



MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

Monday 20th February 2023

Present: Nick Brodrick (NB) – chair, Rob Burkitt (RB), Robin Causley (RC), Bob Cole (BC), Rob Dickinson (RD – via Zoom), Michel Thomas (MT), Rick Williams (RW).

Apologies: Ali Bryant (AB), Sam Druiff (SD)

23/10	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 16th January 2023 The minutes of the meeting were tabled and approved with two minor amendments.</p>	
23/11	<p>Relations with the Club NB reported on his latest hour-long meeting with Club directors on 18th February. A number of topics had been covered including the Fan Led Review and White Paper, TUST's view on the principle of a new stadium, the VIP Treats scheme and future liaison meetings.</p> <p>Asked what TUST can do to improve relations, the directors suggested re-tweeting Club tweets and sharing Facebook posts. They accepted that TUST would raise members' concerns and objections at times.</p> <p>NB had asked if regular meetings between the Club and the TUST board members could recommence. The directors will consider offering meetings with Dom Mee (DM) and let NB know. If accepted, the board agreed that NB & RW should represent TUST at the initial liaison meetings. The agenda to be agreed via e-mail if held before the next board meeting.</p> <p>RB noted that the return of meetings would cement TUST's position as the only recognised supporter body.</p> <p>BC expressed concern that TUST may not be able to speak freely about members' concerns for fear of future meetings being cancelled but all agreed that this must not be the case if serious matters need to be raised.</p>	

	<p>BC suggested that TUST should issue a press release explaining why we have been quiet for a while and announcing the improved relations with the Club. NB said that he proposed to issue a Chair's statement to members in the first instance which could then be shared via forums and the press.</p> <p>The board thanked NB for his patience in negotiating an opportunity for regular dialogue with the Club.</p>	NB
23/12	<p>VIP Treats</p> <p>NB updated on the delivery of this TUST funded scheme. Twelve children with autism had benefitted from attending the previous two games. There were issues with partner Play Torbay not nominating further children but the Club were now liaising with Torbay Children's Services over future events. In the meantime, NB was still chasing the FSA for its promised contribution of £500 towards the project.</p> <p>The board noted the Club's recent free stadium tours for children and congratulated it on this initiative.</p> <p>NB reported that the directors had requested TUST to consider what other projects to benefit children could be considered. He suggested signed autograph books. RW noted that in the recent TUST survey a number of people had requested the return of the children's half-time football games at Plainmoor.</p> <p>RC suggested that we could ask young people themselves via the Imagine This Torbay partnership.</p> <p><i>(MT left the meeting at this point due to a family emergency)</i></p> <p>BC had previously suggested a review of the decision making process that led to the VIP Treats sponsorship. RW had prepared a chronological schedule of relevant board minutes to facilitate this. Whilst the process had taken much longer than we would have wished, the way that the proposal had evolved was acceptable and the outcome had justified the process.</p>	NB
23/13	<p>Governance</p> <p>a) Standing Orders – review of policy</p> <p>The following amendments were agreed;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Omit reference to Supporters Direct. • Add a clause regarding attendance at general meetings to clarify that virtual attendance and voting for members is acceptable. • Clarify that the Chair's decision is final 'on points of order' only. <p>b) Code of Conduct – review policy</p> <p>The policy was considered and one amendment was agreed. NB suggested that there should be reference to board members' social media posts. RW suggested that the Social Media Policy be reviewed at the next meeting.</p>	RW

c)	<p>Football governance White Paper The White Paper is due within a few days. It was agreed that any TUST response would be considered at the next meeting or would be approved by the board via e-mail if required sooner.</p>	
23/14	<p>Partner organisations</p> <p>a) Community Sports Trust (TUCST) Nothing to report.</p> <p>b) Women's Team Continue to enjoy on-field success. RD still seeking greater recognition for TUST's sponsorship.</p> <p>c) Partners networking opportunity It was agreed to put plans for this informal gathering on hold pending the anticipated meeting with DM when an invitation to the Club would be extended.</p> <p>d) SW Supporters Trust Group (SWSTG) The minutes of the meeting held on 6th February were circulated for information. Items covered had included membership management systems, subscription collection and election management.</p> <p>e) Meeting with Southend United Supporters Trust BC summarised a Zoom meeting held with Shrimpers Trust members on 15th February. The meeting had been instigated at the invitation of TUST as a group of Southend supporter organisations had gone public with their plans to prepare for a phoenix club.</p> <p>f) Meeting with Dave Thomas, leader of Conservative group, Torbay Council NB reported on the meeting that he, BC & MT had attended with DT and Cllr Chris Lewis on 16th February. They had been generally supportive of TUST's achievements and goals.</p>	
23/15	<p>Membership</p> <p>a) Record systems RW updated on the various systems used by members of the SWSTG but there was no common ground. Hereford United Supporters Trust use a free version of Hubspot. RW will research this and other options and come back with a recommendation.</p> <p>b) Subscriptions and collection methods At the SWSTG meeting it was apparent that some trusts have a lower annual subscription rate of £10. There was no common method of collection. It was agreed to consider future membership fees and also the name for the contingency fund at the Strategy Team</p>	<p>RW</p> <p>BC</p>

c)	Corporate membership benefits The benefits offered were reviewed and updated. Website to be amended accordingly.	RB
23/15	Media & PR Regular activity but nothing new to report.	
a)	Away Player of the Season award A request from a member to sponsor this award for a second year was considered and approved. A similar trophy to be provided. MT to arrange.	MT
23/16	Any other business There was no other business.	

The date of the next meeting was fixed for Monday 20th March 2023 at 6.30pm.

Chairman's signature.....Date