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

**26 April 2021**Virtual

**Attendees:** Nick Blofeld (Chair), Jon Bickley, Cheryl Bradley, Matt Falk, Peter McCormack, Shane Morgan, Andrew Pierce, John Reynolds, Joy Saunders, Paul Williams

**Observers**: Bob Chester, Chris Coles, Carole Banwell, Jerry Gill

1. **Football**

**Update by Jerry Gill**

Jerry updated the Board on players, backroom staff, training and contracts. Recruitment for next season is on pause waiting for the EFL to publish the release list and for the National League to finish.

The link with SGS is working well. They have offered us the use of the new performance hub and 20 GPS pods, free of charge. A StatsBomb employee is coming from the USA to Bath and will continue to help on analysis, subject to confirmation.

We don’t have to use Twerton other than for games from 15 June and now have a shed at SGS for equipment. They are being very helpful with performance analysis and we should cite them as partners in our correspondence, website etc.

Players’ training kit & packages are agreed, with the away kit the same as home kit but red & navy (off the shelf).

**ACTION:** anyone with strong feedback on away kit to let Jerry know.

The plan is to have a great “welcome back” feel for fans at the first pre-season game. Carole leading on that once she has the dates for matches.

**ACTION:** Jerry to let Carole have dates for pre-season matches.

**Pitch Update**

Andrew circulated notes after his meeting with the FA. There are lots of unknowns but the FA were encouraging us to go for a Football Foundation grant for more extensive work. The question over what level of work, and therefore what level of funding to look for, is dependent on our longer-term plans and our relationship with Bristol City Women’s. There may be some short-term clarity after the CIL application meeting next. Work can start any time after that.

**ACTION:** Andrew to organise a meeting to update Board before next meeting.

1. **Re-Development Update**

An update was circulated prior to the meeting, a more detailed financial model has been provided.

The number of student beds has been reduced. The new footprint might leave us short of car parking and we’d need to demolish Charlie’s/Randall’s so there is lots to discuss around that.

Follow-up meeting between McLaren and B&NES planners. Feedback on consultation exercise on student accommodation was expected by June, but more likely to be July, with a decision possibly as late as September. The feedback was also that 100% student accommodation isn’t currently acceptable, but conversely mixing with residential could negatively impact the financial case. They were also asked where BCFC are in all this so a more joined up approach in the planning process is called for. James Pullan is helping agree a realistic land value to optimise value for BCFC.

**ACTION**: Nick to pull together group to consider how we proceed - Jon, Pete, Chris, Paul, Andrew and James Pullan. No sudden decision will be made but rationale and recommendation to come back to the Board.

**Other Options**

We are continuing to explore these, currently as an elimination process.

1. **Commercial**

Work continues on the Shirt Sponsor Draw, which is scheduled for 30 June. We have 33 entries so far and are looking for just over 50. This is an excellent result in the current circumstances.

We have linked up with Charlcombe Inn for the team and leadership dinner in June.

The Lottery continues to go well with ongoing work to build numbers.

We have a quote for works if we need the additional hospitality toilet.

The Crowdfunder campaign has been doing extremely well. Once that is over it would be good to get fans to help us bring their businesses/employers on board. We are doing a similar appeal on LinkedIn. We are still talking about Shirt Sponsors Draw every week so we can tie it in with that.

The Business Networking Club having not gained Board approval, there is now work on developing a “Business Members Club” for the season after next. Further information on that in due course.

**ACTION**: Cheryl to give Bob a list of people who will need a hospitality package from the Crowdfunder.

**Replacing CrossFit**

We are ideally looking for a like-for-like replacement but recognise that might not be possible. We are getting as much publicity as possible on this including using the positive feedback from CrossFit. We need to have a plan or options in place by the start of the new season.

A wide range of options is being explored and we have engaged with all networks. We have agreed free use of the car park for the “vaccination bus” for 4 days across May – August.

Other gyms are interested to explore options and there may be synergies with the Universities as well.

**ACTIONS**: Nick and Joy to give Carole intro to Bath Spa Students’ Union.

There is an idea around working with the Foundation to be a base for their activities. There is a meeting with Helen Donovan and the new Operations Manager at the Foundation to discussion this further.

