

IRVINE SPORTS CLUB BOARD MEETING on THUR. 29th AUGUST 2024

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

Apologies: L. Williamson, M. Nish, A. Keenan

Finance and Banking

The finance report for July had been prepared by Glen and issued in advance of the meeting. The report showed that £30,659 had been received in respect of grants - £25,000 from UKSPF for capital works to refurbish the Marress room and £5,659 from the Digital Lifelines Device Funding. The overall surplus for the month was £29,850 which effectively meant that there was a trading loss for the month of approx. £1k. The membership income for the month included interim payments in respect of annual subscriptions of £5,150 from Girls Football and £2,000 from Running. Glen continues to pursue various grant applications including from Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing and Digital Lifelines, but decisions will not be taken about these until the end of the year at the earliest.

Update on refurbishment of the Marress room

Glen provided a separate report giving a comprehensive update on progress with the refurbishment. All of the major works have been completed including replacement of the windows and the external cladding, repairs to the sub-floor and replacement of the flooring, internal electrical works and replacement of sections of the internal wall cladding. The total spend so far is £19k. Special thanks are due to Alan Wilson and John McGarry for their significant input to this project.

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

A sub-group of A. Rennie, R. Kidd and A. Keenan had met on 30th July to analyse how to complete the 'Articles of Association template' requested by NAC. They had agreed that it was possible to merge the club's existing Articles of Association into the new template but this had not been completed yet due to A. Rennie being on holiday. A. Rennie will now progress the work asap but it was agreed that NAC should be informed that it will not be possible to meet its deadline of 16th September for ratification of the new document.

Development Manager's report

Glen had provided a separate report covering a range of issues. The following is a summary for inclusion in these minutes.

Ground maintenance – a number of issues were discussed with regard to prioritising the work of the groundsman. R. Kidd, A. Rennie, S. McCallum and G. Russell will try to progress the issues raised.

Club Business Plan- the importance of having an updated business plan and its link to being successful in obtaining grant funding was again discussed. Glen hopes to have the updated Plan available shortly.

Bookings- Glen has been successful in attracting some extra bookings including: a water sports group, NAC Communities and Economies Team and Community Mental Health training.

Update on cricket proposal to construct a two lane, artificial surface practice facility

Derek Neil of cricket had provided a written update on the project and the two cricket members on the board (M. Ingram and S. McCallum) provided further clarification in response to questions from board members. The main points to note were:

- The work is scheduled to take place between 7th and 17/18 October. The area will be cordoned off and there will be no access to the playing field via the gap between the garage and bowling green during that time.
- The new structure will be 30m in length by 8m wide and no part of it will be closer to the outside wall of the Marress room than the agreed 49m which is required for a future training area.
- The Sports Club will allow the contractor to store a small digger (5mx2mx2.5m) in the garage during the construction period.
- The spoil from the project will be left onsite – some will be used to level the area where the white portakabin was previously situated and the remainder will be transferred to the far corner of the cricket area/pumping station/railway line.
- There will not be a permanent electricity supply provided to the new facility.

Playing Sections and Gym

Cricket – the final game for the season will be on Sat 31st August. The 1st X1 will finish mid-table and the 2nd X1 will end bottom of the league. On a positive note 'Gabriella' got selected for the Scottish Ladies under 18 team and the Legends' Day went well.

Football – coaches have reported that the pitches are in good condition and girls football are grateful for the use of the hockey pitch on 31st August. The players all had a great time at Summer Camp and this was followed by a day trip to Millport. The players, coaches and parents had a great day at Marymass. U7's, U8's, U10's and U12's continue to do well and are enjoying training, matches and festivals. The U16's play in the Erin Cuthbert League and have recorded the following – played 5, won 1, drawn 1, lost 3, current position 5/8. The under 14's play in the Erin Cuthbert League and have recorded the following – played 4, won 2, drawn 1, lost 1, current position 4/8.

Rugby – Ladies have played 3 friendlies – won 1, lost 2. Men have played 1 friendly and 1 league and have lost both. Mini's played their 1st game last Sun at Kilmarnock and will play Carrick this week. S2 team has played Ardrossan and the U14 girls will play Carrick. A race night is planned for 6th Oct.

Running – The Marymass 10k RR was again a success despite horrendous weather. Members have competed in 10k's at the Forth Road Bridge, Paisley, Dunoon and Dundonald and at the Kilmaurs 5k. 10 members competed in the Round Cumbrae 10miler with Michael Rimmicans 4th overall, Jennie Jackson 1st F60 and the men won the team race. The junior section continues to thrive with 20+ members.

AOB

- A. Keenan submitted an email about an incident involving men walking dogs on the football pitches and being verbally abusive when told about the 'No Dogs Policy'. A Wilson confirmed that the men were members of the rugby section and that the section had dealt with the matter. A discussion followed about the need for additional signage and concerted action by all sections to emphasise the health hazards associated with dog excrement on playing fields.
- A. Keenan submitted a request by email for CDGFC to add additional CDGFC signage to the walls within changing rooms 5 and 6. After discussion the board members unanimously rejected this proposal. The board accepted that signage on the outside doors of the changing rooms was helpful in directing players(of all sports) to the correct rooms but felt that further personalisation of the inside of the changing rooms detracts from the overall image that we are a multisports club.
- M. Ingram requested permission to gradually burn the wood which had accumulated outside the garage. His request was agreed and it was further agreed that the groundsman will be instructed that no further piles of rubbish are to be deposited.
- R. Kidd highlighted the fact that both A. Rennie and himself will stand down from the board at the next AGM. This was to encourage continuing board members to consider taking on the positions of Secretary and Chair and also to alert the sections that there will be positions on the board to be filled at the AGM. G. Russell said that he would put out a general email to all members requesting that they consider standing for election to the board.

The next board meeting was arranged for Thursday 19th September.