



## MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026

- Present:** Nick Brodrick (NB) – Chair, Rob Burkitt (RB), Robin Causley (RC), Bob Cole (BC), Rob Dickinson (RD), Clive Hayward (CH), Michel Thomas (MT), Joe Uglow (JU), Rick Williams (RW) – Secretary
- In attendance:** Matt Anthony (MaT – TUCST Manager), Tony Jordan (TJ – TUCST Chair)
- Apologies:** Ali Bryant (AB), Danni Wyatt (DW)

<p>26/23</p>	<p><b>Junior Gulls proposal</b></p> <p>NB welcomed MA and TJ who had been invited to contribute to consideration of the proposed Junior Gulls membership scheme. Torquay United Community Sports Trust would be an important partner in delivering the scheme, along with the club.</p> <p>JU made a presentation explaining that the reasoning behind the proposal was to attract 5–15 year olds who would be future supporters and hopefully TUST members. Normal match attendance includes 500 – 700 under 18s, the recent fans survey indicated much support for the concept and Exeter City Supporters Trust run a very successful junior section with over 1,000 members.</p> <p>He then presented a range of suggested benefits that could be offered in conjunction with the club and TUCST such as shop discounts, meet the player events and prize draws. Other suggestions from the board included Christmas parties and an incentive scheme whereby points were awarded for attendance. The possibility of sponsorship should also be explored.</p> <p>TJ welcomed the proposal and was keen that all parties work together. He noted the need for the club to ensure that players were made available but Tim Herbert had indicated that this was already planned and Jimmy Ball was supportive. Planning for this and other provision would be easier with a calendar of events.</p> <p>The different expectations of different age groups was noted and the need for appropriate safeguarding policies and DBS checks which TJ said TUCST could help with.</p>	
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	<p>It was proposed that the Junior Gulls should have its own logo and VX3 may be able to assist with this. It will also need its own website although maybe a page on the TUST site initially.</p> <p>It was agreed that the fundamental principle was to attract numbers rather than see the Juniors as a fund raising exercise. An annual subscription of £25 was proposed (in line with ECST) and in principle any surplus generated might be used to sponsor TUCST.</p> <p>It was agreed to form a steering committee to move the proposal forwards with a view to a pre-season launch in July. BC and RD to represent TUST, TJ and MA for TUCST plus a representative from TUFC (Tim Herbert to suggest) and the Women's Team (DW to suggest). JU will lead the group through the initial set up but will stand aside once established.</p> <p><i>TJ &amp; MA left the meeting at this point</i></p>	<p>BC/RD</p> <p>DW JU</p>
<p><b>26/24</b></p>	<p><b>Minutes of meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026.</b> The minutes of the meeting were tabled and approved.</p> <p>Minute 26/18(b) – NB had consulted DW who had confirmed that the Women's section was self-funding with income from sponsorship, gate receipts and prize money etc. The suggestion in some quarters that it draws on club funds is incorrect.</p> <p>Minute 26/18(c) – NB reported that Tim Herbert was keen that the pledge monies should be spent on refurbishment of The Gulls Nest. The board unanimously agreed that handrails in the Family Stand were a greater priority as raised by a number of supporters and reaffirmed its wish that this is how the pledge money should be allocated. NB to advise TH so that arrangements can be made before the new season. The regular income from the Forever Yellow funds can be used in future for Tim's proposal.</p>	<p>NB</p>
<p><b>26/25</b></p> <p><b>(a)</b></p> <p><b>(b)</b></p>	<p><b>Memberships</b></p> <p><b>Beacon CRM</b> RW advised that with great help from JU and RB the automated membership system had gone live to coincide with the launch of the Forever Yellow scheme on 21<sup>st</sup> April. There were a number of teething problems but these were gradually being resolved, such as international payments and retaining original membership numbers.</p> <p><b>Forever Yellow membership scheme</b> JU presented a report on how the new scheme was progressing. In the two weeks since its launch 160 existing members had upgraded and 55 new members had joined taking current membership to 1,166.</p> <p>The number of Silver members (£5pm) had increased form 100 to 161, Gold (£10pm) from 65 to 165 and there were 51 sign-ups for the new Platinum tier (£25pm). As a result, projected annual income had risen from £37k to £64k.</p>	

