



MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

Wednesday 16th December 2020

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

Apologies: Ali Bryant (AB)

20/77	<p>Torquay United Official Supporters Club</p> <p>MT welcomed Andrew Candy, interim Chair of the Torquay United Official Supporters Club, for an informal discussion about the formation of the new group and how the roles of the two organisations may complement each other. It was a positive exchange of views and we look forward to working in partnership for the good of the club and its supporters.</p>	
20/78	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 18th November 2020</p> <p>The minutes were tabled and approved.</p>	
20/79	<p>AGM and matters arising</p> <p>It was agreed that the recent AGM, held via Zoom, had been well received by those in attendance with positive feedback. The involvement of a number of Exiles was particularly welcome. Future AGM's would offer this option for those unable to attend in person.</p> <p>A proposal made at the AGM to hold future informal Zoom meetings for members was discussed and it was agreed to set the first one up in February or March and perhaps hold these quarterly if successful.</p>	
20/80	<p>Torquay United and football matters</p> <p>(a) Potential relocation</p> <p>MT advised of the recent go-ahead for a new station at Edginswell and the opportunities for a new stadium in that area that this may present. There was no further news about the Club's plans at this time.</p>	

<p>(b)</p>	<p>Returning supporters Having now held three home games since Covid restrictions were lifted, the professional way in which the Club had planned for and delivered the return of spectators was praised. This was reflected in the positive feedback received from many members and posters on social media. The latest decision to permit flasks to be taken in to the ground was particularly welcome.</p> <p>MT advised that Torbay Council were running a Community Champions scheme for recognising good management of Covid safety. RB suggested that TUST should nominate the Club for such an award. MT to provide details to NB who would consult the Club over the proposal.</p>	<p>MT/ NB</p>
<p>(c)</p>	<p>Liaison with the Club NB reported that, in the absence of a response from the Club regarding his request for an interview with Clarke Osborne, he had mailed Mel Hayman and been advised by her that CO would not be giving interviews to anyone. The board expressed its disappointment at this as PR is normally part of a chairman's role. It was suggested that George Edwards (CEO) be invited to respond instead.</p> <p>There had been no response from the Club regarding plans to proceed with a roof for the visitor's disabled area using funds raised by Sam Balson. NB had spoken to SB who was going to contact the Club himself.</p> <p>NB to arrange the next meeting with Dom Mee in the New Year.</p>	<p>NB</p> <p>NB</p>
<p>20/81</p>	<p>Torquay United Community Sports Trust (TUCST)</p> <p>MT reported that he had met informally with the new TUCST manager, Matt Anthony, who was keen to build on the partnership with TUST established by his predecessor.</p> <p>RW advised that AB had written to the Chair of TUCST regarding the balance of funds contributed by TUST and still held by TUCST and details of TUST equipment loaned to them. She had received an interim response but it was not known if anything further had been heard. MT to check with AB.</p> <p>It was proposed that MA be invited to attend the start of the next board meeting to introduce himself and provide details of how TUCST plan to spend the funds mentioned above. RW to invite.</p>	<p>MT</p> <p>RW</p>
<p>20/82</p>	<p>Torquay United Womens Football Club</p> <p>RD advised that he had informed the TUWFC manager of TUST's proposed contribution towards tracksuits which had been appreciated but no invoice had been received yet.</p>	

<p>20/83</p>	<p>Media & PR</p> <p>NB had sent the Torbay Weekly a press release and copy of the photo of Kyle Cameron being presented with the Ian Twitchin Trophy. <i>(Subsequently, both had appeared in the December 17 edition of the paper.)</i></p> <p>RC had attended the recent Sport Torbay meeting where it was apparent that many small, local sports clubs were struggling in the present circumstances. There had been no representation from the Football Club.</p> <p>MT advised that he had attended the previous day's Torbay Business and Chamber Network meeting on behalf of TUST.</p>	
<p>20/84</p>	<p>Partner organisations</p> <p>(a) Football Supporters Association (FSA) MT had attended the FSA AGM and had circulated notes for information prior to the meeting along with a summary of the debate in Westminster regarding the Future of Football Governance.</p> <p>(b) Devon Supporters Trust Group (DSTG) NB advised that Richard Tomkins of Hereford United Supporters Trust and National Council member of the FSA had been invited to join the new SW Group. A meeting of the DSTG was planned for early 2021 which RT and representatives from Bristol City and Bath City Trusts would be attending to discuss the new SW group. MT observed that the group potentially had members representing clubs at all levels from The Championship to the National League South.</p>	
<p>20/85</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>There was no AOB.</p>	

The date of the next meeting was fixed for Monday 1st February 2021 at 6.30pm. Venue to be decided.

Chairman's signature.....Date