**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**7.00pm 06 December 2022**

On Zoom

**MINUTES**

**Attendance Present:**

Martin Turnbull – Chair

Robert Winter – Vice Chair

Rona McCraw – Hon President

Hilary Lumsden – Secretary/Treasurer

Margaret Kennedy – Councillor

Elspeth Wallace – Fife AC

Gillian Paton – Ladybank Golf Club

Hayley Smith – Active Schools Coordinator

Grant Stevenson – FSLT

Jamie Moffatt – Sports Development Officer

Sharon Hedley – Step Rock ASC

Rowan Geary, Amos Carter, Andrew Gibson and Oliver Forbes – Young People’s Panel

1. **Welcome and** **Apologies**    
     
   Martin welcomed the attendees, in particular our new members from the Young People’s Panel – Rowan Geary, Amos Carter, Andrew Gibson and Oliver Forbes; it was agreed this will be discussed further in agenda point 4, in a small change to the Agenda. Apologies came from Ellis Jaffray.
2. **Minutes from last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting on 4th October 2022 were approved; being proposed by Rona McCraw and seconded by Gillian Paton.

1. **Matters Arising**

The Secretary awaiting contact from Ben Kinnear re meeting to discuss Duffus skatepark project. Cllr Kennedy commented she had been contacted about this and hoped they were able to find people to take forward.

No further information on AM Soccer’s access document for FSLT (G Stevenson).

1. **Young People’s Panel**

The secretary summarised the panel and the Zoom meeting with the panel and Active Schools the previous week. With representatives from all 3 high schools, the whole area of East Fife will be represented, and the panel will work in line with the Young Leaders/Ambassadors program to help support EFSC’s work and communication with young people, particularly in schools. This will form an important link between schools and clubs. They will feedback the voice of young people as well as being involved in other tasks that the sports council would like help with. Initially we will ask the panel to think about how EFSC can communicate more effectively with young people, be it through social media or the like. Also EFSC would like the panel to take a role in the Awards 2023, by putting forward a young person/people who will present the awards on the night, with or without an adult. Introductions from Rowan who swims (pool and open water), Amos who sails, Oliver who plays tennis and Andrew who plays cricket. Cllr Kennedy welcomes the panel, and how exciting this work will be, that it will be important to hear from young people who do not take part in sport/are in a club too.

1. **Secretary/Treasurer Report**

EFSC Membership for 2022-23, to date 80 of 81 clubs have responded and of this 78 have paid. There is 1 member still to respond (Cupar Highland Games). We welcome Cellardyke Tidal Pool and St Andrews Pickleball Club as new members.

I would like to send congratulations to Ross Taylor on his new position in Angus, I am sure everyone who has worked with Ross is as sorry as I am to see him leave his post as Community Sports Hubs Officer, it has been great working with him and to be involved in the initiatives he created in Fife. I look forward to working with Ross’s replacement.

I would also like to thank the YPP sub-committee and Madison, Ross, Tegan and Hayley for their support with launching the YPP, it was great to welcome our young people tonight (see agenda point 2), we look forward to working with you.

The upgraded website was finished and launched at the start of November, in time for nominations opening for the Awards 2023; great thanks go to Grieg Hopcroft for his designs and support.

Martin, Robert and I had a very positive meeting about the SWOT analysis, Robert has been doing a lot of work on this and will hear more on this in Agenda point 11. As part of the review, yesterday a letter from Martin was sent to our partners, with a review of the work we have been doing this year and with thanks for their support.

We await news on the Sport Strategy Leadership Group meeting and also on a meeting with FSLT and Fife Council. Cllr Kennedy is leading on this. I met with Cllr Al Clark (St Andrews) and MSP Willie Rennie to discuss the reduced opening hours issue, the falling number of swimming lessons and teachers and the issue of no school pools. We also await a reply from Maree Todd, Minister for Sport, to our letter of 6 September re issues around accessing funding for school sport, swimming particularly, during school hours.

I attended and spoke by Zoom at the Cross Party Group on Sport on 24 November, where there were 30 attendees including Scottish ClubSport and East Ayreshire SC. I include my speech at the end of the Minutes as an appendix. Sport Scotland confirmed the extra funding (to double the budget to sport) has now been cancelled; Community Leisure UK also spoke, and I attach their November statement, which is a hard read.

