MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

Monday 18th August 2025

Present:	Nick Brodrick (NB) – Chair, Ali Bryant (AB), Rob Burkitt (RB), Robin Causley (RC), Bob Cole (BC), Rob Dickinson (RD), Clive Hayward (CH), Harry Lovering (HL), Michel Thomas (MT), Joe Uglow (JU), Danni Wyatt (DW), Rick Williams (RW) – Secretary Mark Thomas (MkT), - CEO of TUFC for items 25/59 to 25/61.
Apologies:	Sam Druiff (SD)

25/59	**Minutes of the meeting held on 21st July 2025 and matters arising** The minutes of the meeting were tabled and approved. RW advised that the ACV application is ready to be submitted to the Council this week.	RW
25/60	**Torquay United Community Sports Trust** TUST have been advised by TUCST of the possibility that the U16-U18 youth section may be taken back in house by the Club. RD advised that this will be discussed at the TUCST trustees meeting on 20th August. MkT will also be present at this meeting and he explained the logic behind the proposal. The decision will have implications for TUST's sponsorship agreement for the Youth Section which includes all age groups but with an emphasis on the older groups. Under the terms of the agreement TUCST have received £5k and two further tranches of £2.5k are due in December and March. It was agreed that if the decision is confirmed RD should invite TUCST to put forward revised proposals for the use of the additional funding for TUST to consider. Clarification will also be required as to how the existing payment has been used in accordance with the grant agreement.	RD

25/61	**Inclusivity campaign** Following the emphasis put on promoting a positive and inclusive environment around the Club by the Co-Chairmen in the recent Chairmen's Chat, the board and MkT discussed ways in which TUST and the Club can work together to tackle discrimination and prejudice. MkT emphasised the need for the principles to be embedded in the Club's culture and not merely paid lip-service. NB stated that the emphasis must be on education. Improvements to the ways in which supporters can raise concerns on matchdays were discussed including the 'callitout' email address and new options. It was agreed that a small working group of representatives from TUST and the Club should be formed to consider this subject further. *MkT left the meeting at this point* DW advised that she was standing down as the Club's Her Game Too representative. It was agreed that TUST should assist in identifying a replacement and DW would provide support for the new appointee. It was agreed to add a paragraph to the new Strategic Plan as follows; 'We will actively work with the Club and other organisations to promote equality and inclusivity and to tackle prejudice in all its forms' followed by a couple of extracts from the Club Charter.	All RW
25/62	**TUST/TUFC partnership** NB & DW reported that there had been no recent meetings with MkT and the next Club board meeting was scheduled for September. They provided a summary of the additional board meeting held on 22nd July, the morning after the last trustee meeting. This had been focused on the budget plan for the coming season as summarised in MkT's presentation at the recent Fans' Forum. This indicated potential losses of upto £400k which it was said would be covered by members of the Bryn Consortium if necessary. The board asked for more information as to whether this would be in the form of a gift, a loan or the purchase of additional shares. The implications of the latter two would impact on TUST's own financial interest in the Club. NB was asked to seek clarification.	NB
25/63 (a)	**Finance** **Year end accounts** RW reported on several queries arising from Andrew Fiderkiewicz's (AF) work on preparing the annual accounts. He, AF, Matt Gorman and Jon Gibbes had met the previous week to discuss and the following proposals were put to the board and approved;	

	1. The share certificates issued to TUST in respect of its investment in the Club need to be amended to show they are Class B shares. MG has asked Sam Barnes to re-issue. 2. How the shareholding should be shown in the accounts needs to be confirmed. It was proposed to show it at a value of £1 in line with the approach adopted by several other supporter trusts but independent accounting advice would be needed to confirm this approach. 3. HMRC – Corporation Tax is due on the interest from investments. RW had submitted a tax return for the 2023/24 accounting period but heard nothing back. It was agreed to submit a return for 2024/25 and enclose payment of the full sum due for both years totalling £364.95. 4. Independent Examiner – it is inappropriate for Matt Gorman to act as IE for this year's accounts as he was closely involved in the Community Share Issue. It is proposed to seek an alternative provider. AF will attend the next meeting to present the accounts and any advice received.	RW RW
25/64	**Governance** A schedule of dates and actions leading up to the AGM was agreed with a date proposed for the latter of Thursday 27th November in The Cove.	
25/65	**Website review** JU reported on progress with the update which had included a new home page, simpler joining process, updated corporate and board member profiles and list of TUST achievements. BC is working on an updated list of FAQs and responses and a History of TUST page will be added when that has also been updated. The new site to be rolled out on a week-by-week basis. NB to promote in his Fan Zone articles. A budget of £430 for RB to buy a new TUST laptop was approved.	BC NB RB
25/66 **(a)**	**Memberships** **Automated systems** AB, RB, JU and RW had attended a presentation by Very Connect, the supplier used by Exeter City's Supporter Trust. The system provides a comprehensive range of functions including membership records, automated sign-ups, subscription management (payments still through Go Cardless), e-mail facility, member voting, event management, membership cards, members' self-management of their data and the option of a forum. Importantly, the system will allow automatic transfer of data from our existing records.	

