

IRVINE SPORTS CLUB BOARD MEETING on THUR. 5th OCTOBER 2023

Present: J. McGarry, A. Rennie, A. Wilson, M. Ingram, A. Keenan, G. Russell

Apologies: R. Kidd, L. Williamson, S. McCallum, M. Nish, G. Frater

Finance and Banking

The finance reports for August and September had been prepared by Glen and issued in advance of the meeting. The report showed a net profit over the two months of £4,596 but it should be noted that grants of £20k were received during the same period meaning that the club effectively operated at a loss during the two-month period. The main expenditures were: £11,041 for wages(not including bar);£4588 for gas, electricity and water; £3,478 for PAYE; £1,700 to Seamill Electrics for work to satisfy insurance requirements; £1,500 in accountancy fees; £841 for a refurbishment of the scrubber/drier. On the positive side the club has now been awarded a grant of £23k from the UKSPF fund and the let to House of Seisay to run hairdressing courses brought in £1,728.

The issue of a HMRC insisting that the club still owes a historical amount for PAYE is still ongoing. A. Rennie and G. Russell met with the club accountant on 4th October and he is again writing to HMRC to try to resolve the issue. In the meantime it is important that the club keeps up to date with all current payments due to HMRC.

A Rennie reported that he had also discussed the club accounts for year ending 31st March 2023 with A. Howat and as there are some items in the accounts which require clarification the proposed discussion at board level will be delayed until the November board meeting.

Discussion on proposals to increase prices for hall lets

It was agreed to defer further discussion on this until the November board meeting as, due to pressure of work, G. Russell had not been able to obtain comparative rates from other local groups which let halls.

Asset Transfer of a strip of land from Irvine Common Good Fund

A Rennie met with John Beattie of TACT on 5th October to discuss changes needed to the club's Memorandum and Articles of Association required for the Asset Transfer process.

These can be summarised as follows:

- The Memo and Arts need to be consistent with the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015
- Our 'Community' needs to be clearly defined in our Memo and Arts
- Our membership needs to be structured so that our 'community' as defined by our Memo and Arts will always be in control of the club
- All proposed changes to our Memo and Arts will need to be agreed with Companies House

A Rennie said that he will prepare a draft of revised Memo and Arts to be discussed at the November board meeting.

Development Manager's report

G Russell had provided a separate, comprehensive report covering staffing, clubhouse issues, ground issues and grant applications. The following are highlighted for inclusion in the minutes:

Staffing – three new staff funded by the Skills for Life Parental Employment Programme are now in post and will undertake reception and cleaning duties.

Additional Hall Lets – Cornerstone, a training organisation, are taking a let for a number of 2-day courses.

Front Office upgrade – the work on the new partition has started and should progress very quickly with particular thanks to Glen, Alan Wilson and John McGarry.

Roof leaks – the recent very wet weather has highlighted that the club requires to have urgent repair work to the roof of the main clubhouse and also try to progress a plan to re-roof the entire building.

Club Utilities' contracts – the club's utilities' contracts were due for renewal and Glen has negotiated new two-year fixed rates for gas and electricity which should restrict the total annual increase to about £300. He is now trying to negotiate new rates for water supplies.

Insurance Survey – Glen has met with a representative of our insurance company at the club and the only outstanding issues are the provision of a gas safety certificate and fire extinguisher tests – these are both in process.

Networking – Glen has been expanding his network of contacts for accessing further grant aid by attending a number of conferences including a Digital Lifelines Conference, a No One Left Behind event and a Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund meeting.

Grants – Glen provided details of what funders expect from the club in respect of the Awards4All and the UKSPF People and Place Fund. The following other grant applications have been made and are awaiting decisions: Bailey Gifford Grass Roots Sport Fund; No One Left Behind grant; Community Learning Device Fund; Community Lending Library Fund; Green King IPA Fund; Stand Up to Sectarianism Small Grant; Morrison's Community Grant; Hays Travel Charity Grant.

Playing Sections and Gym

Cricket – the Sports Club board agreed to the Cricket section constructing a raised deck (partly covered) in front of the cricket changing rooms. It was noted that the cricket section has taken responsibility for funding, construction, maintenance and any health and safety issues. Indoor net practice will begin during October.

Football – A race night will be held at the Volunteer rooms on Friday 6th October – numbers too large for Sports Club. New match kits will be issued this week. A minutes silence was held before last week's match for a young footballer who was tragically killed in a recent road accident in New Cumnock.

Running – the section now has 23 junior members. Men's, women's and junior teams will compete in the Ayrshire Cross-country Relay Championships which will be based at the club on Sunday 15th October. The annual Chick Forbes Trophy race will be held at the club on Sunday 29th October.

Rugby – the men's 1st XV played 3 lost 3 but gained bonus points. The ladies' XV played 4 won 1, drawn 1, lost 2. Fort William are sending both men's and Ladies' teams to play at Marress on the same day. P7 World Cup Festival to be held on 12th October.
Kids' competition this Sunday to pass the ball 2023 metres. Halloween party in the club on Friday 27th October.

AOB

Mike Ingram asked what the subscription arrangement is if a member played more than one of the club's sports and it was confirmed that only one subscription is paid to the Sports Club.

Mike Ingram again highlighted that the issue of floodwater in front of the garage needs resolved.

Angela Keenan highlighted that litter bins out on the playing field were often overflowing. In response Andy Rennie said that there was an issue with towing the club trailer with the new tractor but a solution was being progressed.

Angela Keenan had also asked by email about some training lights which are not working. These are some of the new led lights which were installed to light the rugby and football training areas and Alan Wilson said that he was trying to find a solution to the issue.

Angela Keenan had also asked by email about the procedure for someone joining the board as another member of the football section has indicated that he would be interested. In response Andy Rennie said that the two routes were either to stand for election at the AGM(elected member) or a person with specific skills can be invited onto the board (co-opted member). Andy also said that he personally would be keen to see new people on the board and that after the AGM the new board should attempt to fill all co-opted directorships if suitable candidates came forward.

Andy Rennie said that he had still to again contact Archery about removal of their container. Andy Rennie highlighted that a date for the Sports Club AGM will need to be decided at the November board meeting.

Date of next meeting – Thursday 9th November