Fife School Aquatic Group has been awarded £7000 for 2022-23 from The Bruce Charitable Trust, Fife Properties and Inspiring Scotland, and awaits three further funding decisions. In 2021-22, the project achieved all of its intended outcomes and much more, but we have experienced challenges with the SSTQ swim teacher course, which is taking longer than expected to complete.

I visited two consultations in Falkland about land use plans in the village, and Jamie and I met with Falkland Estate and then with the Cricket, Golf, Football and Bowling Clubs to discuss how to negotiate the relocation of the Football and Bowling Clubs. Understandably the two clubs are upset by these plans as each has made significant investment in their facilities. However, it was agreed they will write to their landowners (Football, Estate and Bowling, NTS) to ask for more information about the plans and dates. EFSC will liaise with the Estate about the possibilities of relocation, and with all involved about the possibility of building a sports hub in the area that could locate up to 5 clubs and improve facilities for all.

Please see Correspondence below for update on St Andrews University athletics track decision.

I met with Changing Ideas, funders of the Community Development Grant, as they indicated that there might be more funding available if we can use the existing pot within this year. I explained I have been in discussions with half a dozen members about possible projects but that clubs are finding things challenging currently. We agreed to review in the early spring when many sports return and we hope clubs will be making plans for 2023.

Nine teams battled out our Annual Quiz on Friday 11 Nov at Duffus Park Bowling Club, Disability Sport Fife were crowned our champs again, with The Rogues from St Andrews Table Tennis Club (including the Chair) were runners-up. Quizmaster Dave Jackman had a super selection of brainteasers and a great time was had by all. Thankyous go to Dave and Rae, to all the teams and to the bowling club for hosting.

**Income and Expenditure**

The confirmed a bank statement balance of £45,030.08 (ringfenced £17250 CDF + £1268 FSAG), dated 16 Nov 2022. Balance in account on 02 Nov 2022 is £41,978.08. Transactions include income from the recurring grant, affiliations and one outstanding Awards sponsor; and expenditure on 4 grants (£1436), 123 Reg hosting, Website upgrade (£3000) and wages.

**6. Correspondence**

Fife Council have sent the Recurring Grant form for completion by mid-December; this has been submitted with annual accounts and a decision is expected by the start of March 2023.

Please see attached documents re St Andrews University athletics track; after consultation it was disappointing to hear the University decided to go ahead with the original plan to replace the track with astroturf pitches, but they have committed to building a 500-metre floodlit, all-weather jogging and running trail around University Park which will benefit the community. The implications of the loss of the track will impact local athletics and athletes including our members Fife AC and East Fife Triathlon as the running trail is not suitable for athletics training. University student athletes will be transported to other tracks outside East Fife. Kate Fernando from Fife AC wrote to share her disappointment and concern about access to athletics in East Fife. **Colin Hutchison and David Ovens (CEO and Chair Scottish Athletics) responded,** ‘’The consultation [therefore] does not appear to have had any impact on the original decision to permanently close the track… We welcome the University’s commitment to supporting the development of a new 400-metre track serving North-East Fife. However, any new facility is likely to require an investment approximately three times what would be required to replace the existing track. This makes any prospect of delivering a new facility in the short to medium term highly unlikely.’’

Cllr Kennedy commented the impact of the decision will be significant and asked if there is anything else can be done. Elspeth W commented on the impact to Fife AC having no access to training and for school access to athletics, which will be lost – that it is an awful situation. Robert W feels the university has shirked responsibility and been negligent in not bringing the track’s maintenance to anyone’s attention until it was too late; also that there is missing information in the press as the timeline for delivery of the jogging track is not clear. Sharon H feels it was a mock consultation and that those attending were only pawns in the process; that statistics will always be used to an end especially when the outcomes would be perceived as negative; that St Andrews should be equipped as a Centre for Athletics for the area. The Secretary commented that with this, alongside the loss of opening hours of facilities in E Fife and now the clubs at risk in Falkland due to land use changes it seems sport in this area will never be able to compete with more populated areas. Andrew G commented Falkland Cricket Club lost use of university facilities after claims it needed the space for student activities; Martin T echoed this about a 5-a-side football side that also experienced being pushed out of university facilities. It was felt by many that over the years the university has not supported community access or partnerships. General discussion around a formal response from EFSC but that the decision was final; Cllr Kennedy will talk to the NE Area Committee about forming a proactive community partnership.

