

A Rennie suggested to the board that he send an email to NAC requesting that a further meeting be set up as a matter of urgency to determine a formal timescale for the CAT to be progressed to a conclusion within a reasonable timescale. If this request does not result in a plan to take the CAT to a conclusion then the club should make a formal complaint to NAC regarding the absurd time this process has taken since the club's original application six years ago. The suggestion made by A. Rennie was agreed by the board.

## **Development Manager's Report**

Glen had provided a separate comprehensive report covering staffing, clubhouse issues, ground issues and community support initiatives. The following is a summary for inclusion within these minutes.

### **Staffing for cleaning and reception duties**

It has been agreed with the board that Andrew and Rosetta will be provided with a three month contract to cover the above duties and that the situation will be reviewed within that period with the possibility of further grant funding for staff being available in the new financial year.

### **Provision of extra food and drink(non-alcoholic) at weekend sporting events**

The Development Manager is reviewing the sports club's ability to provide hot food at weekend events taking account of the current reduced level of staffing and the requirements of Environmental Health. Meantime only hot drinks will be available.

### **Door Entry System**

G. Russell had provided board members with a separate discussion document. It is obvious that the current card key system is barely fit for purpose and that the club will need to make a decision on an updated system sooner rather than later. Information provided by Glen suggests that the current card system is a deterrent to expanding income from gym membership as there are multiple weekly complaints about cards not working, and there is a very competitive market for gym memberships in Irvine. Glen is investigating PIN and fob systems with various suppliers and he will bring a full proposal to the next meeting.

### **Time to Talk**

G. Russell provide an update on this project which provides both a valuable community support and is also a significant source of grant income for the club. Glen and 4 other volunteers have delivered 288 mental health chats over the past month and we have 384 local people completing online supported and certificated training courses.

### **Replacement rugby posts and pitch maintenance**

An agreement has been reached by the Rugby Section for the SRU to fund replacement posts for the 2<sup>nd</sup> XV pitch at a cost of £1,680 including VAT and delivery. The posts will initially be paid for by the Sports Club and then reimbursed by the rugby section. As agreed at the February meeting grass seed(3bags), and weed and seed fertiliser(5bags) will be purchased for the 1<sup>st</sup> XV pitch. A. Rennie requested that a further 2bags of fertiliser be purchased for a part of the running track which has been subject to significant wear during the winter and this was agreed. Rugby and Running will be responsible for spreading the fertiliser and grass seed.

### **OSCR Updated Trustees Paperwork Pack**

The new Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Act 2023 requires all Trustees(Directors) to complete new paperwork. G. Russell has issued this by email to all board members.

### **Register of Controlling Interest**

Andrew Rennie has been entered as the person with controlling interest on this register

## **Playing Sections and Gym**

**Cricket** – Season starts at the end of April. Concern was expressed about the drainage outside the garage and Glen will attempt to get a costing for this as part of the club priorities review. Concern was also expressed about mould in the new changing rooms and further discussion will take place after the changing rooms are opened up and fully aired in preparation for the new season.

**Football** – A further 7 coaches have recently completed 1.1 training and a further 7 coaches have recently completed 1.2 training. We are still looking for a new lead coach for our under 16 team . Grading games have finished and both under 14 and under 16 are in the top tiers. League games start on 13<sup>th</sup> April. The football facilities were complimented by their opponents in the Scottish Cup Challenge Cup. New kits have been ordered for coaches. Most games last weekend were either cancelled, rescheduled or had a change of venue due to the pitches being too muddy due to recent heavy rain

**Running** – AGM to be held on 1<sup>st</sup> April and Chick Forbes Trophy race on 5<sup>th</sup> May. Centenary miles on the track scheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> May and a Centenary dinner for September. Juniors will attend an open-graded track meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> April and coaches will undertake training for using the new high jump mat. The section is donating £165 to the Ayrshire Food Bank.

**Rugby** – Final home games for men's and women's teams are on 13/14 April. The men's team could win their league. The 1<sup>st</sup> XV won the regional bowl and will now play in the semi-final of the National Bowl and if successful will play the final at Murrayfield on 27<sup>th</sup> April. Tartan Touch is re-starting and 250 kids attended a course at Kilwinning Sports Club. The Ladies won a competition to attend the Scotland V France Women's International.

## **AOB**

A Rennie reported that a complaint had been received from a member about a member of the bar staff. It was agreed that a sub-committee from the club office-bearers would deal with the matter

A Rennie reported that R. Kidd, G. Russell and himself had met with Stephen Watson on 15<sup>th</sup> March as he had indicated that he was interested in becoming a co-opted director of the club. It was a positive and productive meeting and Stephen had gone away to consider the matter but there had been no further communication from him.

A Rennie suggested that with the clocks changing to British Summer Time on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March that use of all floodlights by the sections should cease by the end of April.

A Keenan again requested information about how much of the current grants received was ring fenced for staff salaries. Glen said that he had still to undertake this task but would provide the information.

A Keenan requested that any sections which were unable to have a representative present at a board meeting provide a written update for the meeting.

Permission was granted for CDGFC to put name plates on the two allocated dressing rooms. Permission was granted for CDGFC to put a sign on the outside wall of similar size to the running section sign. Glen asked that it is not put on any of the changing room walls.

**Date of next meeting – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April**