

BI-MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER



The Torquay United Supporters' Trust is a community-led organisation dedicated to protecting the future, heritage, and identity of Torquay United Football Club. Run by supporters, for supporters, the Trust exists to give fans a collective voice, strengthen the bond between club and community, and promote long-term sustainability both on and off the pitch. Through engagement, advocacy, and practical support, the Trust works to ensure that Torquay United remains at the heart of Torbay for generations to come.



NOVEMBER 2026

- Chairman’s Introduction
- Report from the Trust Board
- Forever Yellow Update
- New Corporate Membership Launched
- ‘Identisurge’ Slough Town Update
- Wollens Will Writing Opportunity for TUST Members
- Inclusivity Working Group update
- Corporate members

CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION



Nick Brodrick
Chairman

Exciting news! August's newsletter mentioned that at the time we were in discussions with the Bryn Consortium about formally turning TUST's financial contributions – for example Bristow's additional handrails, two Grow Lights and part funding of the Big Screen plus a number of others – into equity and this process has now been agreed.
This means that all past and future TUST contributions will automatically be turned into increasing our shares in the club.

Alongside this, with your fantastic help, our Forever Yellow membership fund has now reached £89,000 edging towards our £100K target. If we can persuade more of our bronze members to move to either Silver, Gold or Platinum we would not only reach that big target but go past it! And don't forget all that money goes towards First Team Operations, Youth Development or Stadium Improvements depending on your choice.

Last month saw the launch of our revamped Corporate Membership Scheme, If you run a local business and would like to advertise your services for a modest outlay you can either upgrade to Corporate Gold or Corporate Platinum, both categories come with special benefits. More details on this later in the newsletter!

Last Newsletter we launched our Junior Gulls Membership for 5 to 16 year-olds and already over 45 fans of the future have become members receiving a special welcome pack and last week many took part in a half-term Halloween pumpkin carving event in Boots & Laces, judged by First Team Players Matt Worthington and Sonny Blu Lo-Everton.

There's no denying that we started the season full of optimism with promotion firmly in the forefront of our thoughts.
What we didn't know back in August was that three key players would be sold with subsequently a number of others moving on for various reasons.
It's no secret that the manager is under pressure which he knows full well. As supporters we all have our own opinions about the current situation.

As I have written previously nobody said running a football club was easy – just look at the different situations at the two Manchester clubs.

Finally, over the last few months we have been working with Torbay solicitors Wollens to organise a tailored Will writing scheme for all Torquay United supporters. This followed a suggestion at last year's AGM by a member that this may be of interest to supporters.
Not everyone has got round to making a will or maybe you already have one but it needs updating. From the flyer in this newsletter you can read the details, costs and how to make an appointment.

You will see that you will be supporting TUST at the same time as receiving a discount from the standard cost for a Will and maybe you might want to consider leaving a legacy to either TUST or the club.

As ever all of us on the TUST board thank you for your support.

REPORT FROM
THE TRUST BOARD



Rick Williams
Secretary

As reported elsewhere in this Newsletter, the board has been focusing on the Forever Yellow membership scheme and particularly the new Junior Gulls scheme and the relaunched Corporate Membership category. It owes a huge debt of thanks to Joe Uglow for his work to ensure the success of these initiatives.

The TUST board has reached agreement with the Club for all funds provided since July 2025 to be converted to equity as share capital. The total value to date is £76,238 including the first £25,000 instalment of the Forever Yellow Membership fund.

The board has analysed the Club's Supporters' Survey and been in discussion with Club representatives over the results and how some of the issues raised might be addressed. Whilst the number of respondents was lower than previous years, the survey provides valuable information and TUST will ensure that this is reflected in future plans.

A sub-committee of the TUST board is currently working on an updated Strategic Plan and members will be consulted on the proposals at the AGM this month.

TUST Board member election

There are six candidates for the five vacancies on the TUST board. There will therefore be an election with details to be sent to members next week. The result will be declared at the AGM.

TUST Appointed TUAFC Board Member (TABM) appointment

TUST Chairman Nick Brodrick has been re-appointed by the board for a second term as its elected representative on the Club board. As per the TABM Policy at least one of the two TABM positions must be occupied by a current elected TUST Board Member hence this vacancy was not advertised to the wider membership.

