



## MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

**Present:** Michel Thomas (MT) – chair, Rob Burkitt (RB), Robin Causley (RC), Rick Williams (RW) and Nick Brodrick (NB) – via Zoom

**Apologies:** Ali Bryant (AB), Rob Dickinson (RD)

<b>21/23</b>	<p><b>Minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021</b> The minutes were tabled and approved. There were no matters arising.</p>	
<b>21/24</b>	<p><b>Relations with TUFC</b> RW reported that there had been no communication from Dom Mee since the meeting held in March.</p> <p>Those who had attended the previous Saturday's match with Barnet agreed that the Covid arrangements had been excellent as at the games held in December.</p> <p>However, there had been some issues raised by members around the match and the implications for the forthcoming play-off semi-final as follows;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Problems with the on-line booking system on the day that tickets for the Barnet game were released that resulted in some regular fans missing out. We fully understand that these issues were beyond the club's control but can it give any assurance that similar problems won't arise when the play-off tickets go on sale?</li> <li>2. Some season ticket holders have expressed the view that their tickets should cover access to the semi-final as they have been loyal and lost out financially this season (and in most cases willingly accepted a loss on the curtailed previous season).</li> <li>3. Others understand the need for the Club to maximise its income in these difficult times and would be happy to pay for their semi-final tickets but would expect season ticket holders and sponsors to be given priority.</li> </ol>	

	<p>This has traditionally been normal practice for cup games and other big matches. Should the club confirm that it will be so for the semi-final?</p> <p>4. There have been claims that for the Barnet match some of the successful purchasers were casual fans who bought up to 4 tickets each which reduced the availability of tickets for other regular supporters. Should the Club consider limiting sales to 2 tickets per transaction?</p> <p>5. We have heard from a number of fans who wished to remain in the ground to applaud the team at the end of the Barnet game as they went to each side of the pitch but felt under some pressure to leave the stadium under the phased exiting procedure. Whilst recognising the need for such measures, is it possible to give those who wish to remain behind at the end of the semi-final to show their appreciation the opportunity to do so?</p> <p>It was agreed that RW should write to Dom Mee with these points.</p>	RW
21/25	<p><b>Football governance</b></p> <p><b>(a) Fan-led review / FSA</b>  The various activity around the review was discussed including the membership of the panel and its brief.</p> <p>TUST's open Zoom meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> June will be attended by Malcolm Clarke, chair of the FSA and FA Council member. It is hoped to attract a wide audience and invitations will be sent to our MP. Local councillors and the SW Supporters Trust Group. The focus of the event will be on football governance in general rather than TUFC. Questions are invited in advance via the Secretary.</p> <p>It was agreed that the event should give TUST added credibility and help to raise its profile and provide an opportunity to attract new members.</p> <p>We may follow the meeting with a questionnaire to seek supporters' opinions on key issues. We will also make a written submission to Tracey Crouch, chair of the review panel. RW to draft for board approval.</p> <p><b>(b) Liaison with politicians</b>  Mt summarised his recent meetings and exchanges with Kevin Foster MP and local councillors.</p> <p><b>(c) SW Supporters Trust Group</b>  NB advised that the next meeting would be hosted by Exeter City ST in early June.</p>	<p>MT/NB</p> <p>RW</p>

<b>(d)</b>	<p><b>Northampton Town Supporters' Trust</b>  MT, RC, NB and RD had attended a Zoom call with members of the NTST to discuss their club's situation and compare it to TUST's experiences over the years, with various TUFC ownership models to relate to. Whilst there have been similarities between the two, it was evident that NTFC's problems are significant and the NTST members found it a useful meeting.</p>	
<b>21/26</b>	<p><b>Torquay United Community Sports Trust (TUCST)</b>  MT reported that Matt Anthony had advised that the TUST sponsored training kits had arrived and a formal presentation would be arranged shortly. He had also been liaising with TUCST over the future of the Senior Gulls and offered to assist if required.</p>	
<b>21/27</b>	<p><b>Media and PR</b>  NB and RB provided updates on recent press and social media coverage.</p> <p><b>(a) Marketing</b>  MT and RW reported on recent attendance at Torbay Business Forum and Sport Torbay events. MT said that the latter had been particularly interesting and he had offered to join the board of the latter if required.</p> <p>RW reported that a mail had been received from an ex-player promoting a lottery aimed at raising funds for clubs and trusts. It was decided that as TUST already supports and gains an income from the Torbay Lottery, it would be inappropriate to dilute this by promoting a second scheme. RW to advise the ex-player accordingly.</p> <p><b>(b) Ian Twitchin Trophy</b>  There were currently three players in the running for this season's trophy for the most appearances with three games to go; Asa Hall, Adam Randell and Sam Sherring. It was agreed that all appearances should count including substitute and that if more than one player had the same number, minutes on the pitch would be used to determine the winner.</p> <p>It was agreed to consider the arrangements for presenting the Trophy at the next meeting.</p>	RW
<b>21/28</b>	<p><b>Any other business</b>  MT noted that at the Barnet game he had observed that the roof had been added to the away disabled supporters' section. Sam Balson had raised the funds for this which are held on his behalf by TUST. NB to ask Sam if he had been consulted by the Club about this work.</p>	NB

The date of the next meeting was fixed for Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021 at 6.00pm. Venue to be decided.

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