



## MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

**Present:** Bob Cole (BC) – acting chair, Ali Bryant (AB), Robin Causley (RC), Rob Dickinson (RD), Sam Druiff (SD), Rick Williams (RW).

**Apologies:** Nick Brodrick (NB), Rob Burkitt (RB), Michel Thomas (MT)

<b>22/86</b>	<p><b>Annual appointment of officers</b>  The following appointments were unanimously agreed;  Chair – NB  Vice Chairs – RC &amp; BC  Treasurer – AB  Secretary - RW</p>	
<b>22/87</b>	<p><b>Minutes of the meetings held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022</b>  The minutes of the meeting were tabled and approved.</p> <p>Minute 22/69 – IT Trophy to be posted to Ben Wynter at home</p> <p>Minute 22/71 – MT had almost completed the documented history of TUST and would circulate the final version shortly.</p> <p>Minute 22/80 – RW has submitted a written application to open the United Trust Bank investment account. Awaiting confirmation. It was also formally agreed to amend the Lloyds bank mandate to allow any two of NB, BC, AB or RW to approve transactions. AB to action.</p>	<p>RD</p> <p>AB</p>
<b>22/88</b>	<p><b>Relations with the Club</b>  NB had submitted the following update; the first of the children's VIP treats started at the home game against Gateshead with a few teething problems that will be resolved over the coming events. Despite these, the six children who came as guests thoroughly enjoyed their experience watching the game from the Family Stand.</p> <p>Concern was expressed at the low profile given to TUST's contribution.</p>	

	<p>It was agreed that we should now be seeking to re-establish regular meetings with the club. We had done as requested by the directors and provided funding for something beneficial to the Club and the community. It was now up to the Club and other partners to make it work.</p> <p>NB to ask George Edwards if meetings can resume so that our response can be planned at the next meeting.</p> <p>BC said that he thinks we should carry out a review of the whole process by which the VIP project evolved from start to finish.</p>	NB
<p><b>22/89</b></p>	<p><b>Membership</b></p> <p><b>a) Members survey</b>  A summary of the results had been given at the AGM and in the subsequent newsletter to members.</p> <p>RC noted that there was generally strong support for what TUST was doing with no respondent saying that they didn't think TUST represented their views or wouldn't recommend membership to others. There was less satisfaction with our success in promoting supporter influence at the Club, probably as a result of the Club's reluctance to enter into regular dialogue.</p> <p>It was agreed that some feedback on the responses relating to the match day experience and the use of Plainmoor should be provided to the Club once regular meetings resume. To be considered at the next board meeting.</p> <p><b>b) Membership records and income management</b>  RW summarised the research that he, AB &amp; RB had been carrying out. MemberMojo software had been suggested by the FSA but this did not provide for monthly or direct debit payments.</p> <p>RB had identified other systems or even a possibility of streamlining existing manual procedures. RW had contacted members of the SWST Group and had received responses from Exeter City and Plymouth Argyle trusts.</p> <p>It was proposed to raise this as an item for further discussion at the next SWSTG meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> January. In the meantime, RW to enquire whether the FSA might support a common membership record system for trusts.</p> <p>It was noted that a few attendees at the AGM were unaware of the option of paying membership fees annually rather than monthly. Once a solution is found to the above we should be encouraging new and existing members to pay annually where possible, whilst recognising the need for some to retain monthly payments.</p> <p><b>c) Corporate membership</b>  It was recognised that there was a need to review the corporate membership package and have a campaign to relaunch it. AB said that we had lost a few and she would have further details for consideration at the next meeting.</p>	<p>NB RW</p> <p>AB</p>

