

IRVINE SPORTS CLUB BOARD MEETING on THUR. 23rd MARCH 2023

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

Apologies: A. Wilson

Finance and Banking

The finance report for February 2023 had been prepared by Glen and issued in advance of the meeting. The report shows a loss for the month of approx. £6.5k. A. Rennie reported that the issues with HMRC in respect of underpaid PAYE and a proposed increase in the amount of VAT we pay on our energy bills seems to have gone quiet again. The former may be as a result of the club making approx. £7k of PAYE payments since the start of 2023. The club has also negotiated a 50% reduction in the payment being requested by Hamilton Bros for repairs to the Kubota tractor in the summer of 2021. The renewal of the club's annual insurance is due on 20th April and Glen is currently negotiating with our broker regarding the new premium. The board was reminded that the end of the club's financial year is at 31st March 2023, and there is likely to be a substantial loss for the year as a result of the investments the club has made in respect of a new tractor and cutter and upgrade work to the cricket pavilion and garage.

Co-opted Directors update

A Rennie said that he had checked the Articles of Association and that Article 66 prevents an employee of the club from being co-opted and therefore G. Russell cannot serve as a co-opted director. A Wilson had submitted an email indicating that two members of the rugby section might be interested in becoming co-opted directors. It was agreed that they should be invited to an informal interview with R. Kidd and A. Rennie to explore how they might contribute to the work of the board with regard to the expectation of co-opted directors contained in Article 66 "...on the basis that he/she has special skills which would be of assistance to the board..."

Development Manager's report

Glen had issued a comprehensive report to all board members in advance of the meeting. Issues which he highlighted included: progress with the two projects for which the club has received grant funding – the overdose training and support programme and the warm room project; updates on a number of other grants being pursued – Cost of Living Support Fund, Multiply Fund to support adults with maths, Supporting New Scots Fund to support integration of refugees, Social Inclusion and Loneliness Fund with the aim of providing space for social activity, UKSPF Communities and Place Fund. Glen gave an update on some staffing issues and it was agreed that all staff should have a wage increase from 1st April in line with the new national minimum wage. Glen was also requested to check if the groundsman had a written contract.

Memorandum and Articles of Association of the club – updated version

The Memorandum and Articles of Association have been updated to include changes made at the 2022 AGM. All board members have been sent an electronic copy and those present were issued with a paper copy.

Cricket pavilion – update

M. Ingram reported that issues regarding fire exit signs, a toilet alarm, moving a metal security gate and a soil pipe had been resolved. There may still be an issue with Building Control regarding a corridor lintel and when that is resolved a completion certificate will be issued.

Discussion Document on Funding from the Playing sections

A Rennie had prepared a discussion document on the above in which he asked the board to reflect and discuss on whether the current 'per capita' funding model remains a fair, equitable and adequate method of funding the playing facilities used by the sections. He made two key points in support of considering other funding models, firstly one of the sections makes an annual contribution which is approximately twice that of each of the other four sections and the total annual funding from the sections is approximately half of that expended on maintaining the playing areas. He emphasised that he wanted the continuation of five viable outdoor sections at the club but that there should be debate and transparency on funding. After a vigorous discussion it was agreed that A. Rennie should investigate bringing in an external consultant to evaluate what the annual value of the facility used by each section is – on condition that this exercise was at a fairly minimal cost to the club or that the cost could be covered by a grant. A second proposal that, as an interim measure, any section which reached 20 adult members would have their adult membership rate reduced by 50% for the extra members was not agreed.

Playing Sections and Gym

Archery – A. Rennie reported that he had sent a further email to Archery on 14th March requesting clarification on their intentions for their portacabin but that he had not received a reply.

Cricket – The section is still at indoor nets practice but the season starts soon and two South Africans will be arriving for support with matches and coaching. An Easter camp has been organised and also a Sportsman's dinner for 28th April. The section requested permission to site a metal kiosk in their viewing area and this was agreed.

Football – matches are going well and the first Coerver coaching session will take place on Sunday. It was highlighted that the pitches are in very good condition and that the Sayers Foundation are sponsoring match kits. The section will be taking part in the Marymass parade and it is now 15 years since Jim Whyte started Clark Drive Girls.

Hockey – the section will be working with schools after Easter and will also be starting seven a side friendlies.

Rugby – the 1st XV has now withdrawn from their league but the section will be involved in a partnership with the SRU to introduce weekly ‘tartan touch’ rugby to encourage more adults to try the sport. Allan Wilson has received the Glasgow South referees award. The section requested that the pitches be fertilised but it was agreed that this would need to be deferred due to the sports club needing to operate on very tight budget at present.

Running – the junior section continues to develop and a team from the female section will travel to Voisin (Irvine’s twin town outside Paris) to take part in the annual 15k road race.

Honorary Memberships

A Rennie put a proposal to the board to offer honorary membership to five people who have been a credit to the club both in terms of their efforts on behalf of the club and the way they raise the profile of the club in the local community. He highlighted how each of these five individuals had made a significant contribution to the work of the club. The five people are Bobby Kidd, John McGarry, Allan Wilson, Derek Neil and Jim Whyte. The proposal was unanimously agreed by those present and A Rennie will inform them by letter of their honorary membership.

AOB

The next meeting was arranged for Thursday 20th April