

BORDER ICE RINK TRUST

CHAIR'S REPORT FOR THE BIR CLUB AGM

As previously reported to members one of the primary aims of the Trust was to access a SportScotland Grant. Initially this was understood to amount to 50% of the proposed costs involved in the replacement of the roof and other improvement works at Border Ice Rink. After much consideration the plans for the ice rink were scaled back and all agreed that the replacement of the roof was the priority.

In January 2020 it was agreed that a planning application would be submitted and the terms of a Lease between BIR Limited and BIR Trust would be progressed in order that the Grant application may be submitted.

A meeting was scheduled with SportScotland on 18th March but this was cancelled as a consequence of the coronavirus lockdown. A telephone consultation was held and it became clear that the replacement of the roof was an ineligible project in terms of the Facilities Grant Funds available from SportScotland. Advice was given that there may be the prospect of an energy Grant dependent on various Government funding schemes but at this stage no further information is available on this.

SportScotland Grant application deadlines have been delayed but the eligibility guidelines have not changed.

As members are aware the ice rink was taken over by Scottish Borders Council.

The Trustees have identified various minor grants that may be available but this would be insufficient for the major works.

The availability of the Grant funding underpins the ability of the Trust to enter into a full repairing and insuring lease of the building. If the grant funding is not to materialise then the Trust will have insufficient funds to proceed with the roof replacement even with the loan from BIR Limited.

As consideration of such matters were effectively put on hold given the uncertainties that were affecting all aspects of our lives, it is to be hoped that as we adapt to our new circumstances that the Trustees and Directors can work together to find a solution given the difficulties that have emerged.

I would like to thank my fellow Trustees for their help and input and their continuing support.

**J Cullen,
Chair - BIR Trust**