<p><b>d)</b></p>	<p><b>Fundraising</b>  NB had noted that he was struck by the sums raised by other clubs for their causes, notably the £289,000 Hereford United Supporters Trust mentioned. We currently have around £50,000 in our war chest but should we be looking at fundraising? He has done a little research which he would now bring to the next meeting.</p> <p>RC noted how impressed he had been by Wrexham Trust's fundraising activity when he met their representatives a few years ago.</p>	<p>NB</p>
<p><b>22/90</b></p> <p><b>a)</b></p> <p><b>b)</b></p>	<p><b>Governance</b></p> <p><b>Review of AGM</b>  It was generally agreed that the event had been very successful with some good questions from the floor and quality discussions. The one member attending via Zoom had expressed his appreciation of the opportunity.</p> <p><b>FSA training sessions</b>  BC had attended a further session on AGMs and elections. This had previously been attended by RW and raised a couple of issues for consideration;</p> <p>Should members serve a minimum period before being eligible to vote at the AGM? Decided not to change at present as keen to promote as much interest as possible.</p> <p>Should there be a minimum membership period before being eligible for the board? Yes, agreed it should be six months before nomination can be made.</p> <p>The current Election Policy names the Secretary as responsible for running any election. There is a potential conflict of interest if the Secretary is a candidate themselves. FSA recommends an Election Management Group of at least three independent overseers. As there has been no need for an election in recent times it does not seem appropriate to set this up but RW suggested that we could see if other members of the SWST Group would be interested in providing a reciprocal arrangement whereby board members from one trust could oversee the election at another. To be added to the next SWSTG agenda.</p> <p>Ideally, the TUST rules should make it clear that virtual attendance counts towards a quorum. RW to check and if not to also check the procedure for amending our rules accordingly.</p>	<p>RW</p> <p>NB</p> <p>RW</p>
<p><b>22/91</b></p> <p><b>a)</b></p>	<p><b>Partner organisations</b></p> <p><b>Community Sports Trust (TUCST)</b>  It was understood that the trustees were meeting the following day when hopefully a decision would be made about the new chair.</p>	

<p><b>b)</b></p> <p><b>Women's Team</b> RD reported on the team's continuing success and its ability to attract new players from clubs at a higher level. The team has benefitted financially from its FA Cup success.</p> <p><b>c)</b></p> <p><b>Partners networking opportunity</b> BC had suggested an informal get together for representatives of organisations with an interest in the football club. This could include TUST, TUCST, TUWFC, the travel club, Torquay Talk, Talking Torquay and supporter groups such as the Tom Lapslie Appreciation Society.</p> <p>The purpose of the meeting would be 'How can we work together to help the Club and each other'.</p> <p>It was agreed to plan the event for February after we have had feedback from the directors on future liaison meetings. RW offered to draft an invitation for consideration at the next board meeting when a decision would also be made on whether or not to invite the Club to send representatives.</p> <p><b>d)</b></p> <p><b>Council liaison</b> Following the recent meeting with the Council leadership, it was proposed that a similar meeting be arranged with Cllr Dave Thomas, leader of the opposition group. This would also be an opportunity to introduce the new chair and vice chair. MT to arrange in the New Year.</p>	<p><b>Media &amp; PR</b> Regular activity but nothing new to report.</p>	<p>RW</p> <p>MT</p>
<p><b>22/93</b></p>	<p><b>Media &amp; PR</b> Regular activity but nothing new to report.</p>	
<p><b>22/94</b></p> <p><b>a)</b></p> <p><b>b)</b></p> <p><b>c)</b></p>	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <p>RW gave a brief report on the recent virtual meeting with Richard Tomkins of Hereford United Supporters' Trust and Simon Cope of Scarborough Athletic Supporters' Trust. Hearing their experiences of saving their clubs had been very informative and would contribute to the rescue plan being developed by the Strategy Team which meets again on 12<sup>th</sup> January.</p> <p>BC suggested that the TUST list of achievements should be updated and added to the website. To be tabled for consideration at the next meeting.</p> <p>RW noted the need to update the board profiles on the website to reflect new officer appointments.</p>	<p>RW</p> <p>RB</p>

The date of the next meeting was fixed for Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 6.30pm.

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