



## MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

**Present:** Michel Thomas (MT) – Chair, Nick Brodrick (NB), Ali Bryant (AB), Rob Burkitt (RB), Robin Causley (RC), Bob Cole (BC), Rob Dickinson (RD), Sam Druiff (SD), Rick Williams (RW)

<p><b>22/50</b></p>	<p><b>Minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2022</b> The minutes were tabled and approved.</p> <p>Minute 22/40(b) – RD advised that he had been unable to hand the Ian Twitchin Trophy to Ben Wynter as planned but would be visiting London again shortly so would liaise with Ben to re-arrange. Failing that, the trophy could be presented when TUFc play Barnet.</p> <p>Minute 22/46 – BC thanked the board on behalf of Stroke City for the £500 donation and explained how important it had been in ensuring the future of the club and ensuring that it is affordable for the players.</p> <p>Minute 22/46 – NB reported that the gazebo had been purchased for the Paignton group but had cost £135. It was unanimously agreed to contribute the additional £35. BC to provide TUST stickers.</p>	<p>RD</p> <p>BC</p>
<p><b>22/51</b></p>	<p><b>Finance report</b></p> <p>AB advised that she had balanced the accounts for the 30<sup>th</sup> June year end and had handed the details to Andrew Fiderkiewicz who had again agreed to compile the formal accounts.</p> <p>The provisional figures showed income of £9,359, expenditure of £6,533 including £1,500 held on behalf of Sam Balsdon giving a net surplus of £4,326.</p>	

	<p>The bank balances were £58,305 of which £40,000 was held in the contingency account. It was agreed to transfer a further £10,000 to this account and also to seek advice on whether these funds should be invested elsewhere. RW to raise with those with finance experience at the Strategy Team meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> September.</p> <p>AB advised that the cost per transaction of Go Cardless (used to collect membership fees) had increased considerably. It was agreed to consider alternatives such as Pay Pal. RW to also raise this at Strategy Team.</p> <p>She also highlighted the cost of website hosting at £423. It was agreed to consider alternatives. RB to discuss with Luke Hunter in the first instance.</p> <p>RW clarified the purposes that TUST funds could be used for, namely those which contribute to its objectives as a community benefit society. MT summarised the reasons that TUST spent funds on community outreach projects and events. It was not appropriate to make donations to individual causes, however deserving they may be.</p> <p>RB mentioned that he had contacted Dom Mee at the Club regarding the recent sad passing of young supporter, Ben Oliver, and had received an excellent response and assistance.</p>	<p>RW</p> <p>RW</p> <p>RB</p>
<p><b>22/52</b></p>	<p><b>Relations with TUFC</b></p> <p>NB reported on his on-going dialogue with Club directors about the TUST proposal to provide Autism Packs for junior supporters. A joint meeting for NB and a director with Torbay Children’s Services and Play Torbay was proposed.</p> <p>The board were happy with discussions to continue but stated that it is important that TUST’s sponsorship be recognised. RW expressed concern that the opportunity of funding from the Football Supporters’ Association (FSA) may be missed and this should be kept on the agenda as the things develop.</p> <p>NB stated that he felt that slow but sure progress was being made in building a relationship with the directors. The board agreed that he should continue to work on this but it was also necessary to ensure that the Club responds in a timely fashion and a firm decision on the proposal would be required by the date of the next TUST board meeting.</p> <p>RB had previously reported that the Club was now providing free feminine sanitary products in the toilets as originally proposed by TUST several years ago. This is being funded by a donation from a supporters’ group.</p>	<p>NB</p>
<p><b>22/53</b></p>	<p><b>Strategy Team</b></p> <p>RW summarised the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> July when the Strategy Team had presented its action plan to the board. He highlighted the actions that had been added to the plan as a result of that meeting. The board agreed the allocation of topic areas to individual members. The next ST meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> September will consider priority actions in more detail.</p>	