Get Fit Falkland contacted me about UK Athletics have been strengthening their guidance on risk assessment, and all coaches/leaders will require a first aid qualification from April 2023. There is every chance other governing bodies will follow suit (which happened with CWPS), I have asked Meg if we could book 3 dates for First Aid courses to run at Elmwood next year as there is demand from the clubs in general for this.

Giles Dove from St Leonards School met with Andy McLellan and Paul Vaughan from Fife Council, and thanks us for the contact. He found the meeting very useful and though he is finding it hard currently to secure larger donations he is continuing his fundraising for school sports facilities.

Seiken Ryu Karate wrote to thank us for the funding they received in October.

**7. Sports Development – Jamie Moffatt**

* Quinns Boxing Club (Springfield) – successfully met the activity provider criteria for Club Fife. Kieran is keen to forge a strong working relationship with Bell Baxter High School, using the power of sport to change lives.
* Falkland Estate – Hilary and I have met with both ‘The Estate’ and the clubs to support as best as we can in this challenging situation.
* Fife Council & FSLT Partnership – this work will be continuing to at least March 2022, current focus being on growing participation rates in U18s and Older Adults. A longer-term goal of aligning to Health & Social Care Partnership objectives is likely to be met.
* East Neuk Junior Golf Development Group – 2023 work is in the planning phase, with the continuation of school delivery pre-Easter, with the launch of all junior golf in the East Neuk taking place over the school holidays: intro to golf, club coaching, competition, school golf. Charleton Golf Club have recently joined the group after an absence.
* Community Sport Hub Officer Update – Ross Taylor has left his post and it’s likely this job will be recruited for in the new year. Once dates have been confirmed, they will be communicated out to the sports council.

Rona McC asked if Ross Taylor’s position will be filled, Jamie M confirmed that this position will be filled in the new year and that Ross had left a detailed handover.

**8. Active Schools Officer Report**

**Report from Hayley Smith**

Howe of Fife U16s and Bell Baxter HS rugby team will take part in the Scottish Schools Shield final at Murrayfield, wishing them great congratulations and luck for the game. NE Fife Leagues are continuing with basketball and rugby already taken place. Together We Can school link also continues, with a teambuilding exercise planned for the new year. Punch Beyond is a newer initiative around behavioural issues, through Judo (slightly different name) and Boxing. Active Schools works with Police Scotland on this. Be Active funding was secured to continue work with Newburgh Sailing Club to provide taster sessions to young learners at risk; the YP must attend school to be able to take part, this is working very successfully and cane lead to providing the YP with a qualification.

**9. FSLT Report**

Grant confirmed that there is a recruitment push for 3 positions at Cupar (1x full time, 2x part time); also for front of house at St Andrews in new year. New initiative starts this week, follows work of FSAG – ‘Take the Opportunity’ funds the lifeguard qualification for contracted staff, plus other training support provided eg. child protection, health and safety. This will come to NE Fife next year., possibly working alongside FSAG dates for NPLQ at Easter. Club engagement took place during Sept to Nov, to look especially at dryside use as different clubs need different things. A new swimming offer for U17s to access free swimming for 3 months. The 4DX partnership between FSLT and Fife Council has been resurrected to increase participation in Fife and Grant will lead on NE Fife – the focus continues to be on U18s and O60s and 20 min neighbourhoods. The Chair asked how much of FSLT’s funding comes from outside Fife Council, Grant commented that there are more teams now focused on fundraising. Cllr Kennedy queried festive opening and why NE Fife has no centres open again, asking who makes the decisions about funding this, is it Fife Council? Grant commented that it was a Fife Council decision, though after the meeting Cllr Kennedy was informed by Paul Vaughan that this was not the case. This will be discussed at the next scheduled meeting between EFSC/FSLT/FC. Cllr Kennedy also asked if Grant could link with Cupar Now about the Place of Warmth campaign, agreed. Robert W asked how staff remuneration could be made more attractive and asked if the pay rewards were backdated to April. Grant commented that these were COSLA decisions.

