

**Report on the Bath City FC Board Meeting**

**19th August 2019**

**Present**

Directors: Jon Bickley, Nick Blofeld, Shane Morgan, Andrew Pierce, Martin

Powell, John Reynolds, Joy Saunders

Apologies: Bob Chester, Chris Coles, David James, Paul Williams

Observers: Carole Banwell, Michael Clayton and Barry Pollen for item 1

1. **Redevelopment**
2. **Relocation**

Prior to the meeting Paul had provided an update of meetings he has had with other clubs. He emphasised that we require a stadium capable of meeting the grading requirements to stage football at our current level (B grade) and possibly the level above (A grade). First and foremost this means a capacity of 3/4000 with at least 500 seats under cover. We need floodlights at an average lux value of 180/250 – we had 317 at our last inspection Feb 2018. The dressing rooms should be of a minimum of 18 sq metres for players and 6 sq metres for officials. 6/8 spectator turnstile entrances are required, plus a specified number of toilets for players and spectators, shower heads, physio room, spectator first aid room etc.

It was agreed that Paul should continue the conversations with these clubs and that wherever we relocate to may require slight modification, but without major infrastructure costs given we are looking at one season.

1. **Twerton recycling** – what can be saved / sold from Twerton Park pre-demolition?

John is leading on this and will pick up in due course.

1. **3G environmental impact paper**

In light of representations made by a local resident to the Council expressing concern about the environmental impact of 3G pitches two papers have been produced setting out the counter arguments. One has been submitted to the planning portal. The other has this evening been published on the club website. The Council has also been sent a copy.

1. **Football Update**

Paul was away but had produced an update circulated in advance. The key point discussed was our ground grading visit on Thursday 8 Aug. Everything was passed apart from some small remedial works which have been actioned for the next fortnight prior to a revisit from the National League.

All agreed there had been an excellent start on the pitch.

1. **2019/20 Budget Update**

Paul had provided an update in advance and the key points noted and discussed were the good progress which has been made. The year to 31 May 2019 has been finalised and shows a loss of less than half for the previous year.

The P & L accounts for June & July 2019 were also circulated with those for 2018. The June income showed that both season tickets sales and shirts sponsors income were up.

It was also noted that the estimated crowd numbers were more or less on target after three home games – but the estimates rise considerably from now so we need to keep a close eye on them.

Andrew reminded the meeting that it would soon be Mark Stillman’s last game before he left (to study in London). It was agreed that a formal thank you to Mark was appropriate and that a presentation be made on the day of his last ‘appearance’.

A reliable tannoy announcer has been appointed to replace Mark and there were favourable comments about his start in the role while Shane confirmed that from a safety announcement point of view he was satisfied that he was aware of the requirements.

1. **Actions from Last Board Meeting / Previous Board meeting Minutes**
2. The Fit-Out meeting is now scheduled for Thursday 22nd August
3. Michael has circulated an IT requirements document for completion by relevant individuals. This information will then be passed to Phil Tanner for the Design Team.
4. We have introduced online ticket pre-sales this season and it’s going well. We now need to look at how we push advance sales and various promotions are being considered.
5. Oliver Holtaway and Martin are liaising so that supporter input on the stadium design can be dealt with.
6. There will be a “Society” item on the Club Board meeting agenda each month.
7. Bath Rugby will be asked to promote us to their supporters. They shared some posts ahead of our recent matches and Jon and Carole are meeting with them to explore other ways of combining.
8. Joy explained that having spoken to the local councillor and Curo, the Freeview Road fence issue had been resolved and we look forward to the replacement wire fence being erected very soon.

Pending a change to the financials in the draft minutes, Andrew proposed acceptance of the July minutes. John seconded.

1. **Working Group updates not covered elsewhere**

**Community**

Joy had circulated a paper ahead of the meeting and this was taken as read. She added that the Foundation was excited to be involved in Community Day. Local dignitaries are being invited and Lee Williams has offered to deliver a half time address.

On other Community activities, she expressed that some things were difficult to start given our hoped-for temporary absence from Twerton due to the redevelopment. But Joy is progressing the conversations. She also told how she was in discussions with key Twerton Charities regarding a deeper partnership in pursuance of a “greater Twerton plan”.

**Hospitality / Commercial**

No David or Bob at Board, so no substantive update.

**Operations**

The pre-season floodlight fault had been repaired due to the brilliant efforts of volunteers Ken Norris and Phil Weaver. Although the affected tower was now operating with a lower lux value than previously, it is still more than adequate. Grateful thanks were formally recorded to Ken and Phil.

It was noted that Weymouth had recently upgraded to LEDs and it is worth investigating whether to do the same here.

Shane also reported that Curo had filled in some potholes in the car park.

**1000BC/Sales & Marketing**

Now renamed as 2000 BC, after the on-going crowd growth success. Jon summed up recent and upcoming promotions:

Discount at Hampton and Richmond to promote online pre-sales.

Community Day – there will be flyers inserted into upcoming editions of Bath Life magazine and the Bath Parent magazine, 10,000 in each. Flyers are also going into schools, and being delivered to local residential addresses by volunteers.

Student Day/Non-League Day – we will be promoting to Bath Rugby followers and to those of other league clubs in the area and Carole confirmed that we will be attending both universities’ Freshers Fairs.

**Supporters Society**

Michael reported that the next Supporters Society meeting was on Thursday and extended an invitation to any director who might like to attend.

He explained that the committee members’ roles were being clearly defined to ensure it was clear who was doing what. Some duties were being “outsourced” to non committee members.

The Society had felt that it wasn’t always obvious that the club was community owned so they are funding “Community Ownership” posters so everyone knows we are when they come here.

They’ll also be ramping up their pre-match presence and doing half-time presentations. They are using a better software system now which has simplified a lot of the admin tasks.

The Society’s current membership is around 400, with a target of 1000. Michael is willing to share ideas with other clubs’ supporter organisations and the Football Supporters Federation.

**Supporters Update**

Martin reported that supporters had been impressed with the new players and the fast start to the season. The Man of the Match and Jerry’s interviews in the bar continue to be well received. Many are asking where will we be in 12 months? And some have also asked if we can get polo shirts on sale in the club shop.

Martin asked when the delayed replica shirts were expected and Carole explained she thought they were due within the next week/ten days and the reason they were delayed was due to an error at the supplier’s end.

He requested that the Club make an announcement on the appointment of the new physio

and that thanks should be publicly recorded to the former goalkeeping coach, Jason Matthews.

1. **Any Other Business**
2. Shane reminded everyone that it was John Forster’s funeral this Friday at 1.15pm with the wake at the club immediately after.
3. Carole asked that any directors who could be around for hosting duties on Community Day would be greatly appreciated. We’re hoping for the presence of quite a few local dignitaries and other local leaders / figures.
4. John confirmed that he welcomed the proposed increased matchday use of the J.Reynolds (Western) Limited Lounge.

He also noted that the change of location for the coffee and tea table in the TR Hayes Lounge was working well.

1. **Date of Next Meeting**

23 September