AGM

This year's AGM will be held at Torquay Athletic Rugby Club (as Plainmoor is not available) on Thursday 26th November at 6.30pm. Members will be able to attend via Zoom but we would encourage you to attend in person if possible.

Secretary Role

This is my final report as TUST Secretary as I am standing down from the position at the AGM after 8 years. I am pleased to advise that board member Rob Dickinson will be taking on the role supported by his wife, Tracey. The board are very grateful to Rob for volunteering his services.

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FOREVER YELLOW

UPDATE



Joe Uglow
Board Member

We're delighted to share that Forever Yellow is now generating £89,000 a year for Torquay United, leaving us just £11,000 short of our £100,000 annual target.

More than 630 members have increased their subscriptions since the launch of Forever Yellow, and we'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has upgraded and helped us get this far. Your continued support is making a real difference to the club.

Where would members like their money spent?
When joining Forever Yellow, members choose which area of the club they'd like their subscription to support.

Based on the choices made so far, the current split is:
50% — First Team Operations
29% — Youth Development
21% — Stadium & Matchday Experience
It's great to see support being directed across all three areas, and we're already seeing some of that money being put to use.

First Team Operations
Forever Yellow funding helped make the signing of Harry Shield possible over the summer. It has also contributed towards the purchase of new portable goalposts, which are used for the First Team's pre-match warm-ups.
A couple of overnight stays for the First Team ahead of away fixtures have also been earmarked for funding through Forever Yellow. These will help with preparation and give the players the opportunity to travel and rest ahead of important matches.

Stadium & Matchday Experience
Two new speakers have been purchased for use in the Fanzone, helping improve the experience for supporters before matches.
More recently, Forever Yellow funding has also helped purchase a replacement drum for supporters after the previous one broke.
Looking ahead, one of the priorities for this area is a much-needed upgrade to the Plainmoor Tannoy system. We're currently exploring the options and costs involved with the club.

FOREVER YELLOW

UPDATE

A reminder about your club shop discount
Silver, Gold and Platinum Forever Yellow members can also use their membership discount when shopping online through the club shop.
To request your single-use discount code, simply email **tustmembership@gmail.com** and we'll get one sent over to you.

In case you missed it...
Over the summer, we published an eight-week series of articles on the club website called Inside: Forever Yellow.
The series featured supporters who have backed Forever Yellow, both locally and from further afield, took a closer look at the benefits available to members and explored how the money is being used to support the club.

If you missed any of the articles, you can catch up with the full series on the TUST website here:
www.tust.co.uk/inside-forever-yellow

The final £11,000
We're now closer than ever to our £100,000 annual target, but there's still a little way to go.
If you're currently a Bronze member and are able to move up to Silver, that would add £36 a year to your contribution. Moving from Silver to Gold would add a further £60 a year.

Every upgrade helps us close the gap and provide the club with more regular sustainable funding to support the areas chosen by members.
Thank you again to everyone who has helped us reach £89,000. Let's see if we can get that final £11,000 and take Forever Yellow to £100,000!





REVAMPED
CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

Our Corporate Membership scheme has been revamped for 2026, giving local businesses a new way to support Torquay United while raising their profile among the Club's supporters.
With more than 1,200 TUST members and a wider Torquay United community behind us, Corporate Membership offers businesses an affordable alternative to traditional football sponsorship, combining opportunities to promote their services with a direct contribution towards supporting the Club through Forever Yellow.
With two levels available – Corporate Gold and Corporate Platinum – there's an option to suit businesses looking to get behind their local club.

Interested in getting involved? Find out more and join us at www.tust.co.uk/corporategulls



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SLOUGH TOWN ‘IDENTISURGE’
UNFAIR COST FOR AGES 14-21



Clive Hayward
Board Member

You may have seen that Slough Town have introduced a compulsory ID scheme for young supporters this season. It applies to away fans too, and as things stand Torquay fans aged 14-21 will be required to apply for this to a third party, Identisurge when we visit in January 2027.

The process includes having to show personal documents such as a passport or driving licence and whilst the system is free for Slough supporters, there is currently a charge of £1.99 for away fans. You can read more about this here: https://www.sloughtownfc.com/article/3959/Slough-Town-announces-new-partnership-with-Identisurge

Your Trust Board is opposed to this scheme in principle and in practice. It is, in our opinion, a sledgehammer to crack a nut of some anti-social behaviour at Arbour Park and to impose an additional cost on young Torquay fans is unacceptable.

