

IRVINE SPORTS CLUB BOARD MEETING on THUR. 20th April 2023

Present: R. Kidd, A. Rennie, A. Wilson, S. McCallum, M. Ingram, A. Keenan, G. Russell

Apologies: J. McGarry, L. Williamson, M. Nish

Finance and Banking

The finance report had been prepared by Glen and issued in advance of the meeting. The report showed of a loss for the month of approx. £9k. and this was partly due to there being three wage runs during the month and a historical debt to Hamilton Brothers being settled. However it was highlighted by A. Rennie that the current financial trend at the club is one where monthly income does not match expenditure and we either need to improve income streams or reduce expenditure. A discussion took place on a number of ways to improve income including pursuing additional grants, requesting advice from Foundation Scotland and investigating 'gift aid'. G. Russell will progress further grant applications and advice from Foundation Scotland and S. McCallum will investigate gift aid possibilities.

G. Russell reported that the club's annual insurance had now moved from Aviva to ISure and he issued the board with a detailed account of how this had been negotiated. The net result is that the annual insurance premium is now £7,339.60 to be paid in ten instalments. Two conditions of the ISure policy are that they carry out a survey of the building along with the club providing certification of the electrical wiring and that the club gym ceases to operate on a 24hour basis. Information provided by G. Russell suggests that closing the gym from midnight until 4am will have no impact on income from the gym and this was agreed.

A. Rennie updated the board on progress with getting R. Kidd the same access to the club bank account with the Royal Bank of Scotland as the other office bearers and there are now indications that the request has finally been processed.

G. Russell reported that all changes related to the rise in the National Minimum Wage had been implemented and also that all finance information relevant to the end of the club financial year had been passed to the club accountant.

Co-opted Directors – update

The proposed meeting with the two members of the rugby section who had indicated that they might be willing to serve on the board had not taken place due to other commitments. R. Kidd indicated that he had spoken to a gym/cricket member who might also be interested and an attempt will be made to meet with these people before the May board meeting. A. Wilson asked why a meeting was necessary and A. Rennie replied that, if possible, co-opted directors should be able to contribute to the work of the board in respect of the expectation contained in Article 66 "...on the basis that he/she has special skills which would be of assistance to the board ...". It is important that the board co-opt directors who can contribute to the management and development of the club.

Development Manager's report

Glen had issued a comprehensive report to all board members in advance of the meeting. Issues which he highlighted included: Rebuilding the club website; Energy saving measures; HeartStart Defib training; Telephone and Internet renewal; Active Schools P7 Come and Try Event; Bonkers Bingo Event; Foodbank Collection; ongoing support to the vulnerable via Time to Talk.

Asset Transfer of strip of land from Irvine Common Good Fund – update

This process was formally initiated in February 2019 and it arose as a consequence of SportScotland and Resilient Scotland requesting Standard Securities in respect of grants/loans which they made to the club for the 2017/18 clubhouse upgrade. At that stage it was discovered that the club's title to the land which it uses is incomplete and to rectify this a narrow strip of land needs to be transferred to the club from Irvine Common Good Fund. The process has been slow, partly because it is 'Common Good' land and partly because of the Covid lockdown but in November 2021 NAC made a formal offer to transfer the land for a nominal sum of £1 and the Sports Club formally accepted that offer. The situation continued to move slowly until in April 2023 the club's solicitor received the final paperwork to complete the Asset Transfer – and the plan of the ground to be transferred was different from that agreed in 2021! We are now awaiting clarification from NAC about how this situation is to be resolved.

Playing Sections and Gym

Cricket – The season starts on 29th April with the 1st X1 playing in the Premiership 2 league and the team changing to a maroon strip. The club will host a Sportsman's dinner on 27th April. A request was made for regular emptying of the bins in the refurbished pavilion.

Football – All groups are back training with 100+ participating in the Coerver coaching and football will participate in the Active Schools day. 8 coaches and 5 players recently undertook first aid training and the section is setting up a CDG website with emphasis on sponsors. Jim Whyte is delighted to be made an honorary member of the club.

Rugby – The Ladies team lost in the quarter final of the cup with the game going to extra time. Tartan Touch will commence on 13th May and there are plans for a summer camp. An arrangement has been made with football for them to have occasional use of the 2nd XV pitch. The section has obtained 5 surplus benches from NAC which will be refurbished and then sited beside the 1st XV pitch.

Hockey and Running – no reports this month

Gym – it was agreed that it is now safe and sensible to remove the covid safety screens.

AOB

A Wilson suggested that we progress the construction of the partition in the reception room using mainly surplus materials from other areas. This was agreed in principle and A. Wilson, R. Kidd, A. Rennie, J. McGarry and G. Russell will plan a way forward.

The next meeting was arranged for Thursday 25th May.