

## **Minutes of Ipswich Sports Club EGM**

**Held on Monday 23<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 7.30pm at the Club House**

**Present:** over 86 members entitled to vote plus a small number not entitled to vote (all as per the signed schedules of attendees held in the club membership secretary's office).

**Apologies:** Peter Gray, Peter Harper, Dick Partridge, Phil Shaw and Ray and Marjorie Wand

**1. Welcome, introduction to the meeting and apologies for absence**

The Club President Maggie Lipscombe (MLi) welcomed everyone to this extraordinary special meeting called to consider a single topic only. She noted that at least 86 members entitled to vote were present sufficient to satisfy the EGM quorum requirement and thanked everyone for making a special effort to be present.

**2. Chairman's Address**

The Club Chairman (VP) then outlined that the meeting was being asked to consider giving the council the authority to decide on the hockey project including borrowings of over £100k if required as more fully described in the resolution shown on the agenda for the meeting.

VP went on to confirm that planning permission has not yet been submitted in relation to the hockey pitch area at Henley Road partly due to the restructure for CASC purposes, the delayed publication of the Ipswich BC report on playing facilities across Ipswich and meeting other pre-planning requirements before submission of a planning application.

VP went on to advise the meeting that the Executive, Council members and the HWP were all volunteers and all work to do the very best for the Club.

**3. Presentation by Hockey Working Party (HWP) concerning the proposals for refurbishment of pitch, floodlights and fencing at Tuddenham Road**

- **Claire Webb (CW)**

Report to identify where the funding will come from and provide background to this project.

Tuddenham Road pitch is now well past its life along with the floodlights and fencing. The HWP was set up to investigate a way forward for hockey and hockey facilities at the Club. The findings focused on resurfacing Tuddenham Road pitch.

HWP feel the project is not dependent on the sale of Henley Road/Cash funds.

3 Grant funds were submitted England Hockey (EH) £50k, Hockey Foundation £50k and Sport England £75k. The Hockey Foundation grant has been confirmed. We still await the England Hockey bid final decision. The Sport England bid was unfortunately rejected.

The HWP took on Graham Fretwell as project manager, a big thank you to Graham for his time spent on meeting contractors and researching matters.

At the end of this meeting it will not be to vote on the project going ahead, but to give the Council the decision if the project stacks up

- **Judy Wright (JW)**

England Hockey Foundation - £50,000 already secured. England Hockey £49,000 decision expected 16 June 2016. EH requires a letter to the Club to confirm that any additional money will be available. Without this money we are unfortunately back to the drawing board. Presently we have been told that we are down to the last 4 with 3 being agreed.

England Hockey Inspired Facility Grant £75,000 was unfortunately unsuccessful but positive feedback was received.

JW provided a funding schedule

Issues	Costs	
Pitch	£160,000	
Fencing	£18,000	
Lighting	£32,800	
Netting Divider for pitch	£3,000	
Irrecoverable VAT	£28,500	
Project Management	£10,000	
Contingency	£10,000	
<b>Total Project</b>	<b>£262,300</b>	
Members Loans	£80,000	Interest 2% + repay earlier or after 5 years
Donation	£10,000	
Grant - NHF	£50,000	
Grant - EH	£49,000	(16 <sup>th</sup> June – EH Panel Decision)
Bank Funding Required	£73,300	Interest 3% + repay over 10 years
	<b>£262,300</b>	

Roger Girling went to hockey members and secured £80,000 loans towards the project – terms repayable after 5 years or earlier on sale of the land, and interest payable on 2% above base.

The project factors the need to create revenue through external use through football to help pay.

- **Roger Girling (RG)**

Originally project was over £300,000, currently the project is now down to £262,000 after a reduction on costs.

The plan is to hire out the pitch for 7.5% or 5 hours per week this, also have factored in an increase in subscriptions after year 2 onwards. Pitch hire through schools, clubs etc. Proposed. New net division require to split the pitch for 2 groups across ways.

Financial forecast slides presented showing modest to higher revenue from pitch hire and how this would affect the repayments.

The new pitch will also see a reduction in maintenance time and cost. The new lighting will be more efficient and should also reduce energy use.

