



MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

Monday 17th March 2025

Present: Nick Brodrick (NB) – Chair, Rob Burkitt (RB), Robin Causley (RC), Bob Cole (BC), Rob Dickinson (RD), Clive Hayward (CH), Harry Lovering (HL), Michel Thomas (MT), Rick Williams (RW) – Secretary

Apologies: Ali Bryant (AB), Sam Druiff (SD), Danni Wyatt (DW)

25/22	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 17th February 2025 and matters arising The minutes of the meeting were tabled and approved.</p> <p>Minute 25/12(c) – RD reported that the student who requested assistance from the Club with a photography project has been accommodated with DW organising this.</p> <p>Minute 25/21(a) – NB to follow up enquiry about programme availability on line.</p> <p>Minute 25/21(c) – no details of Tony Bedeau’s funeral had been seen.</p>	NB
25/23	<p>Appointment to TUST board NB advised that DW was keen to be more involved with TUST and felt that this would give her a better basis for representing supporters’ views at Club board meetings.</p> <p>It was noted that when the board were seeking to appoint a second TUST Appointed Board Member (TABM) there was a preference for someone who was not an existing TUST board member to bring a different perspective to the role. Things have evolved since then and it was noted that we are all learning as we adapt to the new role and responsibilities of TUST and its relationship with the Club. Also, there is already a commitment to review the TABM appointment policy in the next few months.</p> <p>After a discussion of the pros and cons it was unanimously agreed that DW has much to contribute to the TUST board and to therefore co-opt her on to the board for the period of her term as a TABM.</p>	

<p>25/24</p>	<p>TUST/TUFC partnership</p> <p>a) TUFC Board NB reported on the latest meeting held on 27th February.</p> <p>Unfortunately, due to other business taking priority, only a very short time was allowed for the TABM's items. Sam Barnes had subsequently apologised and assured NB that TUST business would be given priority at the next meeting.</p> <p>NB reported that there had been huge interest in the Managing Director position and the next step was to shortlist six applicants for interviews, which NB and DW would attend.</p> <p>NB summarised a report prepared for the board by management consultants.</p> <p>Following the recent Chairmen's Chat there was further discussion about the Club's financial situation.</p> <p>b) Supporter Liaison Officer NB reported that following an interview with himself, MT, DW and Jess Veacock (Head of Operations), Paul Bastard, the sole candidate for the SLO position, had been appointed subject to a DBS check. The board expressed its approval and agreed that PB was an ideal person for the role. NB has arranged for him to spend a day at an Exeter City match to see how their SLO and Matchday Ambassadors operate.</p> <p>NB advised that the person proposed for the Disability Liaison Officer role had subsequently declined the position for personal reasons.</p> <p>c) Club Charter NB had circulated a draft document based on the charters of several other clubs. The following points were made;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporters should have some influence over the selection of the annual charity. • Some clarity needed on the distinction between Supporter Consultation and Supporter Liaison and repositioning the 'callitout' email address within this context. • Clarity on ticketing arrangements eg: what does 'receive the ticket back' mean in respect of electronic tickets? • Who makes the decisions in respect of banning orders and, essentially, there should be an appeals procedure. • It is one thing adopting a Charter but the Club must then deliver on it. <p>This last point lead to further discussion about the continuing issues around communications and getting responses from individuals at the Club. This is exacerbated by the fact that there are so many different people involved in different issues that it is sometimes difficult to know who to approach.</p>	
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d)	<p>There have also been several examples where conflicting responses have been received from different people. The board felt strongly that there is still a need for much improvement in communication by the Club.</p> <p>NB to update the draft Charter or refer suggestions to the Club as necessary.</p> <p>Marketing Sub-Committee</p> <p>RB reported that the Club had finally agreed to launch his lottery proposal that he first put forward on 24th January. He outlined the ticket pricing, prize structure and planned publicity. This should be going live shortly with the potential to raise an estimated £4k per month for the Club.</p> <p>Other suggestions from the group included A4 posters attached to lampposts etc advising where to buy match tickets and resurrecting the 'next match' signage at the roundabout on the main road into town.</p>	<p>NB</p> <p>MSC</p>
25/25	<p>Community Share Issue - Investor Rewards</p> <p><u>Investor Member Board</u> – error in investor's name has been corrected.</p> <p><u>Investor packs</u> – All now distributed thanks to TUST board members hand-delivering local packs and the final 156 being posted. The Club had kindly allowed the use of its franking machine and RW praised the help provided by Lorraine Ross in processing these.</p> <p><u>Executive Reception for Platinum Investors</u> – approximately 40 investors had indicated their intention to attend the reception scheduled for 22nd March. Unfortunately the Club had this day requested a postponement of the event until 21st April after the Weymouth game. An email had been immediately sent to all Platinum Investors advising of the change and requesting an RSVP in respect of the new date. Due to the high demand for the event it was decided that we should reluctantly refuse requests for investors to bring additional guests and attendance will be limited to one per shareholding.</p> <p>It was agreed that TUST would meet the cost of the welcoming drinks.</p> <p><u>Golf Day & BBQ for Platinum Investors</u> – after much discussion with the Club a date for this event had now been set for 9th July at Torquay Golf Club with representatives from the directors, management and players in attendance. Expressions of interest to be sought shortly.</p> <p><u>Meet the Manager</u> – frustratingly we are still awaiting a new date and venue for this postponed event.</p>	<p>RW</p>
25/26	<p>Independent accounting review</p> <p>RW had circulated the report from Darnells and provided a summary of its contents. TUST's existing accounting procedures were satisfactory, the funds raised from the Community Share Issue would not appear on the Profit & loss account but would require an explanatory note in the annual accounts.</p>	