**ACTION:** Any ideas or leads to Carole**.**

**Community**

A document differentiating between Foundation & Club community work was circulated prior to meeting. There was some feedback that the document was light on general diversity/inclusion.

We are keen to get behind a campaign called #wewill around women’s safety while engaged in sporting activity, and in our context how comfortable women are on the terraces.

It was suggested we should also have our own women’s football strategy. There is a Bath City Youth women’s team that is doing very well in its first season, being a mix of players that have come through the youth team who are now U18s and students. Ed Tann & Helen Donovan are exploring women’s and girls’ football further and are talking to the University about setting up a women’s academy. Larkhall Women were originally Bath City and were a strong team as part of the Club in 2005-6.

**ACTION:** Carole/Nick/Joy to talk to Ed & Helen on setting a BCFC Family wide strategy on this. Carole to think about the best person to pick this up.

**Jerry Gill left the meeting.**

1. **Finance Update**

A debt repayment paper has been drafted and shared with a few people.

**ACTION:** Nick to circulate more widely and finalise after initial positive feedback.

Government and local authority support will now start to taper off.

It has been difficult to produce a projection for next 12 months. Assumptions include no replacement for CrossFit, no parking from Curo, no extension of the Bounce Back loan repayment schedule. Expenditure has been projected at close to the same level. Options for increasing parking revenue were discussed within the limitations of needing access for matches.

The main implication of the projection is on setting the playing budget for next year. There is also a need for further clarity over issues such as capacity. Player contracts will have COVID clauses again. The variables in setting the football budget were discussed.

**AGREED:** we will propose a playing budget to be circulated next week.

**Signing off the Accounts**

**AGREED** unanimously to accept the accounts.

There was a question on the “going concern” note on page 10. This is from the date of signing off. Dan Slocombe/Moore (our accountants) are happy to accept the projections, which give a positive cash flow situation until end of April/May next year. If necessary, we could plug the gap using our overdraft facility at the end of April 2022.

1. **SAG Actions & Update**

A report was circulated in advance of the meeting. Relevant sections have been shared with B&NES.

Electrical Installation – the main work is completed with PAT tests being done today.

Fire Test – there is an issue with the family stand panel. Minor in-house remedial work is required on fire assessments.

Momentum Report – there has been an amendment to get the work done without digging out the concrete. We have had two quotes, with £2k difference on the same timescale. There isn’t much difference other than some work on a down pipe. Recommendation is to go for the cheaper quote.

In-house work with volunteers has been extremely useful with parties of 5-6 working on jobs including de-rusting. The Popular side is mainly done except for the guttering.

All the structural issues should be addressed by the end of May.

**AGREED**: the working group will make the necessary decisions on ongoing work.

The SGSA regional planner came down to do the capacity calculations but is giving very mixed messages on capacity. The “normal capacity” calculation should be done by Friday. He raised an issue with step size on main stand.

**ACTION:** NICK to email BANES to arrange an inspection in the third week of May so we have June to get any issues resolved for July start.

1. **Society & Supporter Update**

There is a Society Committee meeting this week, which will include discussion on a paper from Sally Harris on the election process. A copy will be sent to Nick after the meeting.

Further work on the MoU and draft business plan should be pushed back to June given the redevelopment position.

Although there is not much face-to-face contact with supporters, Cheryl keeps an eye on social media and has been working with Jon on Crowdfunding & Season tickets. The current total is £38,337 with more forms received today. Most known supporters have responded now. This has been a great result. The Crowdfunder is open for 30 days, closing mid-month.

1. **Actions from Last Board, Previous Board Meeting Minutes** 
   * Mandy Gardner has been appointed Operations Manager at the Foundation. She has good football experience and used to run Bath Rugby Foundation.
   * Rooftop Thermae Spa for players – not able to arrange it yet as the General Manager is leaving. He will recommend the session to his successor.
   * League issues – lawyers weren’t required as we went down the written representation route.

Minutes of the last meeting were accepted: proposed Andrew Pearce, seconded John Reynolds

1. **AOB**

Q&A evening: to be left until next month when we know when fans can come back in.

We are happy to back the social media boycott this weekend.

**Date of next meeting 24th May**