We have asked the club to object to this, and they have been in touch with the National League. We have supported the club in this process, with advice from the Football Supporters Association (FSA) that the unequal pricing is believed to be in breach of FA rules. We will update members accordingly on any outcomes from this.



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✓ A private meeting, in person, with a solicitor from the Wollens Wills team.

✓ Legal advice and professional preparation of one straightforward Will for one person.

✓ Appointment of executors, straightforward gifts, disposal of the remainder of your estate and standard substitute-beneficiary provisions.

✓ One set of reasonable amendments following the first draft.

✓ A signing appointment or clear signing instructions, and secure storage of the original Will.

What should I bring to the meeting?

- Your current Will, if you have one.
- Valid photographic identification and recent proof of address.
- The information requested in our Will questionnaire.
- A debit/credit card or other approved means to make the £100 payment directly to TUST at the meeting.

To book your appointment please contact Nick Brodrick using the contact details below.
Appointments are available on Tuesday 24th November & Thursday 26th November 2026.

BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT

Please call 077774 493023 | email: info@tust.co.uk |

Important: The campaign applies only to a qualifying straightforward single Will. More complex work, including tax planning, trusts, business or agricultural assets, overseas assets, capacity concerns or other additional advice, is outside the offer. If further work is required, we will explain this and agree any additional fee before proceeding. The £100 payment is made directly to TUST and is separate from Wollens' legal fee. Eligibility, availability and full terms apply.

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INCLUSIVITY
WORKING GROUP



Robin Causley

Board Member & Co-Vice Chair

Making Plainmoor more welcoming for everyone.

The Torquay United Inclusivity Group met in the Gulls Nest before the Slough home fixture on Saturday 10 October 2026 to discuss practical ways to make matchdays more accessible and welcoming. From support for visually impaired fans to sensory-friendly spaces, the discussion explored both potential quick wins and longer-term improvements.

Learning from supporters' experiences

The group welcomed Steve Darling MP and his constituency assistant, Isabella. Steve, a regular supporter who is registered blind, attended with his guide dog, Jennie. Isabella, who lives near Plainmoor, was visiting the ground for the first time.

Paul Bastard, the club's Supporter Liaison Officer, also joined his first meeting. Paul is a Matchday Ambassador, part of a team that now includes three ambassadors with additional needs.

Steve described how he usually attends with a sighted companion and uses his smartphone and other assistive technology. He welcomed the club's provision of free entry for support workers. The discussion highlighted that there is currently no dedicated provision for blind or visually impaired supporters, although commentary equipment has been available in the past.

Practical ideas for accessible matchdays

Suggestions included promoting TUFC Radio commentary, offering loan headphones and publicising Wi-Fi details. A guide for blind and partially sighted supporters and carers could provide first-time visitors with orientation information, supported by accessibility details in the match programme and online.

Other proposals included clearer directions, high-contrast yellow markings on steps, better toilet signage, a designated assistance area at the bar and water bowls for guide dogs. The group also discussed designated seating and possible use of the Pop Side.

Longer-term possibilities included accessible parking and drop-off facilities, step-free access to bar and function areas, and a stairlift or lift. we also discussed promotional opportunities with Devon in Sight, learning from other football clubs and potential funding sources. These were ideas for further exploration rather than confirmed changes.

A wider message of inclusion

Tim Herbert shared feedback on the club's No Room for Racism initiative. Members discussed a broader communications strategy linked to the emerging Inclusivity Policy, with ideas including a summer launch event and messaging connected to Leroy Rosenior, Jimmy Aggrey and Justin Fashanu. The phrase "We are the club of Justin Fashanu" was suggested. A complaint raised from the Pop Side was also noted.

Supporting neurodiverse fans

The group explored ways to support supporters with neurodiversity and sensory needs. Suggestions included a named accessibility contact, quiet spaces, sensory kits, sensory-friendly areas, activity opportunities and stronger links with the club shop. Play Torbay and Turning Heads CIC were identified as potential external partners.


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WM	We provide public relations services, copywriting, editing, publications, social media, media training and more. We work with organisations across all sectors, but have specialist expertise in sport, education, business and the arts. Weltch Media have been a sponsor of Torquay United Ladies FC for some time as well as Andy Weltch being a TUST member.	www.weltchmedia.com
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