

IG 2 UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2024

Following the various meetings of the clubs at the end of July it was agreed that IG 2 should be formed to progress matters in line with the wishes of the members of each club.

The group consists of the Presidents and Chair of each club, the trustees of the SCIO nominated by each club and others with the appropriate experience required to carry out the various tasks needing to be performed to take the project through to completion.

The group has been set up by appointing a leader in each of the following areas with the ability to co-opt additional assistance as required. Finance, ,Academy and Teaching, Design, Legal, Marketing and Communication and SCIO Trustees.

Thus far the group has met once on 13th August and the second meeting is due to take place on 2nd October. It was agreed that the leaders of each group would progress matters in between times and coordinate activities with myself as chair.

The following is an update in relation to each area commencing with a general property update.

Property disposals.

Buchanan.

Following a meeting yesterday, the Buchanan Committee accepted an offer of £1m for their building. The proposed date of entry is 28th February 2025, and it has been agreed with the British Red Cross that the SCIO will take ownership of Centura Court on the same day. The proposed purchasers of Buchanan have agreed to allow the club to remain in occupation until Centura has been fitted out and ready for occupation which is estimated to be in April/May of 2025.

GBC.

The property in Shawlands is on the market and has already had viewings. The agent appointed to sell the building is confident that a buyer will be found in time to tie in with the timescale mentioned above.

St Andrew.

As some members will be aware, substantial electrical defects have been discovered in the building resulting in its immediate closure. It is unlikely that the building will reopen as a bridge club. Notwithstanding the above, the property is currently being advertised on the market and there have been viewings. As with GBC it is hoped that a buyer will be found timeously to tie in with the timetable. In the meantime, members of St Andrew are most welcome to play at both the other clubs and pay the same table money as existing members of both clubs.

Finance.

The finance group have met with our accounting and legal advisors and are in process of arranging the appropriate accounting system for the SCIO and the setting up of a SCIO bank account. They are also co-ordinating with the legal group re accounting issues required by the new SCIO constitution.

Academy and Teaching.

The group are in process of setting up the documentation which will be required for enrolment by members of the new club in various courses. In that respect they have been assisted by the Melville club who have been extremely helpful in sharing of documentation and processes. This will save time in reinventing "the wheel".

The group has also had discussion with Sam Punch and her BAMSA Stirling University Group in relation to attracting new younger members.

Design.

Application for Change of Use consent together with drawings in respect of the Hillington building has now been lodged with Glasgow City Council. It is expected that the application will take about 3/4 months to be finalised and that timing fits with the proposed timetable in relation to purchase of the property.

The Design group is also planning the interior set up in respect of bridge playing and interior décor together with plans for an internal café.

Legal.

There are several legal issues involved in the process and progress is being made as follows.

- A. The SCIO has now been officially formed as of 23rd August 2024.
- B. A draft SCIO constitution has been prepared by our external advisors and is presently being reviewed by IG legal group and the SCIO trustees. It is hoped to have the review completed and agreed in time for next IG meeting in October.
- C. A meeting has taken place between me, our legal group leader and our externally appointed legal advisors together with all the solicitors involved in the potential property transactions. The purpose of the meeting was to ensure that everyone was on the same page with regards to the legal agreements being made and importantly the timing of events. I am pleased to report that there was complete unanimity of purpose and agreement as to the way forward.
- D. An agreement setting out the arrangement between the three clubs and the SCIO in relation to transfer has been drafted and is expected to be available for approval by IG2 on 2nd October and subsequent approval by the clubs.

Marketing and Communication.

Within the business plan it was recognised that there must be both a strategic and practical marketing plan for the new club both from an internal and external point of view.

In order to ensure that the new club hits the ground running it was decided to obtain external professional marketing advice in order that during the period from now until opening we can put some fresh ideas into practice in relation to marketing the club to the outside world and improving internal communication.

For example, we are acutely aware of the lack of a consistent message and flow of accurate information which has been given to members of all clubs over the last few months resulting in rumour, innuendo and incorrect facts floating round the clubs. In this respect, this will be

immediately rectified by producing a monthly report/ newsletter for all members in similar vein to this one.

We have already carried out interviews for an external marketing company to assist and the appointment will be confirmed at our next meeting in October with a view to the company coming on board with immediate effect to undertake a pre agreed marketing strategy between October and April 2025.

SCIO.

The three SCIO trustees have been busy reviewing SCIO documentation such as the new constitution and getting to grips with the legal requirements required to run a successful and efficient charity organisation.

They have also produced draft job specifications for potential full time/ part time personnel, and these will be discussed in October.

Club Name.

The name of the club and a new logo now must be agreed asap and to that end members of all clubs have been given until 30th September to give their input and again we would hope to make an announcement re the outcome shortly after the October meeting.

I hope that the above update will be helpful in bringing members up to date with events and to make members aware that a substantial amount of work is being carried out by a group dedicated to making the new club a real success.

Regards

Raymond Blin

Chairman IG2.

