



**Minutes of Open Meeting held at Adam Smith College, Kirkcaldy  
Tuesday 28 April 2009**

**Present:** Ade Johnson (Vice Chair), George Macdonald (Treasurer), Ken White (Secretary), Cllr. Neil Crooks (Fife Council), Gary Innes, Alistair Robertson, David Paton, Helen Kuzyszyn, Bill Hogg (Link Officer), Mr Alistair Cameron, Mr. Ian Lewis, Cllr. Judy Hamilton, Cllr. David Ross, Mr. Ron Eldridge

**1. Apologies:** Marilyn Livingstone (Hon President), Mark Bramwell (Chair), Jennifer Mann, Liz Anderson (Active Schools), Cllr. George Kay, Mr. Ken Halley, Cllr. Susan Leslie, Kirkcaldy Ice Skating Club, Mr Neil Chalmers and Mr Alan Henderson (Kirkcaldy Canoe Club), Mr Graham Freeman (St. Johns u/16 FC). The Secretary reported that Mr. Freeman had been involved in a car accident but was also pleased to report that he was OK. Cllr. Kay Carrington, Cllr. Lawrence Brown.

**2. Work Done by the Sports Council**

a) Child Protection

Dave Paton gave a short report on recent Child Protection courses that he had attended recently. He felt that the Sports Council should be in a position to offer help to member clubs and encourage them to attend Child Protection courses.

He reported that although he had spent a number of years in social work he still gained useful information and stressed the importance of the courses. He reckoned that the role of the Sports Council would be to encourage clubs to use the courses and act as a signposting service.

Bill Hogg outlined the two courses available from Fife Council and that these were available throughout Fife.

Cllr. Hamilton asked Bill if he could tell her the price of the courses. They are £25 per course but can be ILA (Individual Learning Account) funded, for those who qualify, and that Council Grants may be available.

Cllr. Hamilton also asked if it would be possible to have these courses delivered to a club and would there be a discount for numbers.

Bill responded by saying he thought it would be possible and may attract a reduction.

Mr. Alistair Cameron at ACA Sports offered to keep a quantity of forms at his shop and will promote the training.  
Bill Hogg will e-mail a form to Ken White to forward to member clubs and those present.

b) KASC Grants

George MacDonald reported that he was currently working on grants for members and was looking at an appropriate funding system. He emphasised that KASC should not become the first point of contact as there were many other bodies that provide funding, the main source being Fife Council. George's view, that he will submit to the Sports Council, is that KASC's aim should be to fill any gaps that exist with other funding bodies. He will continue to work through a funding process with the help of Bill Hogg, who has a good working knowledge of the Fife Council system, to try to differentiate what KASC should or should not be doing.

Bill Hogg reported to the meeting that Fife Council have three main categories of funding –

- Individual talented sports people - £150 max or 50% of fees
- Coaches and Officials - £200 max or 50% of fees
- Club Development Grant for new initiatives - £200 max or 50% of costs.

A discussion followed with contributions from a number of people at the meeting.

c) Awards

Ken White reported that he felt that the first Awards evening was very successful but we are looking at how it may be improved. He reported that this had been discussed at a meeting of the committee following the Awards evening and a few suggestions had been made.

A female member of the committee had soundly rejected a suggestion, for a Female Coach of the Year. George had suggested that there should be a Junior Team of the Year Award because of the difficulty in competing with more senior teams. Ken had suggested that the judging panel should still be used but for Sports Personality of the Year they should select 6 nominated individuals. If the Fife Free Press were willing the general public would then vote on these six names, i.e. the public would decide who Kirkcaldy's Sports Personality would be.

Cllr. Neil Crooks thought that this would bring KASC to the public's attention by becoming involved. Mr Alistair Cameron agreed. Ken will seek the approval of the Press.

Ade Johnson asked if the process would start earlier this year and the answer was that it would. The committee would start to look at it at the next full committee meeting.

Alistair Cameron said he was willing to speak to a potential sports personality to attend the awards.

George said that the team award was restricted to KASC member clubs and that this had been done to encourage membership. However he felt that when he was presenting a single trophy to a team that all the team members should have received something. It was agreed that the committee would look at this suggestion.

d) Work with Fife Council Link Officer

As Link Officer Bill Hogg reported that the Fife Council's role was to set a service level agreement at the start of the year aligned to the funding they provide to the Sports Council.

Also in his role in Sports development he works with KASC to promote Coach education and Sports development. Fife Council are also organising a summer holiday programme in Kirkcaldy at Balwearie High School. This provided an opportunity for clubs to participate by providing coaching for the youngsters to 'have a go' at different sports.

George reported that Bill's contribution to KASC was invaluable in terms of his advice and experience.

e) Work with Active Schools Co-ordinators

Unfortunately Liz Anderson, the Active Schools member on the committee, was unable to attend and Bill was again asked to say a few words. The Active Schools programme is slightly different to the Sports Development role although they are also running a summer programme, this time at Kirkcaldy High School and once again clubs are invited to send along coaches.