	<p>JU explained how Digital Membership Cards had been procured within budget and were ready to send to members once the club is ready.</p> <p>It is now important to continue publicising the scheme and JU had requested that the Forever Yellow video &amp; graphics be displayed at the Plainmoor Watch Party and requested the club do social posts this week to boost publicity. Going forward this needs to be a drumbeat of posts that don't require prompting.</p> <p>He will arrange a meeting with TH and start to plan a schedule of events for Platinum members (in-person &amp; virtual) and other rewards.</p> <p>Wider publicity may be provided through a GEV appearance and a Torbay Weekly article. We should ensure that Forever Yellow video &amp; graphics are included in the big screen matchday package and arrange for advertising boards on the inside of perimeter walls.</p> <p>It was proposed to design and purchase a retractable banner stand for a Sign-up station in the Gulls Nest for Matchdays next season with a rota of TUST board members to man it pre-match. A TUST iPad may be needed.</p> <p>Other ideas included a standard programme advert (NB to arrange), and impact videos on club channels, interviews with senior club figures on how important the money from the scheme is and what it can enable.</p> <p>A decision on when to start transferring money to the club and how much from the initial spike in sign-ups would be made at the next meeting when figures become clearer. Nothing will be paid until the process for the conversion to equity has been finalised.</p>	<p>JU</p> <p>NB</p>
<p><b>26/26</b></p> <p><b>(a)</b></p> <p><b>(b)</b></p> <p><b>(c)</b></p>	<p><b>Partnership with TUFC</b></p> <p><b>Hornchurch tickets</b> RW stated that all tickets allocated to TUST by the club had been paid for and sent. There had been much praise from supporters for the way in which the club and TUST had handled ticket sales for the game at short notice. RW was congratulated and thanked for his work in getting the tickets out to TUST members in the short time available.</p> <p>There was also much appreciation for the club's arrangements to show the game at Plainmoor with over 1,600 tickets sold to date.</p> <p><b>Inclusivity Group</b> RC reported that the group had been unable to arrange its second meeting prior to a game but would be seeking to arrange something in the coming month or so. JU referred a member who had a proposal for how the club could improve its engagement with different demographics that might support the group's activities.</p> <p><b>Matters raised by supporters</b> A supporter had suggested selling 50/50 tickets on line at the time that tickets are booked. This could also provide an opportunity for a 'Join TUST' message.</p>	<p>RC</p>

	CH asked if there was any news on season ticket prices. NB said an announcement was expected next week.	
<b>26/27</b>	<b>Partners</b>	
<b>(a)</b>	<b>Women's team</b> The team had won the Devon County Cup and would be crowned league champions at Sherborne on Sunday bar a miraculous change in goal difference.  The board were keen to sponsor the team again in 2026/27 and they would be asked to provide a proposal.	DW
<b>26/28</b>	<b>Secretary vacancy</b> NB advised that the person he had approached about the role was not interested. RW offered to prepare an advert and description of the duties to be circulated to members in the first instance.  BC requested that the whole board be involved in the appointment decision.	RW
<b>26/29</b>	<b>Media &amp; PR</b>	
<b>(a)</b>	<b>Newsletter</b> The board thanked JU and RB for producing the April newsletter.	
<b>(b)</b>	<b>Heritage project</b> BC updated on proposed interviews.	
<b>26/30</b>	<b>Any other business</b>	
<b>(a)</b>	<b>Tin can collection</b> JU reminded the board of his suggestion that collection points be set up to collect cans. ECFC had raised £14k per annum from such a scheme. RC suggested that he contact Torbay Council in the first instance.	RC
<b>(b)</b>	<b>Jimmy Ball</b> It was agreed to invite JB to the July meeting and to hold it at Plainmoor if food could be provided.	NB

The date of the next meeting was fixed for Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June at 6.30pm at the Chelston Manor.

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