



MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

Monday 15th October 2018

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

Apologies: Matt Carpenter (MC)

18/29	<p>Introductions and appointment of officers The Chairman congratulated RC, RB and RW on their election to the board and introduced Nick Brodrick and Simon Baker as newly elected board members.</p> <p>The appointment of officers was proposed and unanimously agreed as follows;</p> <p>MT Chair proposed RC, seconded AB RC Vice chair proposed MT, seconded SB</p> <p>AB Treasurer & Membership Secretary RW Secretary NB Supporter liaison RB Communications SB Business strategy MC Exiles</p> <p>All above proposed MT, seconded RC</p>	
18/30	<p>Minutes of meeting held on 17th September 2018 The minutes were tabled and approved.</p> <p>(a) Minute 18/22 (b) - Memorandum of Understanding MT confirmed that nothing had been heard from the club and this would be raised at the liaison meeting on 16th October. The same applied to the draft minutes of the liaison meetings between TUST and club officials.</p> <p>(b) Minute 18/22 (d) - TU Official Supporters Club (TUOSC) MT confirmed that there had been no response to the TUST's offer to meet to develop a better understanding of each organisations' role.</p>	MT

<p>18/31</p>	<p>TUFC Liaison meetings</p> <p>(a) Communication MT advised that he had been informed that since Tim Herbert has left the club, TUST's main point of contact will be Geoff Harrop and a meeting had been arranged for the following day. MT, RC and AB to attend.</p> <p>(b) Liaison meeting 16th October The following items were discussed and are to be raised at the meeting;</p> <p>The board expressed concern that the club had made no announcement about a replacement for TH as Secretary, a vitally important role for a football club and one which required a dedicated person, not one which could be tagged on to an employee's other duties.</p> <p>It was noted that George Edwards was clearly taking the lead on all football matters and appeared now to be the conduit between the club and owner. MT had spoken briefly with him. It was felt that a meeting with him would be beneficial, ideally with a view to establishing quarterly meetings going forward. This would enable the board to give GE a true perception of TUST's objectives and its wish to work with the club to ensure a sustainable future.</p> <p>SB suggested that TUST could put forward a proposal to fund something specific for the club as this may help to bring it to the table and take TUST more seriously. More thought to be given to this before raising it with the club.</p> <p>RB stated that there had been no response from the club to the request for it to participate in the 'On The Ball initiative'. AB would assess the cost of TUST providing this facility and the practicalities if the club declined to do so.</p> <p>RB also mentioned that a Winchester fan had Tweeted asking for details about ticketing arrangements and only TUST had responded. The lack of response from the club was another indication of its poor communications.</p> <p>NB reported on the continuing success of the Matchday Ambassadors scheme but more volunteers were still required, particularly for the hospitality areas. MT had acquired ten lanyards and ID badges. It was felt that the club needed to be more supportive of the scheme, particularly since TH left.</p> <p>NB expressed concern that the potential demise of the TUOSC could leave the Junior Gulls in limbo and it was important to retain the interest of the supporters of the future. There was a discussion about the potential for bringing the juniors under TUST's wing. RW noted that TUST membership is currently restricted by its rules to the over 16s but felt that some kind of structure could be adopted to accommodate them. SB questioned whether this was an appropriate function for a supporters trust. It was agreed that it would be preferable for a rejuvenated supporters club to retain this role and that the club should be offering support to facilitate this.</p> <p>MT suggested that an invitation should be extended to Gary Johnson to meet informally with TUST representatives. He had indicated that he understands the importance of fan and community involvement so may accept such an offer.</p>	<p>MT/RC /AB</p>
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	It was also proposed that he be asked to attend a social event for supporters with a few players too.	
18/32	<p>Report of the Marketing Group</p> <p>(a) Legends evening MT summarised the event which all agreed had been very successful. Approximately 70 had attended including the legends and corporate sponsors and the income from ticket sales had just covered costs. It was anticipated that approximately £500 had been raised from the raffle, auction and donations to be divided between the disabled supporters project and TU Ladies team. It was agreed to ask GH if presentations of these donations could be made at half time at a future match.</p> <p>RW suggested that, as all the legends clearly felt a strong attachment to the club, they could be invited to join TUST. SB suggested that we could offer them free membership and possibly other ex-players too. This would help to raise the profile of TUST and they would have good contacts and possibly provide an additional source of funds in the event that we need to raise capital in the future. It was agreed that this was a good idea in principle subject to further thought being given to the eligibility for free membership, perhaps based on a minimum number of appearances.</p> <p>The following motion was proposed by NB, seconded by SB and unanimously agreed;</p> <p>In recognition of the affinity that the legends feel for the club and the benefits that it could bring to TUST, they should be offered free life-time membership. This might be extended to other ex-players in due course.</p> <p>(b) Brochure This had been well received and was now available for general circulation. MT & AB would be attending the Breakfast Club meeting on 17th October and would be taking copies with them.</p>	<p>MT</p> <p>All</p> <p>MT</p>
18/33	<p>Report of the Communications Group</p> <p>RB reported generally positive comments and feedback on what TUST was doing via social media. The success of the Legends Evening had been highlighted and it was proposed to post some pictures to the website with a link from social media.</p>	RB
18/34	<p>Report of the Premier League Fans Fund</p> <p>RC reported that the second Fanzone on 29th September had been very successful with greater attendance than the first with lots of children enjoying the event.</p>	

	<p>The first out-reach event had been held at Newton Abbot racecourse and this too had been very successful with an entirely different age group. A number of ex-supporters had been engaged. The next Outreach event was planned to be held at Paignton Community College on 20th October in conjunction with an Ageing Well event.</p> <p>RC reported that there was still no involvement from the TUOSC and the club's support was not as helpful as expected. At the last event, for example, doors were locked when packing away necessitating carrying equipment further. It was agreed these matters should be raised at the meeting with GH.</p> <p>On the other hand, there was recognition for the excellent support offered by Jamie McInnes of the TU Community Sports Trust.</p>	RC
18/35	<p>Club viability and stadium proposals</p> <p>(a) Update MT advised that there had been no further contact from CO or anyone associated with his stadium development team. He fed back the outcome of the briefing for councillors by the Torbay Development Agency. He understood that councillors were generally sceptical of the proposals for Nightingale Park but that CO had been invited to carry out further ground investigation and pre-planning surveys at his own expense as the Council were not minded to provide any funding at this stage. It was generally hoped he would present his detailed business plan for the proposed development soon</p> <p>MT reported that he had attended a fringe session on the regulating of ownership of football clubs at the Conservative Party Conference and had been given the opportunity to speak. It had been a well attended and useful session.</p> <p>(b) Supporters Direct report on club ownership and related matters The confidential report had been circulated. It was agreed that it was a good analysis and provided a sound basis for TUST developing its own business plan.</p> <p>NB noted that the main part of the report was that relating to the various scenarios if CO withdrew his interest in the club. SB commented that GJ's appointment had been a game-changer as it indicated CO's continued willingness to invest in the club, in the short term at least. However, everyone was aware of the need for continued vigilance despite the upturn in the team's performances and the subsequent feel-good factor.</p> <p>MT proposed that a small working party of three be appointed to consider the report in detail and draft a business plan. SB agreed to lead this project and RW volunteered to assist. MT proposed that Matt Gorman be invited to join too if he was willing to do so.</p>	SB

The date of the next meeting was fixed for Monday 19th November 2018 at 6.30pm.

Chairman's signature.....Date