



## **MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021**

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

**Apologies:** Rob Dickinson (RD)

21/01	<p><b>Torquay United Community Sports Trust (TUCST)</b></p> <p>MT welcomed Matt Anthony (MA), the recently appointed manager of TUCST and introductions were made. MA stated how keen he was to build on the strong partnership between TUST and TUCST.</p> <p>He then gave a presentation on how TUCST proposes to use the balance of the Premier League Fans Fund (approx. £1,850) to provide 'Stay At Home Training Packs' for the Torquay United Inspirations group of physically or mentally disabled supporters. He explained how much the junior and adult members of TUI were missing their regular training sessions and friendly tournaments during the pandemic. The idea was to provide a training top and shorts, a ball and cones to each member so that they could train at home and follow on-line sessions. The tops would carry the TUCST and TUST logos and would provide good PR for both organisations.</p> <p>After taking questions, MT thanked MA for his excellent presentation and he left the meeting.</p> <p>The board considered the proposal to be a great idea that aligns with the requirement for the Premier League Fans Fund to be used to support community projects that promote inclusion and physical or mental health. It was unanimously agreed that the balance of PLFF money should be used for this purpose.</p> <p>In addition, TUST agreed to offer TUCST a further allocation of £700 from its own community outreach funds towards the cost of providing mid-layer tops bearing the TUST logo.</p> <p>RW to inform MA of the board's decision and request an invoice and proposals for a photo opportunity in due course.</p>	RW
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21/02	<p><b>Minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020</b></p> <p>The minutes were tabled and approved. NB advised that he had heard nothing further regarding the roof for the away disabled supporters section.</p>	
21/03	<p><b>Torquay United and football matters</b></p> <p><b>(a) National League</b></p> <p>NB updated the board on the latest position in the constantly evolving discussion about the future of the current season for the National League clubs. The most contentious issue was the government's offer of loans rather than grants to assist member clubs. TUST had written to the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and local MPs requesting this decision be reversed, NB informed the board of a petition launched by the NL asking the government to reconsider. It was suggested that this should be flagged up for TUST members to sign via a bulletin and on social media.</p> <p>The 66 members of the NL were being consulted about a range of options which could see all three leagues continue or the season declared null and void for all teams or the NL continue but NL North and South ceasing.</p> <p>There was much discussion about the situation and reference was made to individuals' correspondence on the matter with local MPs, the work of the Football Supporters Association (FSA), and football journalist Ollie Bayliss' request for details under the Freedom of Information Act.</p> <p>NB will keep members updated on progress via his Fans Zone articles.</p> <p><b>(b) Meeting with TUFC</b></p> <p>NB advised that Dominic Mee was on paternity leave but he would be requesting a date in March for the next liaison meeting. He would consult the board on agenda items nearer the time.</p>	RW/ RB
21/04	<p><b>Football Supporters Association</b></p> <p>MT, NB and RW had attended a FSA webinar the previous week about the future governance of football. Representatives from a wide cross-section of the game were present but notably none from Premier League trusts.</p> <p>A summary of the key points was provided for members' interest including the proposal for a fan-led review, a fit and proper person test for club owners/directors and strengthening the powers of the Asset of Community Value legislation.</p>	
21/05	<p><b>Devon / SW Supporters Trust Group</b></p> <p>NB summarised the meeting of the group held on 28<sup>th</sup> January and attended by himself, MT, RD and RW. TUST had hosted the meeting at short notice when Argyle's trust could no longer do it.</p>	

	<p>It had been agreed to extend the group across the region and rename it the SW Supporters Trust Group. Founding members are TUST and the trusts of Plymouth Argyle, Exeter City, Yeovil Town, Bristol City and Hereford United.</p> <p>Items discussed had included the arrangements made by clubs for the return of fans (widely praised), the financial support available to clubs at various levels of the game and the relationship between trusts and club ownership (often not fulfilling acceptable levels of engagement).</p>	
21/06	<p><b>Media &amp; PR</b></p> <p>NB's Fan Zones and social media continue to be well received. There had been some negative comments aimed at TUST by a few posters on the forums but the majority of comments were positive and supportive.</p> <p>RW raised the proposal made at the AGM to hold the occasional informal Zoom meeting for members and exiles in particular. It was agreed to host such a meeting on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm. RW would give preliminary notice of the event and make the necessary arrangements.</p>	RW
21/07	<p><b>Finance and membership report</b></p> <p>AB reported that membership had increased to 374 and the account balances were £40,000 in the reserve fund and £10,264 in the current account.</p>	
21/08	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>RB drew attention to the Plymouth Football Boot Bank charity which had been successfully collecting unwanted boots and other kit and recycling them to those in need. It was suggested that TUCST and the Club might consider setting up a collection point when Covid restrictions ease. NB to raise with Dom Mee.</p>	NB

The date of the next meeting was fixed for Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 6.30pm. Venue to be decided.

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