



## MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019

**Present:** Michel Thomas (MT) – Chair, Simon Baker (SB), Nick Brodrick (NB), Ali Bryant (AB), Rob Burkitt (RB), Robin Causeley (RC), Rob Dickinson (RD), Rick Williams (RW).

**Apologies:** Matt Carpenter (MC), Jon Gibbes (JG).

<b>19/22</b>	<p><b>Minutes of meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019</b> The minutes were tabled and approved. There were no matters arising.</p> <p>MT opened the meeting by congratulating all at TUFC and the team on their tremendous success in being crowned the National League South Champions. He also reflected on the Trust's excellent work, collectively and individually, throughout the season and thanked all the board members for their invaluable contributions.</p>	
<b>19/23</b>	<p><b>TUFC Liaison</b></p> <p><b>(a) Communications</b> MT noted that he had contacted the Club about the proposed Ian Twitchin Trophy and seeking clarification on how the Player of the Season voting would be handled but had received no reply to either as yet. It was agreed that MT would advise Laura Twitchin of the lack of response and suggest that she contacts the Club herself whilst the board were still keen to support the proposal. It was agreed to purchase a suitable trophy to the value of up to £100. An appropriate occasion to present it on behalf of TUST would be found.</p> <p>NB explained that he had held a fifteen minute chat with George Edwards after the Wealdstone game which had only served to confirm that GE seems to have little desire to recognise or engage with TUST. One of the reasons given was that he perceived the Trust as being negative. MT and other members had experienced a similar response from GE and Patrick Tinkler (Press Officer / Secretary).</p> <p>It was noted again that despite the Club's current success, its basic communication with its paying customers is in many instances non-existent.</p>	MT/SB

	<p>NB felt that we should continue to work to build bridges with the Club's directors and senior staff, however challenging this may be. It was agreed that fresh attempts to promote the positive contribution that TUST has made throughout the season should be made via a Chair's 'end of season' review. MT to draft.</p> <p><b>(b) Matchday Ambassadors</b> There was some discussion around whether TUST should withdraw its support for the MA scheme but it was agreed that it was a successful and popular initiative and should be continued next season, hopefully with more volunteers and support from the Club.</p> <p>MT reported that, whilst the role of Supporters Liaison Officer was mandatory at FL level but not in the National League, there were proposals to introduce it. If this happens the MA scheme offers an immediate opportunity for the Club to meet its obligations.</p> <p><b>(c) TUST brochures</b> NB offered to distribute TUST brochures at the Chippenham game. SB volunteered to assist at St Albans. Remaining brochures would be handed out at any celebration of the Championship victory or out-reach hubs.</p> <p>A new brochure will be prepared for the start of the new season outlining the revised TUST objectives and including publicity of all corporate members.</p>	MT
19/24	<p><b>Premier League Fans Fund</b></p> <p><b>(a) Fanzones</b> RC reported that the event at the recent Eastbourne match had been disappointing as it had not been possible to use the indoor area due to it being very busy. In addition, several key members of the TUCST team were absent and the weather was poor resulting in limited activities being offered.</p> <p><b>(b) Easter Monday – celebration event</b> RC advised that every effort was being made to make the Fanzone at the last home game against Hungerford a special occasion. In addition to the usual outdoor attractions there would be music, face painting, an inflatable assault course, food and drinks etc. As many volunteers as possible were required to help. A meeting of the steering group would be finalising arrangements.</p> <p>NB asked if the Club had given any indication of its support for making it a Yellow Day but nothing had been forthcoming.</p> <p>RC noted that part of the partnership agreement with the Club when securing the PLFF funding was the provision of 20 free tickets per match but these had not been forthcoming for many games.</p> <p>AB was thanked by the board for arranging the TUST Champions badges which would be available for distribution at the Easter Monday game. TUST would try to provide additional Ambassadors to hand out badges at all entrances to the ground. It was also agreed to purchase a TUST flag for next season, possibly using the same design as the badges.</p>	All          AB

<p><b>19/25</b></p>	<p><b>Marketing and Business Members</b></p> <p>MT would be attending Chamber of Commerce meetings in future.</p> <p>AB said the Business Membership flyers were ready for distribution.</p> <p>It was agreed to consider how TUST could make a drive for new corporate members at the next meeting.</p>	<p>AB</p>
<p><b>19/26</b></p>	<p><b>Communications / media team</b></p> <p>RB updated the meeting on how much things had moved on since the Social Media Policy was written at the beginning of 2018. It was agreed to update the policy to reflect this. RB &amp; RW to draft.</p> <p>It was agreed to use social media to get positive messages out wherever possible including the Chair's proposed summary of the season's successes described in minute 19/23 (a). NB suggested that this could form the basis of a press release and all agreed. SB thought this could be issued at the start of the new season but a final decision was deferred.</p> <p>MT noted the support of the Unified Football Supporters Organisation and sections of the national press for news about TUFC and RC reported that When Saturday Comes would be running an item on the Woking match next month.</p> <p>RC had given an interview to BBC Radio Devon prior to the Eastbourne game regarding the successful season. It was noted that the Club had declined to participate in the programme even with the unique prospect of a championship which seemed to be another wasted opportunity to promote the Club. It was noted, however, that Gary Johnson was doing an excellent job of public relations as well as managing the team.</p>	<p>RB/RW</p>
<p><b>19/27</b></p>	<p><b>Business plan / strategy</b></p> <p><b>(a) Planning issues etc</b>  MT summarised the content of the Neighbourhood Plan for Torquay as it impacts on the Club's present and possible future locations. The Plan will be the subject of a referendum on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. He also updated on recent liaison with the MP and local politicians.</p> <p><b>(b) TU Community Sports Trust</b>  It was noted that TUCST had launched the TQ1 club for young Gulls and football fans. This was welcomed by TUST as it had previously agreed that TUCST was best placed to take on this role. Funds from the PLFF will be used to finance joining packs and other items. TUST owned equipment bought with the PLFF will also be made available to TUCST for TQ1 events. TUCST had recently launched its new website and they were congratulated on its quality.</p>	

<b>(c)</b>	<p><b>Membership fees and use of funds</b> It was agreed that any decision on these matters should be deferred until the Strategic Plan had been agreed.</p>	
<b>19/28</b>	<p><b>Unified Football Supporters Organisation</b> MT advised that James Mathie had left UFSO to set up an independent football consultancy and Nicola Hudson was on maternity leave. Gareth Cummins was the current contact for the non-league members.</p> <p>RW tabled details of the candidates for the National Game Network council and it was agreed that he should cast two votes for Richard Tomkins (Hereford United) and Sarah Stelling (York City).</p>	RW
<b>19/29</b>	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <p><b>(a)</b> AB tabled the quarterly finance and membership report as follows;</p> <p>TUST bank accounts   £39,891.46 PLFF account           £ 5,594.59</p> <p>Members – 358.</p> <p><b>(b)</b> MT suggested that TUST board members may like to consider sponsoring a match or two next season. There was general support for the proposal but it was stressed that board members would finance this themselves, not from TUST funds. It may be an opportunity to involve corporate members.</p>	

The date of the next meeting was fixed for Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at 6.30pm at Torbay Community Development Trust.

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