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

**29 March 2021**(Video/Conference call)

**Attendees:** Shane Morgan, Jon Bickley, Andrew Pierce, Joy Saunders, John Reynolds, Cheryl Bradley, Matt Falk, Paul Williams

**Observers:** Jerry Gill, Chris Coles, Pete McCormack (Soc Cttee), Helen Donovan (Foundation), Bob Chester, Carole Banwell

**Apologies:** Nick for late joining

1. **Foundation & Community update**

Helen Donovan has been elected for another 3 years. New Trustees are - Kate Abbey, Dr Wendy Slea, Matt Rusling – who have brought new energy and ideas.

Geoff Stevens & Sam Downs have kept the Foundation going during lockdown, with schools and Premier League stars programme. Can play matches & games again now children back at school. Bath Mind have been continuing virtually – they’ll go back to meeting at the Rec when allowed. Foundation have tried to ensure no “mission creep” during lockdown – stuck to health & wellbeing, been delivering food parcels with Fairshare (60 more for Easter holidays) donations have all been delivered to club, particular thanks to Paul & Shane for helping. Easter holidays project with the Rugby Foundation – same target groups so working together across BANES to deliver fun and meaningful activities for Easter, half term and summer holidays.

Foundation now in a position to recruit a part time general manager – need someone able to set up website/build databases etc. Helen networking/representing club. Title won’t be General Manager to avoid confusion with Carole.

Reconnecting Twerton project with Uni – loneliness project for older people who are socially & digitally isolated. Have lottery funding for pilot, co-operating with Timebank & Curo, to give internet access, as so many services are only available digitally. Intergenerational - student volunteers to help people get online. A few learning issues, but model will be redeveloped to re-run in the summer. Currently all on a phone but will be face to face - walks, coffee etc to help people get together. Wera Hobhouse MP heard via 3SG keen to get involved and Mayor invited them for coffee to talk about the project. Very proud of it, came out of experience from 1st lockdown. Mayor’s charities are loneliness charities. National League Trust – football for all – 30 women at Odd Down Monday nights pre lockdown – Geoff & Sam again delivered – Rea has gone to S Korea to coach schools – but coming back. Good posts on Instagram. Geoff requested availability of pitch afternoons/evenings.

Overlap with Club – some grey areas. Address evidence of disadvantage, Carole explained it is more about community engagement, doesn’t have to be disadvantaged, sometimes is but not necessary. Foundation is the charitable arm of the Club. It is a wider reach/group, city wide & beyond. Carole, Joy and Helen pulling together a document to help clarify differentiation, to be shared when done.

Looking for Trustee with financial skills, ideally chartered accountant, won’t be Treasurer, to sit on the board with general finance expertise.

Man vs. Fat was most read post – 16 people signed up very quickly, needed 20 to get it off the ground. Walking Football group – older men – miss the work chat in retirement!

Follow them on Linked In & Facebook.

1. **Football update**

**Update by Jerry Gill**

Tom Smith & Donovan Wilson have gone on loan. Donovan has a slight hip problem, scored 2 winners in two games, has been taken out of squad to make sure it doesn’t get worse. Tom twisted his ankle and has been out 2-3 weeks, back this weekend.

Training groups continuing to come in – going really well - will end 22 April, returning 15 June. Some pre-season friendlies confirmed, will be announced at a later date. So expect 8-10 games.

Re-connect with Bath Uni, hope the Foundation Trustee will help with links. Trying to get the 3-day camp on 16-18 July with players/Board meal on 18 July.

**ACTION:** Carole to see if she can get Thermae Spa rooftop pool on the Sunday morning as in previous years.

Jerry waiting on his final budget, has sat down with Paul & gone through potential players/who keeping etc.

Good networking day at Exeter. Jerry keen we all consider a great match day experience in the stadium when fans can come back– flag bearers etc and something creative.

Three player departures have been announced. Jerry gave a brief update on the players and how important it is they “exit” correctly, making it as positive an experience as possible and letting other clubs know they are available. Generally we get good feedback even on departure.

Nick joined the meeting.

**Pitch Plan Update**

A plan of work is in place and now looking for funding, crunch will come mid-April if haven’t pinned down the cash but we should proceed. Hoping/optimistic we will raise funds, but can’t guarantee. CIL application has gone in, cttee. meeting in April will review application – may need more information, officers happy with what’s been submitted so far. Funds wouldn’t be available until the summer. Currently concentrating on drainage but need to balance pitch being too dry in summer so should consider additional sprinklers.

**ACTION:** Nick to keep Bath Rec Ground Trust in the loop ref CIL.

**League Fines**

Independent tribunal Friday. Paul had a call today from our league representative – suggestion put to all clubs who received fines to appeal individually to FA to ask for 50% suspension of fines. Thinks FA won’t support joint appeal. Legal advice would be needed for an “in person” hearing as FA has a QC in attendance. Quentin to look up the process for appeal as not clear from the letter on Friday.

Two appeal types; apply for personal hearing, but costly; or written submission with mitigating factors – just cause, couldn’t afford to play, other rules ignored etc.

**AGREED:** We will appeal (subsequently agreed to written appeal).

**ACTION:** Re legal advice. Speak to Chris Flanagan in the first stance. Nick to obtain feedback on potential lawyers. Carole to speak to FSA.

