



## MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

**Present:** Michel Thomas (MT) – chair, Nick Brodrick (NB), Ali Bryant (AB), Rob Burkitt (RB), Robin Causley (RC), Bob Cole (BC), Rob Dickinson (RD), Rick Williams (RW), Sam Druiff (SD - observer).

<b>21/52</b>	<p><b>Board membership</b> On behalf of the board, MT welcomed NB who was returning for his first face-to-face meeting following a period of illness which had limited his attendance to Zoom.</p> <p>RW confirmed that BC had been appointed as a co-optee following approval of the board via e-mail after the previous meeting.</p> <p>MT welcomed Sam Druiff who had expressed an interest in joining the board following the recent advert. MT introduced the members and described their roles.</p>	
<b>21/53</b>	<p><b>Minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021</b> The minutes were tabled and approved with no matters arising that were not on the agenda for this meeting.</p>	
<b>21/54</b>	<p><b>Relations with TUFC</b> MT summarised the Zoom liaison meeting held with Dominic Mee (DM - Supporter Liaison Officer) on 30<sup>th</sup> September. RW confirmed that the schedule of questions arising from that meeting and approved by the board had been submitted with a request for a response within 14 days.</p> <p>RW advised that a reply had been received from DM the previous Friday and this was read and tabled for discussion. The contents were disappointing and indicated that some misunderstandings had arisen at the meeting. The Club's directors indicated that they would be unwilling for staff to engage further with TUST until these matters are resolved.</p> <p>After much discussion it was resolved that MT and RW should draft a reply on behalf of the board and circulate it for approval.</p>	MT/ RW

<p><b>21/55</b></p> <p><b>a)</b></p> <p><b>b)</b></p> <p><b>c)</b></p> <p><b>d)</b></p> <p><b>e)</b></p>	<p><b>Partner organisations</b></p> <p><b>Community Sports Trust (TUCST)</b>  MT reported that TUCST had bid successfully for a grant of £5k from the Return of Supporters fund. The board confirmed its willingness to work in partnership with TUCST on initiatives that this money could deliver if possible.</p> <p>MT advised that his attempts to find a date for holding a Senior Gulls event in Boots &amp; Laces had been thwarted as the Club could only offer unsuitable times for all parties. TUCST did not currently have the resources to devote fully to this joint project but MT had agreed to facilitate a meeting and TUST had previously committed funds for refreshments. It was suggested that MT should seek an alternative venue.</p> <p><b>Supporters Club (TUSC)</b>  A date for the informal meeting with representatives of the TUSC was awaited.</p> <p><b>Women's Team</b>  The successful start to the season continued with the side currently unbeaten.</p> <p><b>SW Supporters Trust Group</b>  NB reported on the virtual meeting hosted by TUST on 13th October and attended by representatives of the trusts from Exeter City, Yeovil Town and Hereford United (with Plymouth Argyle and Bristol City giving apologies). The agenda had included Memorandums of Understanding, the Fan-Led Review, live streaming, ticketing arrangements and support for women's teams. All present had agreed that it was a very useful meeting and the next one is scheduled for January.</p> <p><b>TUFC Community Day</b>  The Club's plans for offering free tickets to local community and sports organisations for the Kings Lynn game were noted. MT reported that this had first been announced at the recent Sport Torbay meeting and he had welcomed the initiative on behalf of TUST.</p> <p>The board expressed its disappointment that neither TUST or, it is understood, TUCST had been approached to assist with the Community Day at this point as both organisations were experienced at providing activities and volunteers for such events.</p> <p>NB enquired about the ownership of the green behind the Family Stand and upon hearing that it is owned by the Council, suggested that TUST could make an application for permission to stage its own Fan Zone event on a matchday. It was considered unlikely that consent would be given but it was something worth exploring in the Spring.</p>	<p>MT</p>
<p><b>21/56</b></p>	<p><b>Football Governance</b>  MT confirmed that, with the board's agreement, TUST had been a signatory to the Power To Change submission to Tracey Crouch's review, calling for wider community ownership or involvement in clubs.</p>	

<p><b>21/57</b></p>	<p><b>Treasurer's report</b>  AB tabled the draft accounts for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 which had been prepared by Andrew Fiderkiewicz. These indicated a net surplus of £7,810 and assets of £55,476. The impact of the pandemic had reduced expenditure on activities whilst income from subscriptions had held up well resulting in the improved surplus. The accounts were unanimously approved by the board and will be presented to members at the AGM.</p> <p>RW tabled the Independent Examiner's report on the accounts prepared by Matt Gorman. This indicated that he was satisfied that the accounts were prepared with proper accounting records and comply with generally accepted accounting requirements and that there were no matters to bring to members' attention. The board authorised RW to sign the formal Letter of Engagement and approved the report.</p> <p>RW to draft a 'Directors Report' for board approval to be included in the published accounts.</p> <p>At the AGM members would be asked to support the current policy of devoting up to 50% of the net surplus to community out-reach. If approved, the board will consider the allocation of such funds at its December meeting.</p>	<p>RW</p> <p>RW</p>
<p><b>21/58</b></p> <p><b>(a)</b></p>	<p><b>Media and PR</b>  NB, RB and RD updated on various media activity. RB drew attention to the 'Her Game Too' campaign to challenge sexism in football and noted that TUF C was the only club in the SW not to have signed up or to have engaged with fans on social media.</p> <p><b>Marketing</b>  As there was insufficient time to consider TUST's achievements as proposed at the previous meeting, MT offered to draft an initial list for consultation via e-mail</p> <p>NB tabled a graphic depicting the role of TUST and what it offers members. It was agreed to adapt this with some additional information and use it on various media to promote membership.</p> <p>BC identified some quick-win opportunities to offer financial support to causes that would enhance the matchday experience or promote the Club in the community. It was agreed that where such opportunities arise requiring minimal expenditure they should be approved at short notice via e-mail.</p> <p>BC also volunteered a fresh pair of eyes to review the content of the TUST website which had not been updated for some time.</p> <p>A proposal from a member for season ticket holders to donate any unwanted free 'loyalty' tickets to businesses or local groups to encourage first timers to Plainmoor had been previously discussed via e-mail. It was decided that it would be too onerous for TUST to facilitate this because of the requirement to specify name and contact details for every attendee. But it was agreed to use a newsletter to encourage individuals with spare tickets to consider donating them to worthy recipients.</p>	<p>MT</p> <p>NB</p> <p>BC</p> <p>RW</p>

<p><b>21/59</b></p>	<p><b>AGM</b></p> <p>MT confirmed the date as Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30pm. As the Club had been unable to offer suitable times for using venues at Plainmoor, an approach had been made to Torquay Athletic Rugby Club who were very happy to accommodate the event. This proposal was approved.</p> <p>The meeting would offer members the opportunity to attend virtually and with this in mind it was agreed to renew TUST's Pro-Zoom contract for a further twelve month period at a cost of £120.</p> <p>RW would be sending advance notice of the AGM to all members by the end of the week and formal notice at least 14 days before the meeting.</p>	<p>RW</p>
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The date of the next meeting was fixed for Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 6.30pm at the Chelston Manor.

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