



MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

Monday 20th January 2025

Present: Nick Brodrick (NB) – Chair, Ali Bryant (AB), Rob Burkitt (RB), Robin Causley (RC), Rob Dickinson (RD), Clive Hayward (CH), Harry Lovering (HL), Michel Thomas (MT), Rick Williams (RW) – Secretary

In attendance: Danni Wyatt (DW)

Apologies: Bob Cole (BC), Sam Druiff (SD)

25/01	<p>Welcome, apologies and thanks NB welcomed DW, the second TUST Appointed Board Member, as a guest.</p>	
25/02	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 16th December 2024 The minutes of the meeting were tabled and approved and there were no matters arising that were not on the agenda for this meeting.</p>	
25/03	<p>TUST/TUFC partnership</p> <p>a) Report from the TUFC board meeting on 16th December 2024 NB and DW provided a summary of the topics discussed at the meeting and developments since. Much of that discussed is of a confidential nature and cannot be recorded here in detail.</p> <p>In summary, there are an increasing number of infrastructure issues arising at Plainmoor that are placing financial demands on the Club's resources. There remain outstanding fees to the administrators plus notice of some late creditors meaning the club is still technically 'in administration' despite all other debts having been paid in full. Emphasis on improvements to the hospitality offer continue to be a priority such as the new TV screens in Boots & Laces. Matchday income has increased, not just from larger crowds but also increased and longer use of the bars and restaurants.</p>	

	<p>The board were concerned that supporters perceive the financial circumstances of the Club to be better than they are with increased gates and sale of merchandise and a lower playing budget. It called on the Co-Chairmen to provide some clarity in the next Chairmen's Chat if not sooner.</p> <p>Other feedback from the Club board included approval for the additional handrails in Bristows Bench, recent cases of supporters in the ground under the influence of drugs and the resulting decision to use sniffer dogs at the forthcoming home game and the threat of a possible fine or even points deduction if further breaches of the ground regulations occur. The board were keen that the latter be made known to all supporters as soon as possible.</p>	NB
b)	<p>TUST and Club relationship A number of cases across various topics were given as examples where TUST representatives had contacted staff at the Club but not received a response. There was a lack of clarity about staff roles and who was the most appropriate person to contact in different circumstances. NB reported that some changes in staff are in the pipeline. He was asked to seek clarification on preferred lines of communication and reassurances that timely responses will be given in future.</p>	NB
c)	<p>Exeter City Supporter Liaison NB explained that he had spent a matchday at St James' Park shadowing the Supporter Liaison Officer (SLO) and his team. He had picked up a number of useful ideas from the visit and had met the previous week with Joe Lovell and Mark Lovell at TUFC to discuss how they may be adopted at Plainmoor.</p> <p>Among the suggestions are improved food and drink outlets in Fan Zones, free refreshments for early arrival away fans, T Screens providing electronic information and ticket booking and primarily a network of Matchday Ambassador volunteers led by a SLO. The Club were supportive of the latter and had tasked TUST with delivering a scheme. NB was in the process of drafting a SLO job description which he would share with this board. MT highlighted the work previously undertaken by TUST in this area and expressed his interest in being involved.</p>	NB
d)	<p>Marketing initiatives In SD's absence, RB reported on the meeting of the Marketing Sub-Committee the previous week. A number of ideas for money-making schemes had been discussed with the immediate priority being a club lottery. RB explained that a third party would run this for a 10% fee and Scunthorpe were cited as an example where a monthly income of more than £3k could be raised for the club. TUFC already have the necessary small lottery licence to run such a scheme.</p> <p>RB stated that some of the ideas had already been mentioned to the Club's co-directors informally and a meeting with Joe Lovell and Mark Lovell would now be arranged to consider in more detail.</p>	SD/RB