RG went on to highlight that the flipside of the project going ahead was if it didn't and this would also have an effect on the subscriptions currently paid by the hockey members.

### **Questions**

Kevin Brazier, Gym section Chairman asked if RG was confident in the business plan and whether a bank would lend the money. ML confirmed that if the ISC council agree then the bank will lend the money.

Kathy Mills, Squash section, asked if this goes ahead how this affects other projects for all sections. TC advised that the Club has free cash is £18,000 per annum and there isn't much spare money to manage this or other projects.

Andy Isles, Squash, asked with current borrowing at £280,000, if no sinking fund is available is it due to hockey not providing any surplus within its budget for this over the years? ML responded that the Club has one pot and it is hard to split out the usage by section definitively.

Claire Webb, HWP, advised that the pitch at Tuddenham cannot be rented out and the new pitch now can – this revenue will provide the revenue for the project.

Adrian Howell, Squash, asked if it was realistic that hockey subscriptions would be going up year 2 with 1 less pitch than currently is available.

Kathrine Wrinch, Hockey, said she felt that the current old surface has an effect of lowering membership.

Kathy Mills – How will the juniors come across from other Clubs? RG replied that a very active coaching programme and the quality of coaches and what we offer with a new pitch will help to grow new juniors.

Kevin Brazier, Gym Section Chairman, asked why 10 years ago we didn't provide a multi sport pitch to provide a surplus?

Kevin Baylam, Squash, asked why not defer the fencing and lighting until Henley Road is sold? JW indicated that the grant providers are providing funding based on the 3 elements.

Alec Livingstone, Squash, commented it is difficult for hockey to provide a sustainable business model. The section has the highest facility capital cost, lowest numbers using the facilities with the lowest membership income.

Chris Palmer indicated that the sale proceeds of land should go to all sections.

Neil Cockshall, Gym and Squash, asked whether the planning permission will be agreed on the basis money goes into sporting facilities at ISC? VP advised it doesn't have to necessary be for Hockey but they do want to see some future investment in hockey.

Adrian Howell, Squash, commented that we are here to make a decision if it's right for the Council to take responsibility to decide on the merits of the project. He went on to say he felt confident the council will make the right decision.

VP asked if there were any final questions on the financial implications

Sue Stenson, Hockey, Squash etc said that she chose HR due to it being a top sporting facility and it is important that this club keeps the current feel as this makes it different.

Tony Cookson, Club Vice Chairman, highlighted that the Club needs the leisure facilities to support the sports. He also went on to add that investment needs to go where it will provide revenue for the ambitions of the Club.

Vanessa Mutimer, Hockey Acting Chairman, asked if everyone knows who is on Council? All council members stood up to be identified to the room.

Mark Ledger confirmed that the Club does do reasonably well and the surplus was £23,000 last year but it doesn't have significant funds set aside to protect against large scale problems. Many Club are worse off than ISC but ISC does not have unlimited budgets.

Mike Downey, Squash, asked that if the overall surplus of £18k how will this fund the 33k extra borrowing?

ML, Treasurer advised that the risk is that the Club loses income from other sources and it could mean the Club can't repay the loan e.g Bar revenue returns to 2014 levels which were £20k less.

Marriette Rix, Hockey, commented that the HWP had presented a fantastic proposal, the pitch is breaking, members have pitched £80,000 of loans to get behind this project and previously supported other Club projects e.g the tennis dome.

No further questions were put to the Council.

**Council resolution:**

KP confirmed the voting eligibility for members and the following resolution was then formally put to the meeting:

'That members give the ISC Council their approval if the Council decides that it is most appropriate for the Club to proceed as set out below:

(a) to enter into agreements with contractors for a total amount not exceeding £289,000 (£255,000 plus estimated irrecoverable VAT of £34,000), and

(b) to borrow a total in excess of £100,000 and up to a maximum of £189,000

In relation to the refurbishment of the existing hockey pitch, floodlights and fencing at Tuddenham Road

Vice President Geoff Sheldrake and Council member Kevin Brazier counted the voting: Those in favour of giving Council the necessary approval -77, against-6 and abstentions – 3. Resolution therefore carried.

KP thanked all for attending.

Here being no other business for consideration the Chairman VP closed the meeting at 8.45pm