



MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

Monday 15th September 2025

Present: Nick Brodrick (NB) – Chair, Ali Bryant (AB), Rob Burkitt (RB), Robin Causley (RC), Bob Cole (BC), Rob Dickinson (RD), Clive Hayward (CH), Harry Lovering (HL), Michel Thomas (MT), Joe Uglow (JU), Danni Wyatt (DW), Rick Williams (RW) – Secretary
Paul Bastard (PB) – Supporter Liaison Officer
Mark Thomas (MkT), - CEO of TUFC for items 25/70 and 25/71.
Andrew Fiderkiewicz (AF) – for items 25/70 to 25/72

Apologies: Sam Druiff (SD)

25/70	Minutes of the meeting held on 18th August 2025 and matters arising The minutes of the meeting were tabled and approved with no matters arising.	
25/71 a)	TUST/TUFC partnership – part 1 Mark Thomas - CEO MkT had been invited to the meeting to discuss a number of issues raised by the board and members. Digital screen update – the work is behind schedule due to problems encountered removing the old screen and adverse weather. It will not be ready for the next home game on 20th September. The lack of information about the Women's and Youth teams on the new club website. MkT recognised that this was an issue but stated that it is a work in progress and will be addressed shortly. This could include a summary of the week's youth league results. TUFC Radio – MkT advised that this was still to be used but it was uneconomic and impractical to duplicate Radio Devon's coverage of most matches.	

	Totton match highlights – MkT explained that the delay in posting these had been due to an issue at the Totton end. He did make the point in respect of both radio coverage and editing highlights that the small media team put in exceptionally long hours on match days. Fan Zone layout – happy to review the positioning of TUST gazebo to maximise presence. HL asked about progress on the proposal for players to visit schools. MkT confirmed that this is still intended. In the meantime school parties are being invited to tours of Plainmoor. RB asked about better promotion of the 1899 Lottery and details of winners. MkT advised that he saw a much bigger vision for the 1899 Club concept and would provide more details in due course. AF raised concerns about the clunky administrative requirements for the ‘pay on the gate’ turnstile. These resulted in a poor experience for supporters’ entry to the Popside. MkT agreed to visit him to witness this at the next game. MkT explained some of the historic neglect of the stadium that has come to light and the capital expenditure items the Club is facing as a result. The priorities are issues raised by the Safety Advisory Group such as inadequate CCTV coverage and fire safety works. He was asked why these issues had not been addressed with the previous regime and all agreed they could only speculate on this. <i>MkT left the meeting</i>	
25/72 (a)	Finance Year end accounts AF presented the draft accounts which had been circulated with the agenda. He explained that he, Jon Gibbes and Matt Gorman had agreed on how the Community Share Issue and subsequent purchase of a 28.6% stake in the Club should be shown on the balance sheet. The total funds show as £309,300 but the reality is that the ‘worth’ of the Trust was the £37,414 held in bank accounts. He drew attention to the note: ‘The current market value of the investment has not been quantified so no adjustment has been made to the investment or the matching reserve to reflect any increase or decrease’. The profit and loss account showed total income of £39,981, admin costs of £3,117 and other costs of £7,057 giving a net surplus for the year of £29,806. All costs associated with the Community Share Issue are contained on the balance sheet and do not appear on the P&L. AF thanked AB as Treasurer for maintaining and handing over detailed records for him to process. The board, in turn, thanked AF for his assistance in preparing the accounts which were approved for presentation to the members at the AGM.	

b)	RW advised that he had written to a member to ask if he would be willing to act as Independent Examiner but had received no reply. It was agreed to approach an alternative member who had expressed an interest in getting involved. Failing this a request for volunteers would be circulated. If all else fails a professional firm will need to be appointed for the task. Current position RW advised that the balance in the current account stood at £3,281. Whilst monthly income from subscriptions would exceed £2k, there is little scope for additional expenditure in the short-term. <i>AF left the meeting</i>	RW
25/73	TUST/TUFC partnership – part 2 NB and DW reported on their recent meeting with MkT including; • Efforts are being made to repair the Family Stand clock • Improvements to the ‘Call It Out’ reporting facility on match days • Access to toilets from Family Stand – changes this season will remain • Railings for steps leading to Gulls Nest in Family Stand – added to CapEx list • 50/50 tickets no longer on sale in The Cove – the board expressed concern at this decision Club Charity of the Year – this had not been handled well and had resulted in the two small charities that applied feeling disappointed. The original idea had come from the Club and TUST was asked to seek expressions of interest in June. The details of the two applicants were passed to the Club but nothing happened. This coincided with MkT’s arrival. It was eventually announced that Rowcroft would be the Club’s long-term charity partner but no feedback was provided to the other applicants. NB has now offered free publicity to the two small charities and the Club has agreed to allow bucket collections. Whilst the board recognised the excellent work that Rowcroft does it was felt that support should be given by the Club to smaller, community focused charities as originally intended. NB and DW to feed back. The next Club board meeting is scheduled for 29th September. NB reported that he had asked readers of his Fan Zone column to make any suggestions for non-clothing items that they would like to see in the Club shop leading up to Christmas. A number of good ideas had been received and he would pass these on. It was decided to advertise for any members interested in joining a working party with Club representatives to promote inclusivity..	NB/DW NB RW