Active Schools are also the main link to primary Schools.

George provided an example of where the Sports Council and the Active Schools had worked together in his own field of Football Referees. Active Schools were running a junior football tournament and were looking for referees. The Fife Football Referees Association were recruiting young referees and by working together this event worked to the benefit of KASC, Fife Referees and Active Schools.

f) Open Discussion

Mr. Ian Lewis felt that KASC had done a lot of good work and thanked them for that but felt that what they were doing was not well known in the Kirkcaldy area and felt that KASC needs to market themselves more effectively. Clubs need to know what KASC can do for them.

Mr. Alistair Cameron agreed and pointed out that he had asked a number of customers what they knew about KASC and what they are doing. Very few had any idea.

Cllr. Crooks reported that Fife Council Housing and Communities Committee review on bowling greens had been reported at this week's

meeting. The intention was to create equality across Fife regarding provision and Kirkcaldy Area had historically low costs and high subsidy. Clubs are going to pay utility bills for electricity/gas in future and although charging for water was an option, it was not going to be introduced this year due to costs.

Further discussion took place again with a number of people contributing. It was agreed that the Sports Council would take on board the points made and look at how they could market themselves better.

### **3. New Pool for Kirkcaldy**

Ken White reported that he had recently attended a stakeholders meeting at the pool where they had been asked what facilities would be required to hold competitions. Unfortunately the one ingredient that was missing was adequate spectator accommodation. At the meeting Ken had enquired about the use of bleacher seating to accommodate spectators and Fife Council had said that they would look at this. It had also been suggested that a spectator gallery could be installed between the café and the end wall of the pool above the teaching pool, but this had been dismissed on the grounds of cost. On a more positive note the 16.67 x 8 metre teaching pool had been changed from a 16m pool as requested and this will provide more flexibility in terms of pool use for the centre management.

The item was opened for general discussion and several attendees contributed. Mr. Ron Eldridge, speaking as a parent, was very concerned about the lack of car parking for the pool. Some discussion took place on this and Cllr. Crooks explained that as the Planning application had now been lodged there were limitations on what councillors could and could not contribute to the debate. The question was raised as to whether or not the Esplanade car park, which was the option for public parking for the pool, would be open in the evening as it closed at present. Mr. Eldridge also asked if it was the intention to open the car park when the new pool was built why could it not be open now, as he had to escort two children over the dual carriageway at the prom now.

Ian Lewis raised another point relating to parking and the inclusion of the games hall and other fitness facilities and asked why people would come to a facility where they may have difficulty in parking close to the facility when there were other facilities in the Kirkcaldy area where parking was available.

George MacDonald expressed concerns that there was no option available to expand the facility because of its location and also felt that the parking was an issue.

Cllr. Ross mentioned that we were discussing two main issues one on the location and the other one regarding parking relating to planning issues. He emphasised again that any objections would have to be based on planning grounds and suggested that we may need to seek advice on this.

It was agreed that the Sports Council would seek advice on commenting on the planning application.

George MacDonald also mentioned about flood risk and SEPA's requirements. He said that this might be covered by any changes that might take place to the sea wall. A question was also raised regarding access to the rear of the building for emergency vehicles such as a fire engine and also the safety aspects for anyone walking to the rear of the building. It was pointed out that prior to the submission of the plans the Chief Constable and the Firemaster would/should have been consulted.

Ade Johnson pointed out that at the moment people seem to have seen different versions of the plans but now that they had been submitted the Sports Council will have another look at the plans and arrange a meeting of the committee that would take on board the comments made at the Open meeting and consider what action to take if any.

Ken will arrange a meeting and let the committee know as any objections to the plans have to be lodged within 21 days.

#### **4. Way Forward**

Ade summed up where we were and how we could move things forward. The committee would take on board the comments of the meeting and would look at marketing.

George MacDonald was currently looking at a grants funding system.

George also mentioned that he was looking at ways of attracting more members and said that this would be part of marketing ourselves better.

Alistair Cameron asked about the level of our fees.

After some discussion Alistair offered to match the fees with a voucher which would be given to new clubs joining the Sports Council. This would also be extended to existing clubs when they renewed their membership.

A question was asked regarding courses and whether it would be possible to offer reductions to Sports Council members. Bill Hogg agreed to look at this.

Helen Kuzyszyn offered to speak to the College Marketing Department to see if they could be involved in helping with our marketing.

Dave Paton suggested that we should look at helping to facilitate Sports Club networking and forums.

It was also suggested that the Sports Council might be able to use club, and other, notice boards for promotion.

#### **5 AOCB**

There was no other business and Ade closed the meeting at 2020 hours.

