



MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

Monday 22nd January 2024

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

Apologies: Michel Thomas (MT)

<p>24/0 1</p>	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 18th December 2023 The minutes of the meeting were tabled and approved.</p> <p>RW confirmed that he had submitted the annual AR30 return to the FCA.</p>	
<p>24/0 2</p>	<p>Relations with TUAFC NB summarised latest developments including his and RW's meeting with club directors the previous Saturday.</p> <p>NB had advised GE and MH of the discussions held by the TUST board since the previous meeting and that board members had been reminded of their responsibilities under the Social Media Policy. Copies of all relevant TUST policies would be posted to the website following a review at this meeting (see minute 24.07)</p> <p>GE had indicated that details of the proposed independent Steering Group were likely to be published this week. He had indicated that the appointment of members and terms of reference would reflect those proposed for Fan Advisory Boards. There would be a place reserved for a TUST representative. When the details are released it is likely that there will be a need for a virtual meeting at short notice to consider them. Subject to seeing the details, it was agreed that RC should be the nominated TUST representative.</p> <p>GE had also indicated that regular meetings between the directors and TUST could recommence shortly.</p>	

	<p>NB summarised other matters discussed on Saturday including Fan Zones, sharing club news stories, the promised face-to-face fans forum and how constructive criticism could be made.</p> <p>Further consideration was given to the guidance in the Social Media Policy and how this relates to individuals posting in a personal capacity. It is important that such posts make it clear that they are not made on behalf of TUST and that they still follow the guidelines of the policy.</p>	
<p>24/0 3</p>	<p>Strategy Team BC summarised the notes of the meeting held on 8th January which had been circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The meeting had been attended by a TUST member with insolvency experience which had been very informative.</p> <p>There had been further discussion about the advice offered by a former player and also the opportunity to feature on a Price of Football podcast.</p> <p>It is still proposed to invite representatives from Exeter City Supporters' Trust to attend a future meeting to talk about the club's ownership model. RC suggested that a visit to ECFC may be more useful if it can be arranged.</p>	
<p>24/0 4</p>	<p>Membership and subscription collection software AB had received notice from GoCardless about changes to the terms of the monthly and annual subscription collection fees with effect from 1st March. These will not result in any significant change in costs for TUST.</p> <p>By coincidence, NB & RW had recently been contacted by a TUFC supporter who works for Fan Base, a company that provides automated membership systems. There had previously been discussions with him in 2022 since when their customer base of clubs and trusts had increased.</p> <p>RW had looked at the details of what Fan Base has to offer which includes automated sign up, members controlling their own records, links to Mailchimp for newsletters etc and collection of subscriptions through Stripe. He estimates that a move to Fan Base would be cost neutral but a concern would be the potential loss of members through the transition from the current manual system to the new one which would require members to sign up again. It may be desirable to run both systems in parallel for a period.</p> <p>It was agreed that the option merited further consideration and RW will seek clarification on some queries and prepare a report for the next meeting.</p>	<p>RW</p>
<p>24/0 5 a)</p>	<p>Partner organisations</p> <p>Community Sports Trust (TUCST) Nothing to report</p>	

<p>b)</p> <p>c)</p>	<p>Women's Team Manager Steve Elswood has announced that he is standing down to focus on his role as club chairman and a new manager is being sought.</p> <p>RD advised that two of the four players sponsored by TUST had left the club but replacements had been made. There will be a photo call for TUST's sponsorship at the game against Southampton on 4th February and board members are encouraged to attend if possible.</p> <p>The TUST sponsored match against Exeter City will be held at Wall Park, Brixham on 22nd February.</p> <p>SW Supporters Trust Group TUST is hosting the next Zoom meeting on 24th January. NB advised that a representative from Taunton Town's new supporters trust will be attending and he updated the board on recent developments at this troubled club.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>24/0 6</p> <p>a)</p> <p>b)</p> <p>c)</p>	<p>Media & PR</p> <p>The Story of TUST BC had circulated a draft of the Trust story and various suggestions were made for amendments. A final draft will be presented at the next meeting.</p> <p>PR Team A suggestion by SD for a sub-group to deal with PR was deferred until the next meeting. One possibility is to hold a TUST video podcast similar to that provided by Torquay Talk or maybe to appear on one of theirs.</p> <p>TUST merchandise AB advised that she had a large bag of TUST badges.</p>	<p>BC</p>
<p>24/0 7</p>	<p>Policies It had been agreed to put relevant policies on the TUST website and some of these were tabled for review before actioning.</p> <p>Code of Conduct – some unnecessary detail removed.</p> <p>Social Media – responses to posts to be approved by at least three board members except simple, factual replies to queries. Also a clearer definition of unacceptable behaviour added.</p> <p>RW to now provide final versions of all relevant policies for RB to add to site.</p>	<p>RW/RB</p>
<p>24/0 8</p>	<p>Any other business There was no other business.</p>	

The date of the next meeting was fixed for Monday 19th February 2024 at 6.30pm

Chairman's signature.....Date