<p>25/04</p>	<p>Community Share Issue - Investor Rewards In the absence of BC, RW provided an update on progress following a Zoom meeting of the CSI Group the previous week;</p> <p><u>Director for the Day</u> - Being administered by BC and running well with the next six matches allocated and only three more to go this season. He had shared instructions for the process with RW.</p> <p><u>Investor Member Board</u> – delivery expected by the end of the month. Arrangements for mounting on the wall and access for investors to view the board being discussed with the Club.</p> <p><u>Investor packs</u> - Share certificates and pin badges had been received, draft text for a letter of thanks to be signed by the Club and TUST Chairmen has been prepared, envelopes and address labels have been purchased. On 5th February volunteers will meet at the Chelston Manor to pack letters, certificates and badges in to labelled envelopes.</p> <p>The aim is to encourage as many investors as possible to collect these by hand and it is proposed to have a collection point at the ground before and after the games on 8th and 15th February. Matt Gorman is liaising with the Club about other opportunities outside these times. Those not collected by hand will be posted at a later date.</p> <p><u>Meet the Manager</u> – still awaiting a new date and venue for this postponed event. Invitations will be circulated asap and a rsvp required. It is intended to make the event available to investors on line.</p>	
<p>25/05</p>	<p>Paint Up Plainmoor NB advised that decoration work is currently underway in The Gulls Nest and Devonshire Suite. External works will resume when the weather improves including the exterior of the rest of the stadium.</p>	
<p>25/06</p>	<p>Finance report AB provided details of the account balances at 31st December totalling £27k (£20k in the Forever Yellow Fund and £6,920 in the current account).</p> <p>Membership currently stands at 1,146 with several not renewing due to financial hardship.</p> <p>RW outlined the proposed brief for an independent review of TUST's accounting procedures, taxation liabilities and audit requirements which was approved.</p>	<p>RW</p>
<p>25/07</p>	<p>Strategy review RW advised that the Strategy Group would be meeting on 10th February to start the review and would report to the next meeting.</p>	

<p>25/08</p>	<p>Website review NB reported that the Club is also looking into a new website and it was questioned whether TUST could have a section on this but it was agreed that it should retain an independent website of its own although a link from the Club site would be welcomed.</p>	
<p>25/09</p>	<p>Youth strategy HL reported that he had contacted the Club with his proposals for engagement with schools and colleges but had received no reply so far.</p>	
<p>25/10</p> <p>a)</p> <p>b)</p> <p>c)</p> <p>d)</p>	<p>TUST Partners</p> <p>SW Supporters Trust Group Northampton Town ST to be invited to the next meeting in March as guests. Their lobbying in support of the Football Governance Bill was endorsed and it was agreed that we should lobby our three local MPs at the appropriate time.</p> <p>Community Sports Trust RD reported that the Trust is facing increased financial pressures, partly from increased NI contributions and increases in the minimum wage. It has been asked to provide additional services by the Club but not given the resources to do so. A meeting between trustees and Club representatives was planned.</p> <p>Women's team DW updated the meeting on the teams progress and future direction.</p> <p>Travel Club HL reported that the next evening's game at Slough was the first of the season where only a minibus would be running but otherwise bookings were encouraging.</p>	
<p>25/11</p> <p>a)</p> <p>b)</p>	<p>Media & PR</p> <p>Newsletters NB had received a request from Kevin Foster to write an article on the Club for the Ellacombe and Plainmoor magazine. It was suggested that this could be used in other neighbourhood publications in the area.</p> <p>Back in the Game RB introduced this national campaign led by Prostate Cancer Uk and PHS Group to make provision for the disposal of male sanitary wear in football stadiums. The board supported the initiative which should be easy to organise. RB to find out more detail about how the service can be provided.</p>	<p>RB</p>

<p>25/12</p> <p>a)</p> <p>b)</p> <p>c)</p>	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Truro ticketing In light of supporters' concerns about the allocation of Truro tickets for the Good Friday game, NB read an e-mail from Joe Lovell (CEO) explaining that the Club had received no communication from Truro prior to the tickets going on sale. Normally there would have been consultation between clubs and TUFC are ensuring that this is the case for forthcoming games that are likely to attract a large away following such as Weston-Super-Mare.</p> <p>Expenses AB proposed that where appropriate mileage on TUST business should be paid at the HMRC approved rate, currently 45p per mile. This was approved.</p> <p>RC suggested that an expenses claim form should be adopted. RW to provide.</p> <p>Student project RD advised that he had been liaising with a member who had enquired if the Club would allow his daughter to undertake a project for her degree on the story of last year at the Club. This would require access to the ground and authority to take pictures and interview supporters. DW knows the student and will raise the request with the Club on her behalf.</p>	<p>RW</p> <p>DW</p>
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The date of the next meeting was fixed for Monday 17th February 2025 at 6.30pm

Chairman's signature.....Date