

IRVINE SPORTS CLUB BOARD MEETING on THUR. 25th MAY 2023

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

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

Finance and Banking

The finance report had been prepared by Glen and issued in advance of the meeting. The report showed a loss for the month of £8,373 and this continued an alarming monthly trend of expenditure being considerably in excess of income. A. Rennie had prepared a supplementary document which highlighted that when the regular monthly income and expenditure amounts are taken account of there is a monthly deficit of at least £5k and the cumulative affect of these monthly deficits has reduced the club's bank balance to a worryingly low level. A. Rennie. R. Kidd and G. Russell had discussed this situation with our main lender(Foundation Scotland) a few days previously and Foundation Scotland has agreed to defer any loan repayments for a period of six months. It was difficult to see how further expenditure cuts could be made without compromising the operation of the club and a lengthy discussion took place on how to improve income streams and the following is a summary of these discussions:

Membership income: Ideally we need to improve our membership numbers across all categories but this has been difficult to achieve post-covid. In the circumstances we will undoubtedly need to look at increasing membership fees and the board may need to hold an emergency EGM to put this to the members.

The following were also proposed: the sections which pay annual subscriptions from the beginning of July(Football and Running) to be asked to 'make a payment to account' if an emergency situation arises with the sports club bank balance; cricket to be asked to amend its direct debit to reflect its increased membership; rugby to be asked to move to a defined regular payment method e.g. direct debit.

Hall lets: The Club Development Manager has made good progress in expanding the number of groups paying to let rooms in the clubhouse and these now include: dance, yoga, Pilates, Krav Maga and the Camera Club. However we need to improve this income stream further and we also need to secure extra regular lets for the outdoor playing areas.

Bar functions: The Club Development Manager has been able to promote a good uptake of bookings for functions where we make income from the bar. However this is an income stream which we also need to improve and the board would encourage all sections to take advantage of this facility and also to publicise it in the community for outside bookings. The Development Manager will work with the board to investigate organising other income generating events such as 'Tribute Nights' and 'Bonkers Bingo'

Grants: The club has been hugely successful during the past 10years with securing grants for various purposes and it is unlikely that the Sports Club would have remained viable without those grants. However in the post-covid era there are multiple organisations chasing grant funds from shrinking resources. The Club Development Manager is actively pursuing grants from a number of funders but there is no certainty of any success from our efforts.

The following are grants being pursued at present –almost all of these include a contribution towards the running costs of the club: Cost of Living Support Fund(Enhanced warm room/social room)(£35k); Awards for All(£10k); Digital Pioneers Fund(£50k); Baillie Gifford(£15k); Essentia Fund(£9k); Robertson Trust large grants(£50k); Great Harbour Project(£2.5k); UKSPF Communities and Space Fund(not live yet)

Crowd Funding: The board should look into the possibility of a community crowd funding campaign targeting local people who have benefited from the club during the fifty years it has been in existence. There are also National organisations which will match crowd funding donations and we should investigate how we can access this.

It was agreed that A. Rennie should write to the Sections to highlight the sports club's financial situation.

Co-opted Directors – update

R. Kidd welcomed George Frater onto the board as a co-opted director. R. Kidd, A. Rennie and G. Russell had previously met with George to discuss the role which co-opted directors are expected to fulfil and they are more than happy with the skills, experience and enthusiasm which George can bring to the board. A decision on the remaining vacancy for a co-opted director was deferred.

Development Manager's report

Insurance – A condition of moving our annual insurance to Isure is that there has to be an inspection of the clubhouse and that the club has to provide certification for the fixed electrical wiring within the club buildings, and G. Russell is organising this.

Scrubber Drier – the club machine is currently not working and has been taken to a Karcher dealer for repair. This machine is essential for cleaning the multiple vinyl surfaces in the clubhouse.

Heartstart Defib Training – had to be cancelled due to inadequate numbers, new date being arranged.

The Great Harbour Project – G. Russell attending meetings to assess our involvement

Time to Talk – G. Russell continues to promote and co-ordinate a number of strands of this project which the club has a commitment to. These include involvement in digital skills training, mental health discussions, overdose awareness and direct support to users, access to our warm room.

Staffing – The only current staff, other than bar staff are G. Russell, G. Cook and A. Coyle

No Dogs sign – A. Wilson has taken over responsibility for getting the new sign put up.

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

R. Kidd, A. Rennie and G. Russell met with a representative of NAC (Ann-Marie Hunter) on 12th May. A.M. Hunter agreed that the new plan was not correct but was unable to provide any explanation of what had gone wrong. Unfortunately because the strip of land is 'Common Good' land the asset transfer process has to be undertaken again with the correct plan and the club has no option but to wait until that process is finalised.

Playing Sections and Gym

Running – 6 club members competed in the 14k race at Voisons Le Brettoneux(Irvine's twin town near Paris) where they received excellent hospitality over 4days. The Running Club is reciprocating this hospitality by hosting 14golfers who are coming to Irvine in June. Voisons would welcome links with our other playing sections – contact Susan Rhodes if interested. Two members did the London Marathon, one did the Berlin half marathon and 3 are doing the Edinburgh marathon this Sunday. There was a big squad at the Troon 10k with results ranging from 5th in the race to some first-time competitors. The junior coaching continues to be well supported on both Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Cricket – the 1st X1 has had a disastrous start to the season and both the captain and vice-captain of the 1st X1 decided to stand down. The captain of the 2nd X1 also stood down and has been replaced by Mike Ingram who has won 3 out of 4 of his matches.

Football – All teams are continuing to train and play matches and the next Coerver coaching session is this Sunday. Two further coaches have been recruited and coaches are now working with Lawthorn Primary.

Rugby – The presentation night for seniors is on Friday and the kids presentation is on Sunday. A new coach has been appointed and the tartan touch initiative is doing well. The section requested permission to use changing room 7 for temporary storage while they make arrangements to replace their outdoor container and this was agreed in principle.

AOB

Letter from Cricket – the cricket section had submitted a letter to make the sports club aware that a section member had made a complaint that he had been the subject of discriminatory behaviour by the cricket section. In the cricket section letter they outlined the actions which they had taken and it was agreed that there was no requirement for any intervention by the sports club at present. The contents of the letter were noted and the cricket section was advised to make sure that they document all meetings and communications regarding the matter.

The next meeting was arranged for Thursday 15th June 2023.