	<p>NB advised that Alex from the Swindon Town trust was happy to meet with the TUST board to share their experience of changing club ownership. It was agreed that this should be a separate Zoom meeting. NB to liaise and arrange a date. Other topics that might be covered include cash/card admission policy and members survey.</p>	NB
22/54	<p><b>Ownership and storage of TUST equipment</b>  Since the previous meeting there had been some discussion among board members about the ownership of equipment and its storage, prompted by the Club's description of the speed goal as its own.</p> <p>RW had prepared a report on the equipment purchased through the Premier League Fans Fund (PLFF) in a joint initiative with TUCST and the Club. RC confirmed that TUST retains ownership of the equipment but TUCST has use of it and is responsible for its storage and upkeep.</p> <p>The equipment has been stored at Plainmoor where TUCST has ready access to it when needed. However, some of the items had been damaged beyond repair when the roof of the store leaked. TUCST have advised that the Club have declined to compensate for this. It should be noted that all of the equipment has been fully depreciated in the TUST accounts.</p> <p>There had been some discussion regarding whether TUST should take back responsibility for the remaining equipment and arrange storage itself. BC had researched likely costs which were felt to be prohibitive.</p> <p>In any event, it was agreed to be preferable to leave the equipment where it is but to emphasise to TUCST management that it is responsible for its maintenance and safe-keeping. MT to liaise with Matt Anthony.</p> <p>The storage of other TUST equipment was also discussed and alternative arrangements agreed at a board member's home.</p>	MT
22/55	<p><b>Partner organisations</b></p> <p>a) <b>Community Sports Trust (TUCST)</b>  MT reported that he had spoken with Matt Anthony for an update on the TUST sponsored Junior Disability League. He said that this will re-launch sometime after the Summer holidays. Members expressed surprise that it appeared that the JDL had not continued following the original launch in the Spring. Whilst acknowledging the difficulties TUCST was facing with rising costs, staffing and competition from other providers, it was disappointing to hear that this initiative had stalled. MT to check with Matt.</p> <p>NB enquired about the return of pre-match Fan Zones as proposed by TUCST last season as nothing further had been heard. RW reminded the meeting that this was to be funded by the Return of Supporters Fund. May be this had been forgone as it had not been spent during the 2021/22 season. MT to also check this with Matt.</p>	MT  MT

	<p>MT advised that there was no further news on a new Chair for TUCST but he understood that there was a board meeting that day.</p> <p><b>b) Women's Team</b> The board were pleased to note the Club's recent support for the women's team following its success in the Devon Cup and the national team's victory at the Euros.</p> <p>RD reported that he had recently spoken with manager Steve Elswood and the TUST sponsored tracksuits were on order and expected to arrive shortly when a photo opportunity would be arranged.</p> <p><b>c) South West Supporters' Trust Group (SWSTG)</b> The next meeting is scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> September.</p> <p><b>d) Sport Torbay</b> Nothing to report.</p>	RD
22/56	<p><b>Membership survey</b> RW confirmed that Mailchimp, Survey Monkey and other platforms could provide a free survey facility. RB mentioned Google too.</p> <p>It was agreed that the board needs to be clear on what information it wants from the survey. Questions should be simple using multiple choice or a scoring system. The survey will be timed to produce the results for the AGM in November.</p> <p>Experience of other trusts to be sought at the SWSTG and from the FSA.</p>	NB/RW
22/57	<p><b>Media &amp; PR</b></p> <p><b>a) Press and social media</b> NB and RB updated on recent activity.</p> <p><b>b) My Club, My Shirt campaign</b> BC introduced this campaign to highlight and promote diversity within the fan base. It is organised by Fans for Diversity and Kick It Out with funding available. It involves producing a photo gallery of a diverse range of supporters wearing the club shirt either in the stadium or local community.</p> <p>A potential photographer had been identified and the board supported the proposal but it was decided to defer an approach to the Club for its support while NB continued his current dialogue with the directors.</p> <p><b>c) Gambling advertising campaign</b> RC raised a recent campaign by pressure group 38 Degrees to highlight the potential dangers of gambling advertising within the sport such as shirts and stadium hoardings. Individuals are encouraged to sign up for the campaign and it was agreed to promote this on our social media.</p>	RB/RD

<p><b>22/58</b></p>	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <p><b>a) Board liaison</b>  BC raised an issue around group e-mail discussions sometimes having multiple threads which could be confusing. RB suggested that a WhatsApp group could be set up to provide a more immediate forum for simple items with e-mail being used for more formal matters or documents. This was unanimously agreed and RB will set the group up.</p> <p><b>b) TUFC Community Group package</b>  NB highlighted the Club's new offer for groups of up to 12 to attend games with a number of fringe benefits. It was agreed that this represented good value for money and was to be welcomed.</p> <p><b>c) Chairman's statement</b>  MT advised the meeting of his intention to stand down as Chair after the AGM. He now has a lot of other demands on his time and feels that it is an appropriate time to let someone else take over. Subject to the approval of the new Chair, he would be happy to consider remaining on the board for at least the following year.</p> <p>He invited any board member interested in taking on the role to let him know.</p> <p>The board expressed its appreciation for everything that MT has contributed during his time in the chair.</p>	<p>RB</p>
---------------------	--	-----------

The date of the next meeting was fixed for Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 6.30pm

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