



## MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019

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

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

<b>19/30</b>	<p><b>Minutes of meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019</b> The minutes were tabled and approved.</p> <p>Minute 19/23 (a) – MT reported that a sum of £225 had now been promised towards the Ian Twitchin Trophy which included two personal donations from TUST members in addition to the £100 committed by TUST. Liam Davis had been advised of his award and was delighted to be recognised in this way. The manager of Boots had agreed to host an informal event to present the trophy during the pre-season period. MT to liaise with relevant parties including Gary Johnson to arrange a date for the event.</p> <p>Minute 19/28 – RW advised that Richard Tomkins (Hereford United) and Simon Cope (Scarborough) had been elected in the National Game Council elections.</p>	MT
<b>19/31</b>	<p><b>Premier League Fans Fund</b></p> <p><b>(a) Future and legacy</b> RC reported on the latest meeting of the Steering Group which had reviewed the success of the initiatives undertaken under the PLFF banner. He was compiling a report to the PLFF on this which would conclude that it achieved its objectives under the activity strand but he would have to include some reference to the Club's failure to fully engage with the project. Support for the scheme had fallen away as the season progressed with changes in personnel at the Club.</p> <p>All other parties were keen to keep the initiatives going with a view to fewer but larger Fan Zones next season and more Outreach events, particularly where these can be piggy-backed on to community events. MT noted that these had been warmly received by a wide cross-section of attendees and had provided good publicity for TUST and the club generally.</p>	

	<p>It was noted that the Speed Goal had generally been the most popular feature and is potentially a source of income.</p> <p><b>(b) Torquay United Community Sports Trust (TUCST)</b>  The board re-affirmed its desire to support TUCST and the TQ1 initiative for young fans in particular. It had already approved a significant financial contribution from the PLFF of £2,400 towards the TUCST website and £4,900 to fund the setting up of TQ1 and joining packs which included rucksacks and TUST promotional material. It was agreed that there should be wider recognition of TUST's contribution as 'headline sponsor' in TUCST publicity and the media.</p> <p>MT highlighted that the PLFF application had been pioneered and launched by TUST. RW asked how many schemes the PLFF supported and RC explained that ours is one of only two clubs funded last season. MT thanked RC, AB and all involved in the success of the project.</p> <p>There was some discussion about further financial support for TUCST / TQ1 from both the remaining PLFF balance and TUST's own funds. MT to discuss their requirements with Jamie McInnes.</p> <p>SB raised concerns about the confusion that can sometimes arise between TUST and TUCST with their names being so similar. He suggested that TUST may wish to consider re-branding with a new identity. There was a brief discussion about this but it was decided that it was a matter that would require considerable thought and should be raised as a separate agenda item at the next meeting.</p>	<p>RC</p> <p>MT</p>
<p><b>19/32</b></p>	<p><b>TUFC liaison</b></p> <p><b>(a) Communication with the Club</b>  MT stated that there had been no response from anyone at the Club to his recent letter enclosing TUST's positive 'End of Season Review'.</p> <p>MT and RC had attended the awards evening at ERC which was professionally presented and appeared to be very successful. MT had taken the opportunity to talk briefly with Clarke Osborne and George Edwards.</p> <p>It was agreed that at the present time there was little point in further formal attempts to encourage liaison with the senior personnel at the Club.</p> <p><b>(b) Matchday Ambassadors</b>  MT thanked NB and his fellow Ambassadors for all their hard work during the past season. It was agreed that, in the absence of any communication from the Club, the scheme would continue next season.</p>	

<p><b>19/33</b></p> <p><b>(a)</b></p> <p><b>(b)</b></p> <p><b>(c)</b></p>	<p><b>Other liaison</b></p> <p><b>Press release</b> MT reported that a press release accompanying the End of Season Review had been widely circulated to the local press and radio and also to the Non-League paper and website. There had been little response to date although articles on Devon Live and the Herald Express had been promised. Radio Devon had also indicated its support for TUST.</p> <p>NB was thanked for his work in organising this, and would feedback if there are any further responses.</p> <p><b>Local politicians</b> MT reported on the outcome of the recent elections. A number of councillors with an interest in TUFC had been elected or re-elected including the new leader of the council.</p> <p><b>Unified Football Supporters Organisation</b> The first AGM of the new organisation is scheduled for 29<sup>th</sup> June in London. Agreement on a name for the new unified organisation is among the matters to be considered. There were no volunteers to attend the AGM but it was agreed that a trip to London for a relatively short, formal meeting was of limited value whereas a conference similar to that organised last year by Supporters Direct would be of more interest.</p> <p>MT drew attention to the UFSO's 'Fans for Diversity' campaign including its desire to work with clubs and supporters networks on disabled access.</p>	
<p><b>19/34</b></p> <p><b>(a)</b></p> <p><b>(b)</b></p>	<p><b>Membership, marketing and business support</b></p> <p><b>Business events</b> MT reported on attendance at Chamber of Commerce breakfasts and planned attendance at future events including the TUFC Breakfast Club. Other members were invited to join him subject to their availability. Promotional flyers had been designed for distribution at such events and would now be printed.</p> <p><b>Pre-season membership campaign</b> There was some discussion about the proposal for a membership drive at the beginning of the season. This will be one of the main items on the next agenda and everyone was asked to give this some prior consideration..</p>	<p>AB</p> <p>All</p>
<p><b>19/35</b></p> <p><b>(a)</b></p>	<p><b>Communications team</b></p> <p><b>Review of Social Media Policy</b> RW had circulated an updated Social Media Policy that he had drafted in consultation with RB. It was noted how much progress had been made in this area since the policy was written in early 2018 and RB was thanked for his excellent work in driving this forward with support from AB, RD and Luke Hunter. The policy was approved.</p>	

<b>(b)</b>	<p><b>Board member communication</b></p> <p>MT asked members if they were happy with the way that e-mail was used as the main means of communication outside of meetings. All those present agreed that the process worked well and individuals could get involved as much or as little as they wished. It was an effective means of making informal decisions and keeping everyone updated between meetings.</p>	
<b>19/36</b>	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <p><b>(a)</b> RW advised that JG's six month term of office as a co-optee to assist the Strategy Team was due to end that day. MT proposed, AB seconded and it was unanimously agreed that JG's co-option should be extended until the AGM.</p> <p><b>(b)</b> AB advised that she would be preparing the accounts at the beginning of July, immediately after the financial year end. It was agreed that she should approach Matt Gorman (previous treasurer) for assistance with this if necessary but if MG was unable to help, external assistance could be sought for a modest fee.</p>	AB

The date of the next meeting was fixed for Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 at 6.30pm at Torbay Community Development Trust.

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