



**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

**Present:** Michel Thomas – Chair (MT), Nick Brodrick (NB), Rob Burkitt (RB), Robin Causley (RC), Rick Williams (RW).

**Apologies:** Simon Baker (SB), Ali Bryant (AB), Matt Carpenter (MC)

<b>18/36</b>	<b>Minutes of meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018</b> The minutes were tabled and approved.	MT
<b>(a)</b>	<b>Minute 18/32 (a)</b> – No approaches had yet been made to the ‘legends’ regarding life membership. It was agreed to offer it to Robin Stubbs and Dougie Clark in the first instance and obtain the addresses for the other players in due course.	
<b>18/37</b>	<b>Strategy planning</b>	
<b>(a)</b>	<b>TUFC proposals</b> There was no update on CO’s plans for a new stadium but planning applications are being monitored. MT summarised the interest shown by politicians of all parties and the recent council decision to protect the use of Nightingale Park for community sport and leisure in line with the emerging Neighbourhood Plan was noted.	
<b>(b)</b>	<b>Strategy Team</b> It was proposed by MT, seconded by RW and unanimously agreed to co-opt Jon Gibbes to the board under Rule 64 for a term of six months to specifically assist with the TUST Strategic Plan.  An initial meeting of the Strategy Team had been held on 14 <sup>th</sup> November in SB’s absence. RW reported on this preliminary discussion which had considered the Supporters Direct report and considered possible scenarios if CO wished to withdraw his interest in TUFC at some future date.  A range of proposals to prepare for this were tabled and approved in principle, subject to further consideration by the Strategy Team. The crucial thing was to be prepared in advance of such an occurrence and to have a plan in place.	

	<p>MT tabled a survey on behalf of Supporters Direct and the FA regarding the 'Protection of football stadia'. The TUST views were considered and RW agreed to draft a response for board approval.</p>	RW
<p><b>18/38</b></p>	<p><b>TUFC Liaison meetings</b></p> <p><b>(a) Liaison meeting 16<sup>th</sup> October</b>  MT had circulated the minutes of this meeting which had been held with Geoff Harrop just before he left the Club. Items raised had included the Memorandum of Understanding, publication of previous liaison meeting minutes, the 'On the Ball' initiative, the Club Secretary role, Matchday Ambassadors scheme, TU Official Supporters Club (TUOSC) including the Junior Gulls, support from the club for the Premier League Fans Fund scheme and a social event with Gary Johnson and the players.</p> <p>In addition, the Chairman had written to CO on behalf of the board expressing concern about the inability of some small clubs in NLS to prepare and cater for the number of TUFC supporters who attend (following the Weston-Super- Mare experience). He had also raised concerns about the impact that the behaviour of a small, unruly element of the support was having on the Club's reputation.</p> <p>With the recent changes in personnel, there had been little response on any of these issues and the board continue to be concerned at the failure of the Club or its owner to engage meaningfully with TUST despite its significant efforts to support the Club and new initiatives. An urgent meeting with George Edwards had been requested but he was currently on leave until the end of the month.</p> <p>In the meantime Patrick Tinkler had been nominated by the club as the main point of contact. The next liaison meeting was scheduled for the following day and the agenda for that meeting was agreed.</p> <p><b>(b) TUOSC</b>  Since the previous meeting the board of TUOSC had stood down and its chairman had blamed TUST interference as being one of the reasons for its demise. This was firmly denied by the board and an invitation for him to explain his comments had been ignored.</p> <p>The Club have confirmed that TUOSC has ceased to exist and details have been removed from the Club website. As discussed at the previous meeting, the board remain concerned about the future of the Junior Gulls. It is understood that the club are considering transferring this group to the TU Community Sports Trust, a move endorsed by the TUST board.</p> <p><b>(c) Matchday Ambassadors</b>  NB updated on the continuing success of the scheme. Issues dealt with by the Ambassadors had included confusion over season ticket holders' seats, new ticketing arrangements and baby changing facilities at the ground. He advised that the club had asked if TUST could provide a Santa for the children's Xmas party. In the absence of any volunteers from the board, it was proposed by RC, seconded by RB and unanimously agreed that TUST should fund the appointment of a Santa as a gesture of goodwill in the absence of the TUOSC which had previously arranged this.</p>	

18/39	<p><b>Communications / Social Media Team</b>  RB reported on recent activity. In excess of 5,000 people had been reached via social media in the past month with 1,500 actively engaging and the total number of 'likes' moving towards 500.</p> <p>It was noted that the website requires some updating (board profiles etc) but Luke Hunter was currently abroad.</p>	RB
18/40	<p><b>Premier League Fans Fund</b>  RC reported on the latest Fans Zone held in Boots on 17<sup>th</sup> November which had been very successful. New features such as Playstation football had been introduced and the attendance of two players was welcomed. The manager of the bar had been very supportive and this was appreciated. It would be interesting to know what impact, positive or negative, the event had on bar takings.</p> <p>The next Fan Zone is scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> December before the Welling game.</p> <p>The failure of the Club to recognise TUST's contribution to these events was disappointing. To be raised at the liaison meeting.</p>	RC
18/41	<p><b>Marketing Team</b>  MT reported that the team had been quiet and there was nothing to report. There was some discussion about the use of the TUST brochures and it was agreed that with a large stock these should be widely distributed including within the ground, subject to the Club's approval.</p>	MT
18/42	<p><b>Unified Football Supporters Organisation (UFSO)</b>  RW reported on latest developments to create the new organisation out of the merger of Supporters Direct and the Football Supporters Federation. Meetings of all three bodies were due to be held in London on 22<sup>nd</sup> November and TUST would vote by proxy.</p> <p>It was proposed by NB, seconded by RC and unanimously agreed to support the formation of the new unified body and support any motions required to bring this about.</p>	RW
18/43	<p><b>Any other business</b>  RW reminded everyone to ensure that circular e-mails about board matters are sent only to current members.</p>	All

The date of the next meeting was fixed for Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019 at 6.30pm.

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