	However, the costs quoted for the VC system exceed expectations and further discussions are being held with them and alternative providers are being considered.	
(b)	**Strategy for growth** JU reflected on the results of the recent Club survey in respect of TUST membership and reasons fans had given for not joining TUST which included not knowing what we do or how to join, He reported on the Marketing Team's ideas for increasing membership. Among these were branded clothing, pin badges, increased TUST presence at Plainmoor including a gazebo for events such as the Fan Zone, a TUST flag, 'refer a friend' incentives and a junior section. The board supported all these suggestions and approved a budget of up to £650 for the gazebo. It asked the group to work up a detailed proposal for consideration. It should also explore the potential for working with the Club to offer member discounts. During the discussion it was noted that the over-use of the term 'TUST' had perhaps detracted from what we are all about. It was agreed to adopt the wider use of our full name in the public domain.	
25/67	**Women's team** RD and DW updated on preparations for the new season including new players and sponsorships. Details of which games will be at Plainmoor are to be confirmed. CH noted that the team were not getting the extent of coverage by the Club or media that they deserved. DW confirmed that there are areas where greater understanding and support from Club staff is needed.	
25/68 **(a)**	**Media & PR** **Heritage project** RC and BC continue to work with Club Historian Jon Gibbes to develop an audio visual archive. The plan is to make this available via TUST's You Tube channel. A meeting with the trustee involved in Exeter City's museum and AV project has been arranged. It was noted that the history should include the Women's team.	
(b)	**Fan Zones** The first FZ at the Enfield game had been very successful and a number of others are planned starting on Bank Holiday Monday. Trustees to volunteer on a game by game basis and it was noted that other TUST members could be asked to help. The new football dartboard had proved very popular. Expenditure of £25 per event on balloons, badges etc was approved.	
(c)	**Equipment storage** A list of equipment and its current location was shared and agreed.	

	A storage area in the corner of the Popside car park has been offered for TUST use although it was not clear if this would be exclusive. MT stated that it was important that it was as past experience indicated that shared storage led to problems. NB to seek clarification and if necessary volunteers would clear e existing rubbish from the store.	
(d)	**Event coverage** RB, JU and RW to consider ways in which coverage of TUST events such as the AGM can be improved.	RB/JU RW
25/69	**Any other business**	
a)	**26/27 kit** VX3 have approached us for input into ideas for next season's kit. An interesting suggestion has been received from a member with a particular interest in the history of the Club's kits and discussions with VX3 are on-going.	
(b)	**Schools project** HL advised that he had held a useful discussion with the manager of TUCST about working together to promote the CST in schools including players visiting.	
(c)	**FSA Young Supporters Forum** Next virtual meeting on 27th August. JU had found the previous one very useful and he, HL and DW to attend this one.	
(d)	**1899 Lottery** This is going from strength to strength and is now the most successful football lottery run by provider, Our Club Lotto Ltd, with 650 players. As a result of how successful it's been we have been asked to spread the word amongst other clubs/trusts in return for a commission from the lotto company.	
(e)	**Fair Game** RC and CH have been looking in to this and have sent a questionnaire to member clubs to get their views. Report to next meeting.	RC/CH
(f)	**Fund raising** ECFC have raised £25k over a number of years through a scheme whereby aluminium cans are collected at the ground. NB and DW to mention to MkT.	NB/DW

The date of the next meeting was fixed for Monday 15th September 2025 at 6.30pm

Chairman's signature…………………………………………………………………Date ………