



## MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

**Present:** Michel Thomas (MT) – chair, Ali Bryant (AB), Rob Burkitt (RB), Robin Causley (RC), Rob Dickinson (RD), Rick Williams (RW).  
Also Nick Brodrick (NB) – via Zoom

<b>21/16</b>	<p><b>Minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021</b> The minutes were tabled and approved. There were no matters arising.</p>	
<b>21/17</b>	<p><b>Liaison with TUFC</b> RW reported that there had been no response from the Club in respect of the meeting held with Dominic Mee on 18<sup>th</sup> March and the questions asked of the directors. He had chased DM for a reply but heard nothing.</p> <p>The next steps were discussed but it was decided that we should not pursue the matter at the present time as everyone's focus should be on the end of season push for promotion.</p> <p>There then followed a discussion about the recent news of a proposed European Super League and the government's proposal to establish an immediate fan-led review of football. This will be chaired by Tracey Couch MP, a former Minister for Sport. There are early indications that this could lead to a greater role for supporters and supporters' trusts in the governance of clubs at all levels. It is hoped that this may, in time, result in a better relationship between the Club's directors and TUST.</p> <p>The TUST board agreed that NB would prepare a draft press release, also to be sent to our MP and the FSA.</p>	NB
<b>21/18</b>	<p><b>TUST membership</b></p> <p><b>(a) Corporate membership and business relationships</b> AB and RB reported that corporate members appeared to be happy with the opportunities provided by TUST and to continue their membership despite the trading difficulties of the past year.</p>	

<p><b>(b)</b></p> <p><b>Membership subscriptions</b></p> <p>AB raised a query about offering alternative higher rates of subscriptions to those members who wished to donate more. It was agreed to consider how this could be achieved as part of the proposed membership drive at the start of the next season.</p> <p><b>(c)</b></p> <p><b>Zoom social</b></p> <p>Following the previous event it had been agreed to hold a further meeting before the end of the season. It was agreed to schedule this for Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June following the final league game of the season but before the play-offs (if needed). Thought to be given to potential guest speakers.</p>		All
<p><b>21/19</b></p>	<p><b>Torquay United Community Sports Trust (TUCST)</b></p> <p>RW reported that he had requested an update and photo of the sponsored kit from Matt Anthony, TUCST Manager but had no reply. MT to call MA.</p>	MT
<p><b>21/20</b></p>	<p><b>FSA / FCA Good Governance webinar</b></p> <p>RW reported that he had attended a webinar hosted by the Football Supporters' Association (FSA) and Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) promoting good governance of trusts.</p> <p>It had confirmed that TUST has most things in place but an induction policy for new board members might be useful. RW to draft.</p> <p>A revised set of model rules for supporters' trusts has been drafted by the FSA and is currently with the FCA for approval. Once published, the board will consider whether TUST should adopt the new rules.</p>	RW
<p><b>21/21</b></p>	<p><b>Media and PR</b></p> <p>NB and RB provided updates on recent press and social media coverage.</p> <p>There was a discussion about the success of the recent Legends of the Buckle Era virtual event and whether TUST could provide something similar or sponsor the organisers to repeat the exercise covering a different era. It was agreed that such an event would take some time to arrange and may be best suited to the start of the new season.</p> <p>NB reported that a further meeting of the SW Supporters Trust Group would be held in due course when ECFC ST arrange it.</p>	
<p><b>21/22</b></p>	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <p>MT reported that a request for assistance had been received from Northampton Town Supporters Trust. They were having difficulty engaging with the club's owners including chairman Kelvin Thomas, who had previously been involved with TUFC. They wanted to set up a Zoom call with representatives of other trusts that had experienced similar issues or successfully resolved them.</p>	

	It was agreed that a few of the board would be happy to meet but that it might also be useful to extend the invitation to a couple of other TUFC supporters who had been involved in negotiations with Thomas at the time. RW to ask if they wish to be involved. It was also suggested that we ask NTST if they have approached Swindon Town's trust as it had recently been reported that all communication between that club and its trust had ceased.	RW
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The date of the next meeting was fixed for Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 6.30pm. Venue to be decided.

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