



MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

Monday 16th March 2020

Present: Michel Thomas (MT) – chair, Nick Brodrick (NB), Ali Bryant (AB), Rob Burkitt (RB), Rob Dickinson (RD), Rick Williams (RW).
Apologies: Robin Causley (RC)

20/18	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 17th February 2020 The minutes were tabled and approved.</p> <p>Minute 20/10 – AB confirmed that the sponsorship of £450 had been paid to TUWFC. RW had not yet received the TUWFC business plan. It was believed that additional funding may have been secured from another source but this needed to be confirmed. With the implications of Coronavirus, the requirements to meet the rest of the season were unclear in present circumstances.</p> <p>Minute .20/12(a) – MT had not made any arrangements for a presentation by a marketing contact due to the virus situation.</p> <p>Minute 20/13(b) – NB reported that he had been liaising with Jo Harris (TUFC Disabled Liaison Officer) about the list of disability organisations in the area and Sam Balsdon's project to provide a roof for the away disabled supporters' area. He had also been in contact with Maria Ryder at the FSA.</p>	
20/19	<p>Social media RB reported on recent activity and items he had shared on social media including NB's Non-League Paper article and promotion of Andy's Man Club which offered support in the football environment for men's mental health.</p> <p>AB had been actively supporting our corporate members.</p>	
20/20	<p>Relationship with TUFC</p> <p>(a) Official Supporters' Club MT had previously circulated notes from the informal meeting that he and RC had held with Andrew Candy, acting chair of the steering group. It was noted that AC was keen to encourage the new TUOSC board to be receptive towards TUST and other supporters' groups.</p>	

	<p>It was noted that many of the objectives of TUOSC replicated those of TUST and agreed that the two organisations should seek ways of working together to clarify and complement each other's roles. It was noted that much of TUOSC's offer depended on support from the Club.</p> <p>Whilst there is scope for more than one supporters' organisation, RD felt that on matters of importance to the Club's future it would be preferable that fans are seen to speak with one clear voice.</p> <p>(b) Relationship with Club directors There had been no further response from the Club to Andy Walsh (FSA).</p> <p>The board considered whether it was now time to make a greater issue of the negative and obstructive stance of the directors towards TUST. However, it was decided that in the present environment, where Coronavirus was such a dominant concern, it would be inappropriate timing to take such action.</p> <p>It then considered the potential impact of the pandemic on matters relating to the Club including loss of revenue from matchdays and hospitality, the scaling back of Community Sports Trust activities and, of course, the health and welfare of all employees and their families.</p> <p>MT relayed RC's suggestion that, in the event of the remainder of the season being cancelled, season ticket holders should be asked to consider forgoing any refund. All ST holding members of the board agreed.</p>	
<p>20/21</p>	<p>Partnership with Torquay United Community Sports Trust MT reported that the TUCST's recent board meeting had been dominated by discussion about the future of the Women's team and discussion about RW joining its board had been deferred.</p> <p>With current virus uncertainties, there were no further discussion about future support for TUCST.</p>	
<p>20/22</p>	<p>PR updates</p> <p>(a) Business networking Future events had been cancelled.</p> <p>(b) Brochure distribution Postponed until fixtures resume.</p> <p>(c) Politicians RW reported on a meeting that he and MT had held with Kevin Foster MP where thoughts on TUFC and football in general had been shared. MT had also received a message of support from Anthony Magnall, MP for Totnes and discussions had been held with Torbay and Teignbridge's lead councillors. As far as we have been advised, there have been no recent discussions between the Club and local authorities over relocation of the proposed stadium other than discussions with a council group re other suitable locations last summer.</p>	

<p>(d)</p> <p>(e)</p> <p>(f)</p>	<p>Liaison with the press Following the publication of his article on Supporters' Trusts in the Non-League Paper, NB advised that he hoped to write further articles. He had also been in touch with Jim Parker, editor of the new Torbay Weekly, offering to provide regular articles and had previously agreed to meet Richard Hughes of the Herald Express/Devon Live shortly.</p> <p>Other supporters' trusts NB proposed that the meeting of the Devon Group scheduled for 24th March should be cancelled and all agreed. He advised that he was about to carry out a survey of all National League trusts on a number of issues including could the trusts join together to help co-ordinate a rescue should any club, during this period of no football, get into financial difficulty and possibly go out of business.</p> <p>Sport Torbay MT provided further feedback on this new initiative to promote sport across the district. It was agreed that it was an important scheme and one TUST should support, its own brief being to focus on developing further TUFC's position as an asset within the community.</p>	<p>NB</p> <p>NB</p>
<p>20/23</p> <p>(a)</p> <p>(b)</p> <p>(c)</p> <p>(d)</p>	<p>Any other business</p> <p>MT advised that he had been in contact with the Twitchin family about plans for this season's Ian Twitchin Trophy. It was agreed nothing further could be arranged until the way in which the season will be concluded is known.</p> <p>RD expressed concern that some members may be financially challenged during the current crisis. Rather than risk losing them as members, he asked the board to consider whether monthly subscriptions should be suspended. AB said she would need to check the administrative requirements of this but subject to a practical solution, it was agreed that members should be offered the opportunity to cancel payments for the next three months if they wish to do so.</p> <p>RW reported that the Strategy Team had been due to meet on 2nd March but had postponed due to the Coronavirus outbreak. All agreed that the next few months could be a critical period for the Club and many others. RW stated that more work was required by the ST to ensure that TUST was as prepared as possible to respond in a worse case scenario. He would consider how the team could move this forward without actually meeting.</p> <p>It was agreed that MT and RW would draft a newsletter summarising this meeting for approval by the board and circulation within 48 hours.</p>	<p>AB</p> <p>RW</p> <p>MT/RW</p>

The date of the next meeting was provisionally fixed for Monday 20th April 2020 at 6.30pm.

Chairman's signature.....Date