	<p>This means that there will be no requirement for a full audit as income is well below the £90k threshold. An Independent Examiner will suffice as in previous years.</p> <p>There is a Corporation Tax liability arising from interest on investments in 2023/24 amounting to £114.74 and there will be a further liability of approximately £250 from the current accounting period. RW has attempted to submit an on-line tax return without success but will send a hard copy with a covering letter.</p>	RW
25/27	<p>Strategy Review</p> <p>RW had been unable to progress this as much as intended but had produced an estimate of likely income, expenditure and surpluses for the next three years. An indicative surplus of £25k per annum is projected.</p> <p>A range of options for spending these sums was discussed including funding infrastructure works at the Club such as the scoreboard, community initiatives, supporting the youth team or women's team, financing the club museum and topping up the Forever Yellow Fund. The latter currently stands at £20k and a decision will be made as this strategy proceeds as to how much may be required in the Fund in future.</p> <p>RW will obtain end of quarter figures from the Treasurer and project figures to the year end in June 25 as a basis for more detailed work on 3 year projections.</p> <p>The Club will be consulted on its own views on priorities for funding.</p> <p>The board confirmed its intention to consult members on how surpluses are to be spent once more details are available.</p>	RW
25/28	<p>Youth strategy</p> <p>HL expressed frustration at the lack of response from the Club to his proposals for building relationships with schools and colleges. He noted that two players had recently attended a school session which was positive but no one had spoken to him about this despite his work on the project.</p>	
25/29	<p>TUST Partners</p> <p>a) Community Sports Trust</p> <p>RD reported on the recent trustees' meeting which had been attended by the Club's Co-Chairmen. He outlined the Trust's financial challenges but stated that a plan had been discussed to address these. It was agreed that the Club's new Managing Director would be an ex-officio member of the TUCST board.</p> <p>TUST is willing to consider providing financial assistance to TUCST and it was agreed to provide an application form so that it can provide details of the areas where support is most needed and quantify its requirements.</p>	RD

<p>b)</p> <p>c)</p> <p>d)</p> <p>e)</p>	<p>Women's team The team is engaged in a three-way title race with games coming up against both its rivals.</p> <p>Travel Club Nothing to report.</p> <p>Local MPs and Councillors RC confirmed the re-arranged meeting with local MPs or their representatives was to be held on Monday 24th. An agenda for discussion was agreed. MT advised that the Football Governance Bill had now completed its passage through the House of Lords and was back in the Commons where it was intended to complete its adoption before the Summer recess.</p> <p>RC had spoken to the MP and local councillor about the proposed lease of the green space outside Boots & Laces to the Club. The need to fully engage with the neighbourhood over the proposed use was emphasised.</p> <p>FSA General Meeting RW had previously provided a report on his attendance at this meeting on 27th February. He had cast TUST's vote against the proposed amendments to the FSA constitution but the motion had been carried by 80%. We now await details of the FSA's expectations in respect of board member training, governance audit and corporate membership.</p>	
<p>25/30</p> <p>a)</p> <p>b)</p>	<p>Media & PR</p> <p>Club museum and oral history project RC advised that he and Jon Gibbes would be recommencing work on this proposal. There was some concern about the area allocated for the museum at Plainmoor. Funding requirements and potential sources to be identified.</p> <p>He also mentioned an approach from a relative of 1930's Torquay player Sid Cann who had gone on to have an illustrious career. She had offered memorabilia for the museum.</p> <p>Exiles Away Player of the Season Award A member had asked if TUST would sponsor this award again. It had done so in 2022 and 2023 but the award had been suspended last year because of what was happening to the Club. It was agreed to provide a suitable trophy.</p>	<p>RC</p> <p>MT</p>
<p>25/31</p> <p>a)</p>	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Documented story of TUST's year 2024 NB thanked RD for his hard work producing a series of articles on the TFF forum recording TUST's part in the events of last year. Everyone agreed that it was an accurate and excellent record.</p>	

b)	<p>Drumming at matches</p> <p>TUST had received an e-mail from a member expressing concern about the presence of a drum at matches. His issue was around the length of time it is used when no play is taking place, the volume and how difficult it is to move away from the drum at some away grounds.</p> <p>A significant number of supporters had contacted TUST in support of the drum with only a couple of objections and the board shared the view that it added to the atmosphere and it would be impractical to try and curtail its use.</p>	
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The date of the next meeting was fixed for Monday 14th April 2025 at 6.30pm

Chairman's signature.....Date