



MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

Monday 18th November 2019

Present: Michel Thomas (MT) – chair, Nick Brodrick (NB), Rob Burkitt (RB), Robin Causley (RC), Rob Dickinson (RD), Rick Williams (RW).

Apologies: Simon Baker (SB), Ali Bryant (AB).

19/67	<p>Election of officers The following appointments were proposed by NB, seconded by RB and unanimously approved;</p> <p>Chair – Michel Thomas Vice chair – Robin Causley Treasurer – Ali Bryant Secretary – Rick Williams</p>	
19/68	<p>Minutes of meeting held on 14th October 2019 The minutes were tabled and approved.</p> <p>Minute 19/54 - MT reported that the Ian Twitchin Trophy would be kept by the family in Ian's trophy cabinet until next year's award.</p> <p>Minute 19/63(h) – NB reported that he, MT and RD had met representatives of the Wrexham Supporters Trust before the game in October. He would be contacting Stockport's trust to offer a meeting.</p> <p>MT reminded members of the inaugural meeting of the Devon Trust Group with representatives from Plymouth Argyle and Exeter City at St James Park on 5th December. He, NB & RD planned to attend. NB agreed to research whether any of Devon's lower league clubs had supporters trusts that may be interested in joining the group.</p>	<p>NB</p> <p>NB</p>
19/69	<p>Strategy Team The latest version of the SWOT analysis was tabled and approved for inclusion as an appendix to the Strategic Plan.</p>	

	<p>RW advised that the Strategy Team would meet again in the New Year to consider such things as the Hartlepool United Phoenix Club plan and funding opportunities.</p>	
<p>19/70</p> <p>Partnership with Torquay United Community Sports Trust</p> <p>(a) Clothing sponsorship The TUST sponsored TQ1 shirts and coaches training tops had been received and were being used. The Women's team tracksuits were on order. NB to contact Jamie McInnes to arrange the presentation PR opportunity asap and issue the press release with photos.</p> <p>(b) TUCST board membership MT advised that TUCST had indicated a wish to offer a place on its board to a TUST board member. He had suggested it to RC initially, given his involvement in the PLFF steering group, but RC had indicated that his existing commitments prevented him from accepting. RW and RD expressed an interest and the board approved either of them filling the role. It was agreed that they should arrange a meeting with Jamie McInnes to find out more.</p> <p>(c) Future TUCST events There were no known plans at the present time.</p> <p>The need to complete the schedule of TUST equipment loaned to TUCST was noted so that a formal agreement could be drawn up – Matt Carpenter had volunteered to assist.</p>	<p>NB</p> <p>AB/RC</p>	
<p>19/71</p> <p>Liaison</p> <p>(a) Communication with the Football Supporters Association (FSA) FSA had offered to assist in brokering a meeting with the Club hierarchy (see minute 19/72 below)</p> <p>They had also offered advice to the group of fans who were banned for the season following an approach by TUST to assist.</p> <p>The FSA manifesto for the election was noted which called for greater finance for grassroots football, provision of standing areas, flexible and affordable transport for supporters, improved governance of clubs and tackling discrimination.</p> <p>(b) Proposed Supporters Club Nothing further had been heard about this proposal. RC will contact Andrew Candy for an update.</p> <p>(c) Politicians Nothing new to report.</p> <p>RC had circulated a report of the recent Community Engagement event which included reference to the importance of the Club in the community.</p>	<p>RC</p>	

<p>(d)</p> <p>(e)</p> <p>(f)</p> <p>(g)</p>	<p>Business networking MT reported that AB had almost completed the draft 2020 brochure which was currently with Serena for tidying before circulating to the board for comment. It was agreed to order up to 3,000 copies subject to two quotes for printing with a view to distributing it at the Yeovil games.</p> <p>Corporate members RB advised that we have recently signed a new member taking the total to 18.</p> <p>Social media RB gave details of the number of readers of the TUST Facebook and Twitter accounts and RW advised that newsletters and the AGM details were being viewed by approximately 50% of members.</p> <p>Website RB stated that the website is up to date but would need amending to reflect changes to board membership etc.</p>	<p>AB</p>
<p>19/72</p>	<p>Response to AGM resolution RW reported that there had been no response from the Club to the motion passed at the AGM calling on the directors to recommence engagement and dialogue with the TUST board immediately with the aim of re-establishing a positive and constructive relationship which enables the club and TUST to work together collaboratively with the mutual aim of benefitting all aspects of the future of Torquay United AFC.</p> <p>The FSA had offered to broker a meeting between the parties to resolve the situation. It was agreed that this should be accepted and RW will write to Andy Walsh, Head of the National Game and Community Ownership. He will include the schedule of examples of how the Club had ignored or snubbed TUST which the board approved. He will also include all correspondence sent to the Club in the past twelve months.</p>	<p>RW</p>
<p>19/73</p>	<p>Board membership MT reported that he had bumped in to SB at the weekend who had confirmed his wish to stand down from the board due to many other commitments whilst remaining supportive of TUST's work and a member of the Strategy Team. His resignation was reluctantly accepted.</p> <p>An invitation had been extended to a potential young board member to attend this evening's meeting but he had to decline due to work commitments. It was agreed to invite him to a future meeting if he is still interested.</p>	
<p>19/74</p> <p>(a)</p>	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Radio Devon commentaries RW reported that there had been no response to the recent letter to Radio Devon requesting that they reinstate broadcast commentaries.</p>	

The date of the next meeting was fixed for Tuesday 17th December 2019 at 6.30pm.

Chairman's signature.....Date