



## MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021**

**Present:** Michel Thomas (MT) – chair, Ali Bryant (AB), Rob Burkitt (RB), Robin Causley (RC), Rob Dickinson (RD), and Rick Williams (RW).  
Nick Brodrick (NB) – attended via phone.

<b>21/29</b>	<p><b>Minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021</b> The minutes were tabled and approved.</p> <p>Minute 21/28 – NB had spoken to Sam Balson regarding the roof on the away disabled section. He had not been notified by the Club that this work had been carried out. SB to decide how to now spend the funds that he has raised for this purpose in consultation with the Club.</p>	
<b>21/30</b>	<p><b>Relations with TUFC</b> MT reported that he had received messages of commiseration and support following Sunday's play-off defeat from Andy Walsh (FSA), Richard Tomkins (Hereford United Trust / FSA board) and Nick Hawker (Chair ECFC Supporters Trust). It was agreed that congratulations should be sent to Hartlepool United Supporters Trust.</p> <p>All agreed that, despite the disappointment of the play-off defeat, it had been a hugely successful and entertaining season, especially considering the exceptional circumstances brought about by the pandemic. It was agreed that MT should write to the Club thanking and congratulating everybody involved.</p> <p>RW reported that he had sent six e-mails to the Club on behalf of TUST since April. These had been addressed to Dom Mee (Media &amp; Supporter Liaison Co-ordinator) as requested by the Club but no response or acknowledgement had been received (unlike previous mails). It had been proposed at the last liaison meeting in March that a further meeting be held at the end of the season. It was therefore agreed that NB would contact DM requesting a date for this to be held next month.</p>	<p>MT</p> <p>MT</p> <p>NB</p>

<p><b>21/31</b></p>	<p><b>Strategy Team</b>  RW reported that the ST had met on 14<sup>th</sup> June for the first time since May 2020. Notes of the meeting were circulated for information.</p> <p>The successful season, the extension of Gary Johnson’s contract and the latest welcome message from Clarke Osborne all indicated the owner’s continuing commitment to the future of the Club. There had been no recent public comments about the proposal for a new ground but CO’s on-going support was to be welcomed, whilst recognising the significant level of debt potentially owed to him by the Club.</p> <p>It was agreed that TUST still needs to be as prepared as possible for any withdrawal of CO’s support, whether sudden or a planned sale to new owners and this would be the focus of future ST meetings. An action plan will be developed for each potential scenario.</p>	
<p><b>21/32</b></p> <p><b>(a)</b></p> <p><b>(b)</b></p> <p><b>(c)</b></p>	<p><b>Football governance</b></p> <p><b>Fan-led review / FSA</b>  RD reported on the National Game network meeting with Tracey Crouch (TC), Chair of the FLR held on 21<sup>st</sup> June following a preparation meeting with the FSA the previous week. The virtual meeting was attended by approximately 33 people representing the FSA, members of the review panel and 9 or 10 supporters trusts.</p> <p>Six trusts presented detailed case studies of governance issues affecting their club including the protection of footballing assets, owners and directors’ test, the role of the FA in response to Covid, stadium redevelopment and supporter engagement. Other topics raised were the performance of the National League board and the flow of finance from the top tier down.</p> <p>TC gave some feedback from other network meetings and all agreed that it was a useful discussion.</p> <p>RW tabled a draft letter to TC on behalf of TUST setting out its own views for the FLR including the role of an independent regulator and the need for proper supporter consultation at all levels including Memorandums of Understanding. Some additions to the letter were suggested which RW would incorporate for MT to send asap.</p> <p><b>Liaison with politicians</b>  Messages of support for TUFC following the play-offs had been posted by the MP and senior councillors. They recognised the importance of a successful team for Torbay’s profile.</p> <p>No further action in respect of politicians required at this time.</p> <p><b>SW Supporters Trust Group</b>  RD reported on the recent meeting of the Group attended by representatives from Yeovil, Hereford and Exeter’s trusts.</p>	<p>RW/  MT</p>

	<p>Issues discussed had included Yeovil's concern about their ground and non-existent relationship with the owner, a suggestion from ECFCST for a plaque to mark those lost to Covid and attendances required to sustain clubs at their level.</p>	
<b>21/33</b>	<p><b>Torquay United Community Sports Trust (TUCST)</b>  MT had been liaising with Matt Anthony (TUCST Manager) about the Senior Gulls and had offered to help ensure that this successful initiative could continue as TUCST were finding it difficult to commit the necessary time.</p> <p>The board were disappointed that there was still no date for a photo opportunity to celebrate TUCST's sponsorship of the disability group's training packs. MT to chase.</p>	<p>MT</p> <p>MT</p>
<b>21/34</b>	<p><b>Media and PR</b>  NB and RB provided updates on recent press and social media coverage including support for TUCST's call to enhance the atmosphere at the Notts County game and for big screen coverage of the final at Plainmoor.</p> <p><b>(a) Marketing</b>  The benefit of a board member with direct marketing or PR experience was again raised and fresh attempts will be made to identify someone suitable.</p> <p><b>(b) Ian Twitchin Trophy</b>  Three players had featured in all 45 competitive matches (Sherring, Lemonheigh-Evans and Randell) but Sherring had played the most minutes and was therefore declared the winner of this year's Trophy. It was agreed to notify the Club in the first instance and ask them to let Sam know but if this failed we would contact him directly and make arrangements to present the Trophy in due course. The result to be publicised through NB's Fan Zone.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>RW</p> <p>NB</p>
<b>21/35</b>	<p><b>Any other business</b>  RW noted that a few messages sent to <a href="mailto:info@tust.co.uk">info@tust.co.uk</a> had not been acknowledged or answered. AB volunteered to monitor the inbox on a regular basis while MT and RW would also keep an eye on it.</p>	<p>AB</p>

The date of the next meeting was fixed for Monday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021 at 6.30pm. Venue to be decided.

Chairman's signature.....Date .....