



## MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020

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

**Apologies:** None

<b>20/01</b>	<p><b>Minutes of meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2019</b> The minutes were tabled and approved.</p> <p>Minute 19/70 (f) – the inventory of equipment had been completed and sent to a member who had volunteered to draft a legal agreement for its use and storage by TUCST.</p> <p>Minute 19/81 (b) – there was no news regarding the banning order.</p>	
<b>20/02</b>	<p><b>Relationship with the Club</b></p> <p><b>(a) Football Supporters' Association (FSA)</b> RW summarised the involvement of Andy Walsh (AW) of the FSA who had met with directors of the Club on 9<sup>th</sup> January with a view to brokering a better relationship between them and TUST. He had subsequently provided feedback to MT, RC and RW and had written again to George Edwards and was now awaiting a reply. The board re-iterated its desire to work positively with everyone at the Club to promote our common interests.</p> <p>AW had been keen that TUST should promote the work of its members to improve disabled facilities at Plainmoor and said this aligned with the FSA's Disability Charter. There was the possibility that the FSA could provide some funding for such initiatives. NB to continue this dialogue.</p> <p>AW had also encouraged TUST's policy of liaising with the trusts and other supporter bodies from visiting and other clubs. MT will ask him to provide contact details. The FSA were particularly interested in the potential Devon / SW Region trust group.</p>	<p>NB</p> <p>MT</p>

	<p>It had been requested through AW that all future concerns of fans about organisational matters should be referred to the Club through Dominic Mee, the appointed Media and Supporter Liaison Co-ordinator. Concern was expressed about his low profile as he is not seen around the ground on match days and he is not listed among other staff on the 'Contact Us' page of the TUFC website so there is no e-mail address for him.</p> <p><b>(b) Proposed TUFC Supporters Club</b> There was still no news on the proposal first launched in September although George Edwards had told AW that an announcement would be made shortly. AW had indicated that any such body would have to prove its independence from the Club before being accepted as a FSA member.</p> <p><b>(c) TUST brochure distribution</b> It was noted that TUST board members distributing the new brochure outside the ground at the game on New Years Day were told to move on by stewards and the police, apparently at the request of Club directors. Despite this approximately 1,000 brochures had been handed out and favourably received.</p> <p>Subsequent enquiries had established that no licence was required for distributing such material in this location and a discussion with the police and the Safety Advisory Group had confirmed that they had no concerns about TUST's actions or right to do so.</p> <p>It was agreed to release a brief statement about the matter.</p>	All
20/03	<p><b>Asset of Community Value (ACV) - Plainmoor</b> As previously reported, the current ACV expires on 31<sup>st</sup> March and the importance of renewing it had been agreed.</p> <p>RW advised on the history of the previous application and subsequent revelation that it applied to the Club's leasehold rather than the Council's freehold. He referred in particular to the very helpful legal advice on the matter obtained in 2017. This had concluded that, whilst the Council's interpretation of the effect of the ACV was correct, it would still be of strategic value. It may apply in the event of the Club acquiring the freehold of Plainmoor and subsequently wishing to dispose of it to a third party (eg: for development).</p> <p>RW had drafted a new application and he was authorised to sign this on behalf of TUST, subject to a review by RD. The Council would be asked to confirm receipt and there would be an eight week period for it to decide on the outcome. As Plainmoor had already been accepted as having community value, it was anticipated that the application would be successful.</p>	RW/RD
20/04	<p><b>Partnership with Torquay United Community Sports Trust (TUCST)</b> The Women's Team had not yet ordered the kit which it had been agreed TUST would sponsor. This would be raised with the team administrators and an appropriate deadline given.</p>	MT

	<p>A meeting was proposed with Jamie McInnes (TUCST manager) to discuss the future partnership between TUST and TUCST. MT and RW to arrange with any other members who wished to attend.</p> <p>MT provided details of the next meeting of the Senior Gulls organised by TUCST which would be addressed by Robin Stubbs.</p>	MT/RW
<p><b>20/05 PR update</b></p> <p><b>(a) Business networking</b> MT advised on forthcoming networking meetings.</p> <p>He reported that a couple of new corporate members had been omitted from the brochure and it had been agreed to print a sheet with their details for inclusion in future copies. The cost of the brochure and inserts had been covered by the corporate membership.</p> <p>It was noted that TUFC had joined Your Partnership (Torbay and Teignbridge) business networking group and arranged a joint breakfast meeting at Plainmoor on 12<sup>th</sup> February. As TUST is an existing member of YP, we had received an invitation to attend. However, we have received a message from the Club saying that despite this, if TUST representatives attend they will not be permitted to promote TUST, only their own businesses. MT to make YP aware of this and express our disappointment.</p> <p><b>(b) Politicians</b> It was agreed to circulate the brochure to local politicians for information. Also, to make contact with the new MP for Totnes.</p> <p><b>(c) Press</b> NB had submitted an article on non-league supporters trusts to the Non-League Paper and was waiting to hear if it would be published.</p> <p>It was agreed to circulate the statement regarding the brochure distribution to the local press.</p> <p><b>(d) Other supporters' trusts</b> NB to contact Ebbsfleet's trust to see if they wished to meet before Saturday's game.</p> <p>It was proposed that the next meeting of the Devon Supporters' Trust Group would be hosted by TUST in Torquay. Possible venues and dates were discussed. NB to arrange.</p>	<p>MT</p> <p>MT</p> <p>NB</p> <p>NB</p> <p>NB</p>	
<p><b>20/06 Social media</b></p> <p>RB reported that there had been a lot of positive support for TUST following the issue around the brochure distribution.</p> <p>RW and RB had reviewed the website content and RB would update shortly.</p>	RB	

	<p>An issue that Club directors had raised with AW was their perception that TUST was responsible for negative posts on social media. The need to clearly distinguish between posts expressing a personal opinion and TUST's position was recognised. However, AW pointed out that board members should follow good practice even when posting in a personal capacity and exercise particular caution. He recommended that TUST adopt the FSA's own Social Media Policy and all board members should sign up to it.</p> <p>The board considered TUST's existing policy and also the FSA model. It was agreed that they cover different aspects of social media and that the FSA version should be added to the existing to provide a comprehensive policy.</p>	RW
<b>20/07</b>	<p><b>Finance report</b></p> <p><b>(a) Quarterly report</b>  AB advised that the current account stood at £2,226 and the savings account at approximately £40,000.</p> <p>Membership had increased to 379 with a number of new members joining since the New Year, possibly in response to the brochure.</p> <p>There was some discussion about possible initiatives for increasing awareness and membership in the wider community such as through schools. Experiences of other trusts would be considered.</p> <p><b>(b) Annual return</b>  RW reported that the AR30 return to the Financial Conduct Authority was ready for submission with the signed accounts.</p>	RW
<b>20/08</b>	<p><b>Board membership</b>  An informal approach would be made to a member with marketing experience who had indicated an interest in assisting TUST.</p>	MT
<b>20/09</b>	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <p><b>(a)</b> AB advised that she was holding two free tickets to any match won by TUST at a raffle. It was agreed to donate these to our partner charity Rowcroft to raise funds.</p> <p><b>(b)</b> RW advised that in response to AW's suggestion about board members signing their agreement to abide by the Social Media Policy, he had considered the wider picture and proposed that members sign the existing Code of Conduct which included a commitment to be bound by TUST policies. It was agreed and all present signed a copy.</p>	

The date of the next meeting was fixed for Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 6.30pm.

Chairman's signature.....Date .....