25/74 a) b) c) d)	Governance TUST board elections <i>Members whose term ends at the AGM left the room for item 25/74(a) in accordance with the Election Policy, namely AB, BC, RD, MT and JU.</i> It was agreed that the full five vacancies arising this year should be filled. The membership of the Election Management Group (EMG) was agreed as follows; Andrew Fiderkiewicz (independent Chair), Stuart Bennett and Rick Williams (Secretary). It was agreed that hustings will not be part of the election process. Also that the invitation for nominations should make it clear that campaigning by candidates must be in accordance with the Election Policy. Member consultation Following discussions around the recent consultation on TUST funding for the digital screen, the question of when members should be consulted or balloted was debated. Some financial thresholds were suggested and a decision will be made at the next meeting. TUST Appointed Board Member Policy The policy was reviewed and a few minor amendments to the wording were agreed. It was proposed that recruitment to future vacancies will be separated from elections to the TUST board and conducted during September with successful candidates taking up their seat on the Club board from the date of the AGM. Review of TABM's term of office <i>NB left the room for this item.</i> In accordance with the TABM Policy, the board considered NB's performance during the first year of his term and unanimously agreed that he should continue for a second year.	RW
25/75	Website review JU reported on progress with the website update. FAQs and History of TUST to be added soon. He proposed a promotion campaign for the Corporate Members.	
25/76 (a)	Memberships Automated systems RW reported on progress with researching possible systems. A number of alternatives are being considered and it is hoped to make a recommendation to the next meeting.	RW

(b)	Strategy for growth – junior section JU reported that he had held a very useful discussion with a representative at Exeter City Supporters' Trust about their Junior Grecians scheme which had over 1,000 members. Subscription costs £25 per annum. Juniors receive a number of benefits partly subsidised by the club. They do not transfer automatically to adult membership on reaching 18 years of age. JU will prepare a report and recommendation for the next meeting.	JU
25/77 (a) (b)	TUST Partners Torquay United Community Sports Trust RD presented a letter recently received from the Chair of TUCST (previously circulated) explaining that the Under 18s section had been transferred back to the Club by mutual agreement. The board discussed the implications of this for TUST's sponsorship agreement for TUCST's youth section. It was agreed that details of how the £5k already paid has been spent in accordance with the grant agreement and confirmation of how and when the benefits offered to TUST in return will be delivered is needed before a decision on future funding is made. RW to reply to TUCST accordingly. The challenging financial circumstances of TUCST were recognised and the board were keen to offer its support to ensure it has a sustainable future. Women's team RD and DW reported on the previous day's first home game at Plainmoor. Some concern was expressed about the negative attitude towards the Women's team of some staff at the Club. MkT had been made aware of the issue and would address it.	
25/78 (a) (b)	Media & PR Press coverage The excellent article by Daniel Storey in the i-paper following his visit to the match on Bank Holiday Monday was noted. Heritage project RC, BC and Jon Gibbes had visited the Exeter City museum for a very useful discussion with the curator. It was noted that the club's heritage is recognised throughout the stadium and embedded in its culture. They were also making progress with the audio archive and had interviewed PB and a few other long-term supporters. The first of these interviews should be made available shortly.	

(c)	Equipment storage The storage area offered under the Popside has been used for the gazebo and other items after the latest Fan Zone. It has potential as a permanent facility for TUST equipment if a section can be partitioned off to ensure exclusive use. We would also need to acquire a trolley to transport equipment to and from the Fan Zone area. RW to discuss arrangements with Judd Barker.	RW
25/79 a) (b)	Any other business PB to be supplied with TUST leaflets to take to away games. With the meeting about to close at 9.40pm, BC expressed concern at its length. His comments were endorsed by others and all parties agreed to seek ways in which future meetings can be kept to a reasonable time whilst dealing with the important business required.	

The date of the next meeting was fixed for Monday 20th October 2025 at 6.30pm

Chairman's signature.....Date