Email received today from some clubs calling for vote of no confidence in National League board. Paul commented that we would need replacement directors lined up if no confidence vote goes through. If 10% clubs vote in favour of EGM, board has to hold it. If vote of no confidence passed, the directors would leave and new board would need to be voted in. Possibly FA would have to step in – we wouldn’t necessarily want to vote anyone onto the new board without veto etc.

Chairman of NL Board (Brian Barwick) has resigned.

**ACTION:** Paul to obtain clarity on rules governing vote.

We have no confidence in NL board. We want the motion to be modified for the FA to step in for a year to set up a process for electing new board.

Jon and Shane will speak to a few other clubs – by Weds lunchtime deadline – and ask what they are doing about a) fines and b) vote of no confidence.

**ACTION** - Paul to speak to Q - what happens in the event VONC goes through? Our recommendation the FA involvement route. If they will add that, we will put our name to it.

We need to keep fans in the loop – lots of speculation! Delegated to Jon & Paul, keep BCFC Board in the loop.

Jerry left the meeting.

1. **SAG Actions & Update**

Structural report actions/costs – Jon/Shane/Paul

Clear & succinct report on what’s needed. Put out to tender to 5 companies. One has come in with rough quote, waiting for others. Current quote £1,500 if don’t have to dig, £8k otherwise. Hoping to get 3 quotes from companies visiting site. Working Group to meet again in 2-3 weeks & put forward a recommendation.

John R’s proposal sent through to Momentum who offered to come & do design report but they will not do the work – just lay out what needs to be done. John R to get quote for pre-drilled steel work & discuss with Shane once he has them.

Everything involves going back to Momentum to get their sign off for BANES approval of process/works.

**ACTION:** Shane to let Nick have report so he can go back to BANES.

Everything else under control eg electrical, SGSA coming down to do capacity calculations 6th April.

**ACTION:** Jon – social media promotion to mobilise more volunteers, couple of mornings a week to get simple stuff done.

1. **Re-Development**

Nick/Chris are meeting Greenacre/developer on 7 April to have frank/open discussion. If finances are as they appear they don’t work for us so we may not agree to progress. Comprehensive agenda. Will report back.

In meantime, waiting to see what comes out of BANES consultation ref PBSA at Twerton Park. There is a risk BANES will come back in next 2-3 months vetoing PBSA at the Club site. It was noted that there have been 2 instances where BANES’ decisions to reject PBSA have been overturned. Not 100% clear what implications are of that for us.

Other re-development options being investigated.

**ACTION**: Nick to talk to the Duchy of Cornwall and follow up with development arm of the council.

Ideally we want to stay at Twerton, but look at alternatives if can’t do that. Site options work from back in 2013 to be refreshed. Discussion about gas works site – contamination was the big issue. John asked if we had to re-locate what acreage would we need?

**ACTION:** Nick to find out if gas works site now owned by the council.

**ACTION:** Nick to talk to Curo in case there are any synergies.

The Good Economy - Consultancy in Bath based around social housing/finance – Chris meeting them 6 April. They have given good advice to others in the past on social impact, how to “Build Bath Back Better” after Covid report for council.

1. **Finance Update**

Couple of issues around expenses going to be incurred in the next few weeks, eg pitch. May have to use bounce back loan – can either pay it hoping that we’ll raise the funds, otherwise can fund it over 5-10 years. Discussion over ability to use bounce back loan to refinance bank loan – discussed with auditor – but no need to rush to pay anything back. Flexibility to consider between now and June.

Money from BANES – hospitality grants but some confusion about what it covers, got a second grant but didn’t clarify exactly what it was for.

**ACTION:** Chris, Jon & Andrew to look at best use of bounce back loan.

Not looked at playing budget yet as need clarity on season ticket money. Don’t know about crowds coming back and need to look at income streams for next season, so need to look at overall budget together.

If season ticket holders don’t take the refund, this won’t be VAT-able, would need confirmation in writing that people are donating – could do same option as earlier in the season with tick box. If donation it’s this year’s income which we can then use to cover this year’s expenditure.

1. **Commercial Update**

Bob sent his report in advance. Shirt sponsors’ draw to be pushed back to first week in July, after 21 June restrictions have been lifted & Bob’s holiday. Generally good response – 16 entries so far. Will chase up after Easter. If we can get above 50 entries will be doing well, not anticipating the 83 as pre-Covid.

1. **Society & Supporter Update**

Memorandum of Understanding changes/update – work continuing. Sally looking at some procedures on how the Soc brings good/right people through to the Board. Sally and Nick to liaise over short note to share with Board, but process “parked” for now due to bigger issues to resolve. All welcomed this.

Draft business plan update – Nick & Pete to take out of meeting

Next joint Board/Cttee meeting tbc – Pete & Nick

Cheryl revisiting date of next Q&A – put in diary at the next Board meeting when more on re-dev etc.

1. **Actions from Last Board, Previous Board Meeting Minutes**

All action point done unless noted here.

£2k on toilet – revisit June/July to see if needed.

**ACTION:** everyone to look at the Google doc on key Club roles, should be reviewed quarterly.

**ACTION:** Pete & Nick to pick up issue of Society Board mtg roles.

Minutes approved - proposed John R, seconded Shane

1. **AOB**

Pitch use – special events only as does a lot of damage.

Amazon wish list – **ACTION:** Shane to pull list together.

Ben Saunders, U18 who passed away in summer from heart cancer. Tom (father) was instrumental in setting up a Foundation and asked if we could host a 6-a-side competition. Not keen due to pitch damage, view was that a possible pre-season match could be dedicated to fund raise for him.

**Date of next meeting** – Monday 26 April