



MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

Monday 20th November 2023

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

23/83	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 16th October 2023 The minutes of the meeting were tabled and approved.</p> <p>Minute 23/64 (e) - NB confirmed that further Step One men's walks had taken place with attendance now exceeding double figures.</p> <p>Minute 23/77 – following the recent TUST organised Fans' Forum, the subsequent statement from the Club and an exchange of correspondence, NB had received a letter from George Edwards, CEO, inviting himself and another TUST representative to a meeting. It was agreed that RW, as Secretary, should accompany NB.</p> <p>There was lengthy discussion around the purpose of the meeting and how TUST should approach this. Various scenarios were considered and a plan for dealing with each was agreed.</p> <p>NB had approached the FSA for advice but had not yet received a response.</p> <p>It was proposed that the meeting should be held before the AGM and the planned supporter protest at the home game on 2nd December.</p>	
23/84	<p>Fans' Forum</p> <p>a) Review of the practical aspects Attendance in the room was disappointingly low at approximately fifty but the number attending via Zoom was surprising, hitting the 100 limit early on which prevented others from joining. It was agreed to increase the limit to 300.</p>	RW

	<p>The numbers made it very difficult to monitor and respond to all the questions raised by the virtual attendees. In future questions will be invited in advance.</p> <p>Things that had worked well included the roving microphones, new camera, the venue (although bar prices were high) and the quality of the discussion.</p> <p>Areas for improvement included the sound for Zoom contributors particularly guest speakers, the recording of the meeting, seating layout, camera operation and use of the big screen.</p> <p>b) The discussion It was agreed that the event had been very successful despite the few hiccups. There had been a wide ranging discussion with many of the concerns raised coming back to the lack of communication from the owner or directors.</p> <p>Since many of the questions and comments made by those on Zoom had not been considered on the evening, RW had provided a transcript of some of the key themes for consideration. It was agreed to issue a statement summarising these and where possible to provide comment or point supporters in the direction of the FAQs on the website.</p> <p>The consensus of the meeting was that a protest was needed to draw wider attention to the fans' desire for better communication from the Club. Various ideas for the form of such action were discussed. NB made it clear that TUST could only condone peaceful, legal protest and nothing that would breach Ground Regulations or health and safety considerations. It was decided that fans should refuse to leave the ground for a period after the home game against Tonbridge Angels on 2nd December. The proposal, which came from the floor, received overwhelming support.</p> <p>c) The protest Details for the planned protest were discussed. Importantly, it was noted that the action had been proposed and supported by the wider fan base. It is not a TUST protest but one which the TUST board support.</p> <p>The purpose of the protest is to publicise the supporters' call for more communication rather than to cause maximum disruption. It needs to attract press attention.</p> <p>It was agreed that the protest should last 15 minutes from the final whistle with chants of 'Talk to us' aimed at the directors' box. A suggestion to provide yellow cards for fans to wave was considered but it was decided to save that for any future protest.</p> <p>TUST to advise the police and stadium security management of the proposed action in advance.</p>	<p>RW</p> <p>RC/ MT</p>
<p>23/85</p>	<p>FAQs BC tabled a response to the FAQ: 'Would we have a club if it wasn't for Clarke Osborne?' This was approved and will be added to the website.</p>	<p>RB</p>

<p>23/86</p>	<p>AGM Arrangements were discussed and finalised. MT to confirm catering requirements with the venue. RW to prepare visual presentation. Board members to report on their areas of interest.</p> <p>RW advised that he had been taking steps to contact and verify addresses for a few members where e-mail notices of the AGM had been undelivered. He would advise AB of any changes to the membership records,</p> <p>RW had attended the Exeter City Supporters' Trust AGM on the previous Saturday as the independent Returning Officer for their elections. He provided details of the event for information.</p>	<p>MT RW</p> <p>RW</p>
<p>23/87</p>	<p>Partner organisations</p> <p>a) Flock of Gulls meeting The event held on 17th October at Divers Inn, Babbacombe had been successful. It had provided an opportunity to develop relationships with the Travel Club, Torquay Talk and the Community Sports Trust.</p> <p>b) Community Sports Trust (TUCST) It was confirmed that Tony Jordan had been appointed as Chair.</p> <p>c) Women's Team RD reported on the latest victory in the County Cup. We are still awaiting a photo shoot to publicise TUST's sponsorship.</p> <p>d) Kitmas Further to minute 23/80(d), NB had been in contact with Torbay Council's Childrens Services. The extent of need for deserving families was confirmed with many agencies providing support over the Xmas period.</p> <p>It was proposed that Turning Heads, based in Plainmoor, would be an appropriate organisation to deliver the Kitmas project. The plan would be to seek donations from TUST members to purchase 20 junior shirts from the club shop. TUST could underwrite the purchase thereby making up any shortfall in costs.</p> <p>The proposal was unanimously agreed. NB to enquire about availability of shirts and make arrangements with Turning Heads. Once confirmed, members would be contacted for donations.</p> <p>e) Community Fund It was noted that there is £1,700 left in the Fund for projects this financial year. Suggestions for how to allocate this were invited.</p> <p>f) Councillors RC updated the meeting on his recent discussion with Steve Darling, Leader of the Opposition and prospective Lib Dem candidate in the next election.</p>	<p>NB</p>

	It was agreed that a meeting should be arranged with the Council leadership in the New Year.	
23/88	<p>Media & PR</p> <p>Recent activity was noted including the extensive coverage following the Fans Forum and Club statement. NB was praised for his appearance on BBC and ITV local news broadcasts and Radio Devon coverage.</p> <p>BC agreed to assist with monitoring TUST's e-mail inbox.</p>	
23/89	<p>Any other business</p> <p>a) RW proposed a further meeting of the Strategy Group in January. He would circulate dates.</p>	RW

The date of the next meeting was fixed for Monday 18th December 2023, time tbc.

Chairman's signature.....Date