



MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

Monday 14th October 2019

Present: Michel Thomas (MT) – chair, Nick Brodrick (NB), Ali Bryant (AB), Robin Causley (RC), Rob Dickinson (RD), Rick Williams (RW).

Apologies: Simon Baker (SB), Rob Burkitt (RB), Matt Carpenter (MC), Jon Gibbes (JG).

19/60	<p>Chair's welcome</p> <p>MT opened the meeting by thanking all members for their contributions to various discussions that had been going on since the last meeting. He presented an initial SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities & threats) that he and RC had drawn up prior to the meeting. RW to type up and circulate for board members to consider and add to as appropriate.</p>	RW
19/61	<p>Minutes of meeting held on 16th September 2019</p> <p>The minutes were tabled and approved.</p> <p>Minute 19/54 – MT read a letter of thanks for the trophy presentation event received from Ian Twitchin's widow. RW will respond on behalf of the board.</p> <p>Minute 19/56(g) – MT indicated what he would be talking about at his presentation to Preston Rotary Club the following evening.</p>	RW
19/62	<p>Partnership with Torquay United Community Sports Trust (TUCST) and Torquay United Women Football Club (TUWFC)</p> <p>MT reported that both organisations had been very appreciative of the sponsorship provided by TUST as agreed at the previous meeting. The TQ1 shirts and coaches training tops were on order and provisional arrangements had been made for a presentation photo opportunity and press release which NB had drafted.</p> <p>The Women's tracksuits would cost £800. Another sponsor had come forward but this would mean additional branding on the clothing. Having considered the impact of this, it was unanimously agreed that TUST would increase its sponsorship by £300 to retain sole sponsorship of the tracksuits with the other sponsor's contribution being used for other purposes. MT to relay to TUWFC.</p>	MT

	<p>RC reported that TUCST were hoping to attend a number of outreach events being organised by other organisations. There was no prospect of any Fanzones in the foreseeable future while the Club's CEO remained opposed to TUST's involvement in such activities.</p>	
<p>19/63</p>	<p>Liaison</p> <p>(a) Club's attitude towards TUST A member's motion to the AGM was noted, calling on the Club's directors to recommence engagement and dialogue with TUST with the aim of re-establishing a positive and constructive relationship which enables the club and TUST to work together collaboratively with the mutual aim of benefitting all aspects of the future of Torquay United AFC.</p> <p>(b) TU Supporters' Club Andrew Candy had advised that he was arranging a meeting with those who had expressed an interest in serving on the board of the new supporters' club and they would then meet to appoint their officers. The board repeated its view that it hoped to work collaboratively with the new organisation.</p> <p>(c) Communication with Football Supporters Association MT reported on conversations he had held with representatives of the FSA regarding the new supporters club, the way that supporter liaison was being handled by the football club directors and their failure to engage in diversity initiatives and the Premier League Fans Fund project. On the latter point, RC confirmed that there had been no response from the PLFF to the end of project report which he had submitted. The FSA had indicated its willingness to arbitrate if the Club directors continue to fail to engage.</p> <p>(d) Politicians MT updated on latest discussions.</p> <p>(e) Business networking events etc MT was making a presentation to Preston Rotary Club the following evening and had also been invited to address the Paignton Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting on 14th November.</p> <p>AB updated on progress with the new TUST brochure. Sources of photographs was discussed and it was agreed to enquire if the Torquay Talk forum could assist.</p> <p>(f) Corporate members AB reported that there were now 17 corporate members from a variety of backgrounds and all would be included in the new brochure.</p> <p>(g) Social media RW reported on RB's behalf that he was now able to update the TUST website himself and had added minutes and the papers for the AGM. RW noted that the site would need updating following the AGM with details of the board and strategic plan.</p>	<p>RW</p>

(h)	<p>Other supporters trusts NB had circulated the results of a survey he had undertaken of all National League clubs to ascertain whether they had supporters' trusts. 13 of the 24 clubs did and the majority of these had co-operative working relations with their clubs.</p> <p>It was agreed that wherever feasible, TUST should make contact with the trusts of visiting clubs with an invitation to meet up before the game to share experiences. In the first instance, NB & RD to contact Wrexham's trust to see if a meeting could be arranged for 29th October.</p>	NB/RD
19/64	<p>Quarterly Treasurer's report</p> <p>(a) Account balances AB reported that there was £40,000 in the reserve account and £1,061.47 in the current account, of which £800 had now been committed to TUWFC. There was also a balance of £1,685.44 being held in a separate account on behalf of Sam Balsdon's disabled facilities fund.</p> <p>AB would seek further advice on the potential for investing reserve funds.</p> <p>(b) Membership AB reported that current membership stood at 360 including 17 corporate members.</p>	AB
19/65	<p>AGM – Thursday 24th October at 6.30pm</p> <p>(a) Event details Final details for the evening were discussed including the provision of refreshments.</p> <p>(b) Elections RW advised that no additional nominations had been received for the board vacancies and consequently MT, AB and RD would be elected at the AGM unopposed.</p>	
19/66	<p>Any other business</p> <p>(a) The recent publicity around the bans imposed on a number of fans was discussed. It was noted that the atmosphere in the ground had been quieter in the absence of some of these most vociferous and devoted supporters. The general view among the board and on social media appeared to be that the season long bans were too harsh in the circumstances. It was agreed that in the first instance the situation would be raised with the FSA for guidance.</p>	MT

The date of the next meeting was fixed for Monday 18th November 2019 at 6.30pm.

Chairman's signature.....Date