



MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

Tuesday 20th October 2020

Present: Robin Causley (RC) – acting-chair, Nick Brodrick (NB), Rob Burkitt (RB), Rob Dickinson (RD), Michel Thomas (MT), Rick Williams (RW).

Apologies: Ali Bryant (AB)

20/62	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 14th September 2020 The minutes were tabled and approved. There were no matters arising not on today's agenda.</p>	
20/63	<p>Torquay United and football matters</p> <p>(a) Review of commencement of the season Despite the disappointment of fans not being allowed to attend games, the team had made a successful start to the season, currently lying second after five matches.</p> <p>In the circumstances, the coverage of all games home and away via video streaming was a welcome service. This had given exiles the opportunity to see home games and many supporters who wouldn't normally get to see away matches had been able to do so.</p> <p>Feedback from members had indicated that the coverage had been positively received but a few had experienced difficulty with the purchasing process and there had been some dissatisfaction with the quality of the commentary. In particular it was felt to lack appropriate recognition and respect for the away fans who may be watching and thereby contributing to the Club's revenue.</p> <p>NB observed that the coverage provided by Bromley had set the standard for this level with an extended programme including interviews before and after the game and half-time chat. The coverage had provided several camera angles and the effective use of action replays.</p>	(b)
	<p>Meeting with club representative NB advised that the next meeting with Dominic Mee (DM) had been scheduled for 4th November. MT, NB and RW to attend via Zoom.</p>	

	<p>Items for discussion were considered including the Club's response to the Memorandum of Understanding and Structured Dialogue policy tabled at the previous meeting and the letter sent to the Club last month about Matchday Ambassadors. NB will also research disability policies and provision for discussion. RW to prepare an agenda to be submitted to DM in advance.</p>	NB RW
20/64	<p>Media</p> <p>NB summarised his recent FanZone columns in the Herald Express. These were now being updated before being circulated to TUST members ahead of the weekend as things were changing rapidly.</p> <p>RB reported that social media had been busier since the season started with mainly positive comments. Details of the Club's streaming service had been widely promoted.</p>	
20/65	<p>Marketing & PR</p> <p>(a) Business & networking meetings RW had attended two virtual meetings of the newly formed Torbay Business and Chamber Network.</p> <p>(b) Lobbying and support NB reported that he had contacted the three local MPs and Oliver Dowden (Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport) last month to campaign on behalf of TUST in support of fans returning to stadiums. Favourable responses had been received from all via e-mail, letter or Twitter. MT reported that he had exchanged correspondence with Kevin Foster MP and spoken at length with his representative. He continued to be supportive of TUST and the football community in general.</p> <p>Both NB and RB had been in contact with Macclesfield Town supporters to offer TUST's sympathy and support following their team's collapse</p>	
20/66	<p>Torquay United Community Sports Trust (TUCST)</p> <p>There was no news yet on the appointment of TUCST's new manager following the departure of Jamie McInnes. The board were keen to meet the new post holder at the earliest opportunity to ensure that the positive relationship between the two bodies can continue.</p> <p>MT stated that he had heard nothing further about the proposal to appoint a TUST board member as a TUCST trustee.</p> <p>MT to contact the Chair of TUCST for clarification on both matters.</p>	MT

20/67	<p>Devon Supporters Trust Group</p> <p>NB advised that a virtual meeting of representatives of the three trusts was scheduled for 22nd October. TUST were hosting the meeting and MT would be in the chair. He summarised the agenda items.</p>	
20/68	<p>Annual accounts and AGM</p> <p>(a) Accounts The draft accounts were being prepared by Andrew Fiderkiewicz (AF) but were not available for review at this meeting. It was agreed to circulate the accounts for approval by board members prior to the AGM.</p> <p>RW highlighted the procedure for ‘disapplying’ the need for a full audit at the AGM and appointing an Independent Examiner. He would consult AF on this matter.</p> <p>(b) AGM The board decided that this year’s meeting will have to be held virtually due to Covid restrictions on group meetings. It was agreed to use Zoom for this purpose and a date of 25th November was agreed. Consideration would be given to members who would be potentially excluded from attending due to these circumstances.</p> <p>RW will proceed with issuing the preliminary notice of the meeting which would include the usual invitation for members to propose motions and the nomination of board members. There was some discussion about the skills to be sought in new members. Delegated authority was granted to MT and RW to agree the wording of the notice.</p> <p>RC, RB, NB and RW all confirmed their willingness to serve a further term of two years.</p>	<p>RW</p> <p>RW</p> <p>MT/ RW</p>
20/69	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>A letter received from a member was considered. It advised that he had contacted TUFC with a proposal for supporters to commit regular contributions to club funds. He will be asked to keep TUST informed of the response.</p>	RW

The date of the next meeting was fixed for Wednesday 18th November 2020 at 6.30pm. Venue to be decided.

Chairman’s signature.....Date