

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

Monday 17th February 2020

Present:Michel Thomas (MT) – chair, Nick Brodrick (NB), Ali Bryant (AB), Rob
Burkitt (RB), Robin Causley (RC), Rob Dickinson (RD), Rick Williams
(RW).In attendance::Matt Green (MG - joint manager, TUWFC) – item 20/10 only.
Jamie McInnes (JM – manager, TUCST)

00/40		
20/10	Partnership with TUCST and TUWFC MG presented the current circumstances of the Torquay United Women FC (TUWFC). With a depleted squad since the Summer the team has struggled on the pitch and is likely to face relegation at the end of the season. However, there is strong support for the women and girls' teams at all age groups and a proposal to incorporate TUWFC in to the Torquay United Community Sports Trust (TUCST) next season will be considered at the TUCST board meeting on 26 th February. A business plan has been developed by MG indicating that within such a structure, TUWFC could be self-sustaining. JM/MG to provide a copy which RW will circulate to the board.	RW
	The immediate problem TUWFC face is funding the remainder of this season. There are six fixtures left but only one at home. There is a small balance in the bank but MG projects a shortfall of £850 to enable the team to complete the season. This is required to cover pitch hire for matches and training and travel.	
	MG left the meeting	
	RW summarised the position in respect of TUST's net surplus for 2018/19 (£6k) and the agreed principle of contributing 50% of this to community engagement activities. To date, £500 had been provided for sponsoring the TQ1 Club shirts and £500 to the training tops for the TUCST coaches. A contribution had previously been agreed towards tracksuits for TUWFC but had not been actioned and it was now agreed that this was not a priority in light of the team's current predicament. This offer will be withdrawn for this season.	
	There was a lengthy discussion about TUWFC's position and its need for funds to complete the season. It was proposed by NB and seconded by AB and unanimously agreed that TUST should provide an initial sponsorship of £450 towards the shortfall outlined by MG. We will look to publicise this sponsorship as we continue to build on our partnership with the Sports Trust and TUWFC and NB would draft a press release in consultation with JM/MG.	NB

	The board agreed that TUWFC should be encouraged to seek the remaining funds from other sources, particularly TUFC which makes no financial contribution to the women's team. It would review its own contribution in due course if the required funds could not be secured from alternative sources. RW to advise JM of the decision.	RW
20/11	Minutes of meeting held on 20th January 2020 The minutes were tabled and approved. There were no matters arising.	
20/12	PR update	
(a)	Corporate members / brochure MT had circulated details of forthcoming networking events and invited any member available to join him.	
	A contact from one of these events who runs a consultancy had offered to make a presentation to TUST about marketing. MT to arrange.	MT
	It was agreed to distribute brochures at another home game, provisionally Barnet on Good Friday and also at the away game at Maidenhead on 28 th March. AB to advise corporate members of this plan and previous distribution of brochures.	АВ
(b)	Politicians MT reported that key councillors had recently been updated on TUST matters and had responded positively. He will contact the new MP for Totnes.	MT
	MT reported on his attendance at the Sport Torbay consultation meeting last month. The aim of the initiative is to develop a new sports plan for Torbay which will reinvigorate and work with key partners and governing bodies to invest and develop sporting opportunities within Torbay. He had agreed to prepare a SWOT analysis for Sport Torbay for consideration at the next TUST board meeting.	MT
(c)	Press and media The launch of the new Torbay Weekly newspaper was noted including Dave Thomas' joining as TUFC correspondent. Richard Hughes is now the main reporter on TUFC matters at the Herald Express / Devon Live.	
	NB advised that NLP may still carry his piece on non-league supporters' trusts.	
(d)	Supporters' Trusts NB confirmed arrangements for the Devon Group meeting at Endeavour House on 24 th March at 6.30pm. It was agreed to fund refreshments. All board members welcome to attend.	
	Inaugural meeting of SW Regional Group scheduled for Sunday 26 th July.	

20/13	Relationship with the Club	
(a)	Football Supporters' Association (FSA) A long mail giving an update from Andy Walsh at the FSA arrived during the meeting and NB read this out.	
	In summary, he had received no further communication from George Edwards, another sign of his unwillingness to understand the role of a democratic supporters' organisation and the positive impact that working with a forward thinking group such as TUST can have. AW was supportive of all the good work that TUST are doing on behalf of the fans and wider community.	
(b)	Disabled supporters NB reported on his recent discussions with Sam Balsdon regarding fundraising for the roof for the away disabled area.	
	The recent appointment by the Club of Jo Harris as Disability Liaison Officer was noted and welcomed. It was agreed to contact her with details of local disability groups which she could liaise with.	NB
	MT advised that he had recently had a conversation with a woman who's husband was a retired health & safety advisor and steward for some large London clubs and keen to be involved locally. May be a useful contact.	
20/14	Social media	
(a)	Twitchin family RB reported on recent social media activity about the Twitchin family's disappoinment at not being given free use of the Ian Twitchin suite for one match as previously offered by the Club. MT had been in discussion with the family about this and plans for this season's Twitchin Trophy award.	
(b)	Communications procedure It was agreed to produce more frequent but shorter news items for members and on social media. The Chairman's monthly comments and summary minutes will be released separately and bite-size pieces will be used more.	MT/RW RB/RD
20/15	Safer Gambling Campaign The FSA is running a campaign to promote responsible gambling on football and address addictive issues that can arise. It was agreed that this is a worthy campaign that TUST should support. The FSA have produced various promotional material in support of the cause and RB will download and use appropriate items.	RB
20/16	Board membership An informal approach had been made to a member with marketing experience but they were unable to commit to TUST. It was agreed that MT would include an invitation for members with marketing or similar experience to express their interest.	MT

20/17	Any other business	
(a)	NB raised the issue of government advice on health precautions for large gatherings in light of the Coronavirus threat. Clean washing facilities with soap / anti-bacterial gel and drying facilities were fundamental to this but were sadly lacking in the ground. It was agreed he should raise this with the Supporter Liaison Co-ordinator.	NB
(b)	NB drew attention to recent speculation about the possible demise of BBC local radio and whether this may present an opportunity for TU Radio to expand its activities into the wider community.	
(c)	It was agreed to review the proposed dates for future meetings for April, May and June.	RW

The date of the next meeting was fixed for Monday 16th March 2020 at 6.30pm.

Chairman's signature......Date