



MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

Monday 1st March 2021

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

21/09	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 1st February 2021 The minutes were tabled and approved. NB advised that under item 21/03 (a), Ollie Bayliss' Freedom of Information request had been unsuccessful as there were no minutes of meetings held between DCMS and the National League.</p>	
21/10	<p>TUST social held on 8th March MT reported that, whilst the attendance had been disappointing, the Zoom meeting had been an enjoyable opportunity to liaise with those members who did attend and the two hour discussion had been both supportive of TUST and productive.</p> <p>Topics covered had included the streaming of matches, the role of Exile groups, the owner's plans for the Club and on-field matters.</p> <p>It was agreed that a second event should be held towards the end of the season. RW suggested that this may attract more interest if there was a specific topic for discussion or a guest speaker. Date and format to be considered at next meeting.</p>	
21/11	<p>Torquay United and football matters</p> <p>(a) National League The meeting considered recent developments in the League including the unresolved position regarding Dover's withdrawal, the renewal of Vanarama's sponsorship and Sutton's decision to take an emergency loan and replace its plastic pitch if promoted. Torquay's recent performances and slip down the table were also scrutinised.</p>	

(b)	<p>Meeting with TUFC</p> <p>Items for discussion with Dominic Mee at the meeting on 18th March were considered. Taking account of the issues raised at the social event it was agreed to include questions about the owner's 5 year plan including stadium relocation and his on-going commitment to the Club. It was also proposed to ask how TUST could assist with the return of supporters on 22nd May and whether this occasion could be marked in some way, the future of live streaming of matches and to seek support for the Football Boot Bank initiative discussed at the last TUST board meeting (minute 21/08).</p> <p>MT, NB and RW to attend. RW to draft an agenda for approval before submitting to DM.</p> <p>NB to follow up the outstanding disabled grant query with the Club's Disability Liaison Officer separately.</p>	<p>RW</p> <p>NB</p>
21/12	<p>Torquay United Community Sports Trust (TUCST)</p> <p>RW gave an update provided by Matt Anthony, manager of TUCST. There were currently 24 signed up for the Inspirations Stay at Home Training Packs sponsored by TUST. More are expected to sign up when those with more severe disabilities are able to resume. The kit is expected to be available imminently carrying the new TUCST logo. RW to request a photo of the new kit.</p>	<p>RW</p>
21/13	<p>Torquay United Women's Football Club</p> <p>RD reported that the current season had been terminated. Although the team were bottom of the league, there had been a recent improvement in its performances and there were grounds for optimism for the next season. The sponsorship for tracksuits agreed by TUST had not been requested but would be available when required for the new season. MT observed that TUST's support for TUWFC had been endorsed at the social meeting.</p>	
21/14	<p>Football Supporters Association (FSA) / governance</p> <p>MT and NB updated the meeting on recent developments including the proposals for a European Super League and concerns about the calibre of the National League board leadership.</p>	
21/15	<p>Media and PR</p> <p>The recent story by Dave Thomas in the Torbay Weekly headlining TUST's positive actions was noted and welcomed.</p> <p>RB estimated that approximately 1,000 people read TUST posts on the website, forums and social media.</p>	

	<p>MT raised the question of whether reassurance and more support could be given to the corporate sponsors. AB agreed to draft a 'thank you' note and the offer of an advertising push. There was some discussion about whether the remaining brochures could be used or whether a new leaflet may be more appropriate.</p> <p>There was then a discussion about the best time for a membership drive, either at the end of the season or before the next. RW suggested that such a decision may depend on the outcome of the season, both on the pitch and in terms of ownership. It was agreed to defer a decision until the next meeting at least.</p>	
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The date of the next meeting was fixed for Monday 19th April 2021 at 6.30pm. Venue to be decided but hopefully outdoors at a pub.

Chairman's signature.....Date