



MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

Monday 15th June 2020

Virtual meeting held via Zoom

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

20/30	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 20th April 2020 The minutes were tabled and approved.</p> <p>Minute 20/24 – AB reported that there had been no cancellation of membership or requests for deferred payment of subscriptions.</p>	
20/31	<p>Future of football</p> <p>(a) The Damian Collins proposals Having previously seen the Way Forward for Football article and the letter from MT to the three local MPs in respect of this, the board confirmed its support for the proposals and noted the need to lobby for the inclusion of non-league community clubs.</p> <p>MT reported on his recent telephone conversation of well over an hour with Kevin Foster MP regarding this and other football / TUFC related matters including the Corporate Insolvency and Governance Bill and the proposed suspension of the current Football Creditors Rule. KF had indicated his support for the core ideas of the proposals. He was interested to hear of TUST's own work on its strategic plans and recognised the importance of the Club to the wider community in The Bay, not only those who attend games.</p> <p>RW reported that he had also received a written response from Anthony Mangnall, MP for Totnes, indicating his support for the Collins' proposals and for TUST.</p>	

<p>20/32</p> <p>(a)</p> <p>(b)</p> <p>(c)</p>	<p>Media</p> <p>Press coverage NB was congratulated on his regular Fan Zone articles for the Herald Express which presented an opportunity to get TUST messages out to the wider public as well as other football related topics. It was noted that the free Torbay Weekly paper was also providing extensive coverage of TUFC matters including regular interviews with Gary Johnson and articles by former manager Colin Lee and long standing reporter, Dave Thomas. It was felt that the community focused TW may provide a significant challenge to the monopoly of the long established HE.</p> <p>NB noted that the TW had run a couple of items after he had included them in his own HE column including the latest announcement that the TW would be running a Player of the Season ballot on behalf of the Club. There was no mention of this on the Club's own media at the present time. Neither had there had been any announcement from the Club on the subject of curtailed Season Tickets, another issue raised by NB. Premiership clubs had advised their ST holders of plans for refunds or discounts on future tickets but it wasn't clear what other National League clubs were doing. NB to enquire.</p> <p>MT reported that he had attended the virtual curry night organised by the TW with GJ in attendance, also attending the June Sport Torbay meeting using the opportunity to flag up the Damian Collins proposal. He had also had informal conversations with Andrew Candy of the Official Supporters Club and Dominic Mee, the Club's Media & Supporter Liaison Officer covering various subjects of mutual interest. The latter had promised to pass on MT's comments to the directors. MT would chase a response if nothing heard within a week.</p> <p>Radio coverage At the suggestion of a TUST member, clarification had been sought from the Club about any contingency plans to provide radio coverage in the event of the new season starting behind closed doors, perhaps in partnership with BBC Radio Devon.</p> <p>Social media RB reported continuing interest on TUST social media despite the lack of football. The need for additional assistance in monitoring and responding to social media was discussed and RD volunteered to assist with Twitter. RB was happy that this would assist him in providing sufficient cover for the time being with the possibility of seeking further assistance from members in due course, possibly linked to the search for someone with marketing experience.</p>	<p>NB</p> <p>MT</p>
<p>20/33</p> <p>(a)</p>	<p>Marketing & PR</p> <p>Business networking meetings MT reported that these were continuing increasingly regularly on Zoom. RW volunteered to attend some future meetings.</p>	

<p>(b)</p>	<p>Ian Twitchin Trophy 2019/20 As the season had drawn to a premature finish, it was decided that the ITT should be awarded to Kyle Cameron as the player with the most appearances.</p> <p>It was decided to seek the Twitchin family's views on how the presentation should take place and, if they wished, an approach would be made to the Club to see if it could be included in the presentation of the Player of the Season and other awards.</p> <p>In the meantime, NB will publicise the ITT award in his column.</p>	<p>MT</p> <p>NB</p>
<p>(c)</p>	<p>Liaison with the Club It was agreed to seek a further meeting with Dominic Mee to discuss a number of matters covered in these minutes when face-to-face contact resumes.</p>	<p>MT</p>
<p>20/34</p>	<p>Torquay United Community Sports Trust</p> <p>(a) Update MT reported that he had held a telephone conversation with Jamie McInnes who had advised that TUCST had remained busy and financially viable during the lockdown period. They were planning for the coming season and looked forward to the continuing partnership with TUST.</p> <p>The board noted the work done by JM and his colleagues in the community during the current crisis and congratulated them on this which reflected well on the good name of TUFC.</p> <p>(b) Torquay United Women's FC MT reported that he had that day received an update from Matt Green and the team's committee. They confirmed that TUST's recent financial support had allowed the team to complete its fixtures until lockdown intervened, therefore enabling the team to retain its status in the Women's national football league pyramid.</p> <p>Reference was made to TUWFC's new commercial brochure. The board agreed that it would be happy to support this through advertising it in order to help the team gain the sponsorship needed. RB Tweeted this during the meeting and had an immediate offer from a local company to sponsor TUWFC for the coming season.</p>	
<p>20/35</p>	<p>Strategy Team</p> <p>RW had circulated notes of the ST meeting held on 4th May and updated on actions taken since.</p> <p>He thanked NB for contacting other trusts with a survey on the implications of the Covid pandemic and their fund-raising experiences. He summarised the responses as follows;</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All respondents comment that they work closely with their clubs. • Some trusts raise considerable sums to support their clubs (eg: Barrow 85k this year, Woking £30-40k pa for 8 or 9 years) • General view that 100% Trust ownership is not viable at this level. • Respondents didn't anticipate major problems continuing to raise funds for their clubs • They recognise competing needs of other charities – Wrexham trust contributing a percentage of funds raised to them. • Wrexham looking at Crowdfunding as quickest way of raising money • Role of volunteers likely to be increasingly important • Barrow's Bluebirds Trust have run a successful on-line raffle raising £10k in first 6 weeks and raffle players kit and other memorabilia on E-Bay. Relies on support from club. • Wrexham's trust doing similar with items contributed by supporters. • Barrow's Share Contribution Scheme offers various benefits depending on the level of contribution (£50 - £1,000). This again relies on support from club. • A Woking scheme to put supporters names on next season shirt is proving very popular (min £25 x 1,500). Boosts shirt sales too. • Woking trust used Crowdfunding to raise money for two injured players - hit a sweet spot and went viral – each raising about £15k - £20k. • Halifax ran a Race Card scheme and raised £850 in week. <p>In summary, the Bluebirds Trust chair recommended tapping into the club and its supporter culture and pulling that online and modernising it.</p>	
<p>20/36</p>	<p>Any other business</p> <p>(a) AB advised that she would close off the year end accounts at the end of the month and would contact the appointed accountant to prepare the full version.</p> <p>(b) NB reported on a proposal to convene a virtual meeting of the Devon Supporters Trust Group. He would arrange a date with other trusts and any TUST board member interested in attending could do so.</p>	<p>AB</p> <p>NB</p>

The date of the next meeting was provisionally fixed for Monday 20th July 2020 at 6.30pm. Venue to be decided.

Chairman's signature.....Date