**10. Awards 2023**

The Secretary asked whether we could boost the FB post about the Awards nominations, which costs £14.99 – agreed. It was also agreed that we should split the 20 mins for speeches into 3 different speeches, with one being a presentation to Richard Brickley with Life Membership and a belated tribute to his work and retirement. Amos said that he would speak with his brother Ollie, a British team para swimmer, who worked for years with Richard if he might take part in this. Andrew commented that he would be happy to present the awards and that the YP Panel can discuss this more. Cllr Kennedy commented we must trumpet successes like the YP Panel and Sports Council of the Year.

**11. SWOT Analysis Review**

Robert explained that from the first version of the analysis (supplied), he had created a detailed a 5-page action plan, the first action completed is the letter of thanks to our. This is a working document and will help decision making, there was still much work to do and so Robert asks all committee members to read and make comment. Cllr Kennedy asked for this to be shared with the minutes.

**12. AOCB**

**Grants Sub-committee** discussed and agreed a funding applications from Falkland Cricket Club for £1950 for building inclusion locally around cricket opportunities for 5-18 year olds, with a particular focus on 5-11yo. Andrew commented that he helps to coach this age group and it will be of great benefit to the club.

It was agreed to run and set dates for up to 3 First Aid courses and one CWPS course next year, that will be funded for our members. Dates will be sent out to members for sign up once agreed.

The Secretary asked to minute congratulations to Ollie Carter who broke records in 50m Fly, 50m, 100m and 400m Freestyle at the British Para-Swimming Winter National Meet 2022.

**12. Date of Next Meeting**

Tues 24 Jan 2023 on Zoom [Cllr Kennedy sends apologies in advance]

**Dates for 2023**

Mon 6 Mar on Zoom

Tues 9 May in person

Tues 18 July in person

Tues 3 Oct in person

Tues 5 Dec on Zoom

**Awards** Wed 22 March

**AGM** Tues 12 Sept

**Quiz** Fri 10 Nov

**Appendix – 24 Nov 2022 Scottish Sports Assoc, Cross Party Group on Sport – HL speech**

Introduction. Our rural area covers 52% of Fife with only 20% of its population. In 2019 our leisure trust cut the opening hours of our local sports centres, the decision was based on footfall. Since then we have been working with local Cllrs for equality in access to community leisure facilities across Fife, which included a Motion being passed by FC in March this year. We acknowledge the financial challenges faced by the trust and supported Community Leisure UK’s Save Leisure campaign.

Meanwhile our member clubs’ volunteer numbers are dropping, and we identified training and other expectations are becoming a barrier, especially in rural areas where significant extra time and travel costs are involved.

To link these points, we are a partner in Fife School Aquatic Group, qualifying pupils as swim teachers and lifeguards to help local swim provision and support our local sports centre. Swim teacher numbers have dropped severely this year and we have long waiting lists, which will knock on to our local clubs. We have found challenges with the SSTQ swim teacher qualification in cost and length of time to complete.

East Fife has over 100km coastline but none of our schools have a pool, meaning schools must pay pool hire plus staffing costs as our leisure centres are closed during school hours. Last year’s data showed nearly 500 primary pupils are non-swimmers in Cupar’s catchment, next year it will be significantly more. This year, our project hopes to deliver targeted swimming lessons and add a leisure apprenticeship, but we have found a loophole in funding, as our work is considered statutory, part of the curriculum, because we plan to deliver swimming lessons during school hours. But swimming is not part of the curriculum. This has limited our funding options, and adds further barriers to those we are already trying to overcome – it may mean our project folds.

Sport and leisure has been suffering a lack of funding before the cost crisis, but the benefits of physical activity on health are widely acknowledged. Access to community sport and leisure facilities should be fair for all, volunteers need to be carefully encouraged and their time is absolutely key and questions around what is statutory in education could be clarified with funders, especially around a key life skill like swimming.