Bath City FC Board Meeting

Mon 29 November 2021 at 1900

Hybrid

**Attendees:** Nick Blofeld (Chair), Jon Bickley, Cheryl Bradley, Chris Flanagan, Shane Morgan, Andrew Pierce, John Reynolds, Joy Saunders, Paul Williams

**Observers**: Chris Coles, Carole Banwell

**1. Football update**

Jerry is happy with progress and will be at the next meeting to talk about loans as several come to an end over the next month or so. Steve Book is finding it difficult to cover two training sessions a week plus matches so Jerry is trying to find an alternate coach for Tuesdays.

The supporters have been great over the past few games as performance has improved, felt we were unfortunate to lose recently.

The Society Committee would like further information where players have left, but are aware of the conflict between transparency and confidentiality.

**Pitch:** EcoSolve, who we use for pitch jobs and who maintain Bath Rugby’s pitches, have been approached to see if they would be able to take on more work once Andrew steps down at the end of the season. There is the possibility of sharing someone for half a week.

**ACTION**: Andrew to get cost from EcoSolve on half a person for pitch maintenance.

**ACTION:** NB to follow up with the RGT.

The pitch froze on Saturday night but is in much better shape than this time last year.

**PA system:** Spiralux are coming in next week to instal the new system.

**2. Redevelopment Update**

Huge thanks to everyone who put so much time into producing the documentation and presentation. These were sent to 5 known potential new partners last Thursday morning. All have acknowledged. One had further questions and one is a little pessimistic about whether the project would be commercially viable. The final date for responses is around 22 January.

Greenacre have been told who the documentation has been sent to and invited to suggest any other potentially interested parties. A secondary list of people who should be sent the link was drawn up.

There is a meeting with B&NES on Friday, whose advice will be sought on whether the documentation should be shared with Council officers or members.

**ACTION:** Nick B to send couple of paras to Jon B ref redev update/docs for website and LinkedIn.

William Heath has drafted an email to place a marker with the Economic Recovery Board (ERB), and Joy has positioned us with the Twerton & Whiteway Network. It will probably be next spring before the ERB would have space on the agenda. Joy will lead for the Club at the ERB.

**ACTION**: Joy to circulate email for comment.

The make-up of the panel to assess bids is tbc and a matter for the working group.

**3. Finance Update**

PW spoke to his report circulated prior to the meeting. There were many positive take aways from the previous weekend, great gate receipts, a new vibe in the ground attracting students and young families.

The end of year projections are around the same level. We try to keep abreast of suppliers to help their cash flow as well as ourselves. We are probably in the best position we’ve been in for several years.

There is a £5m grant to the League over 4 years. We anticipate £23k from first £2m tranche and this is in the cash flow as it has already been announced.

Income from events at the ground is improving.

**Rentals:** We have been approached by a company to use the Club as a meeting site during an 18 month project. They would pay full commercial rate and want food each time. Another company wants to rent 4 parking spaces to store scaffolding.

We have had some events pull out which may be partly because the facilities are a hard sell when it’s cold so the facilities team are working on how to make it warmer. The vaccination people pulled out for the time being but are looking to do a couple of clinics here a week. The dispatch company who wanted to use Randall’s disappeared. This potential income hadn’t been included in figures.

**Loans:** An email regarding valuations was circulated prior to the meeting.

**4. Codes of Conduct**

It will be valuable to complete the Values/Culture project as soon as possible. Jon B will approach a potential lead on this. The current code of conduct tends to focus on the disciplinary process if there has been a problem, we need something more positive around how to behave. The Society has been workshopping something, which they’ll share shortly, around behaviours/standards to hold themselves to. It’s important to make sure we take input from all areas so we have a consistent, holistic approach.

Following feedback from the Supporters Club, it is clear the values/culture review must include social media policy.

**ACTION:** Nick B/Paul W to discuss social media interactions.

**ACTION:** Shane to circulate the code of conduct written in 2017 .

**5. Key Ops/SAG Points to Note**

There was discussion about ensuring good documentation is available on PPM (Planned Preventative Maintenance) as part of our Facilities Management following the delay of the redevelopment. There is a calendar of maintenance work/health & safety required work. There is also a spreadsheet of what’s needed by SAG and a filing cabinet set aside in the office for all the relevant documentation.

**ACTION:** Shane to produce an exec summary style google doc bringing together a schedule of all the PPM/Facilities and Health & safety plan/work.

The fire extinguishers were due next so they’ve been done. The ground maintenance team are working on some areas and the Prince’s Trust are working in grandstand on safety certificate work. Work on some issues where the redevelopment was expected to cover the work, such as central heating, have been delayed.

**6. 2000 BC, Commercial, Foundation & Community WG updates**

Commercial, Foundation and Community reports were circulated in advance of the meeting.

**i. Commercial Director (CD)**: work is underway to recruit a new CD as soon as possible. The Society are the recruiting body. The panel will be Paul Brotherton and Pete McCormack with Jon B as Club rep. The target date for interviews afternoon/evening 15 December. In the meantime, Jon Bickley is acting CD. There has been keen interest from at least one candidate.

**ii. Sale of alcohol in the ground:** we have contacted all Conference South League teams. Of 20 clubs, 18 replied, 2 of which were irrelevant as they don’t serve alcohol in the ground. Of the 16 other responses 14 strongly recommend and 2 probably recommend and 15 found it had a positive impact on fan experience. One team who have recently started noted it doubled their match day bar revenue. No trouble was noted. Clubs have found that breweries are happy to provide/pay for pop-up facilities.

Next stage if taking this forward would be to apply for a licence.

There was significant discussion on the issue/opportunities:

• Impact on match day experience for families with young children

• Increased movement in the crowd and in the grandstand being an irritant/distraction during the match

• Additional stewarding costs

• Potential to create issues for any redevelopment planning application

It was noted that most grounds who serve alcohol in the ground also have bars there. The two clubs which don’t have bars outside as we do. On the positive side, the clubs reported no issues, improved supporter experience and increased revenues. There would be nothing to stop us deciding from match to match whether to serve inside the ground or not, most likely not for segregated matches, and that the police might have a view.

There are two types of license application we could make: minor variation or major variation license if adding structures.

**AGREED:** we will come up with a plan to run a trial, first steps being to discuss with B&NES and to ask supporters views. The design of a trial will be decided out of the meeting but general sense that a pop-up run by a brewery on the Popular side with no service at the grandstand end might be a starting point. The idea will be run past our bar manager. We will run the license exploration/ application alongside gathering supporter views.

Noted: there are roughly 120 Supporters Club members and 320 Society members of 1,000 attendance.

**ACTION:** Shane to talk to the licensing team to see if minor or major.

**iii. Fan experience issue:** Queues for MobQ at the Community Day were longest ever seen. We were let down by other provider at the last minute. Have asked MobQ to run two concessions for the Hungerford match. The new PA system will be helpful in reminding people of options.

**iv. Signage:** Just needs finalising before printing.

**7. Society/Supporter Updates**

Supporters had been despondent a few weeks ago but recent match performances have cheered everyone up.

The Society has an interim exec meeting on 20 January which Nick will attend to provide an update on the redevelopment.

The latest Strategy document has been approved pending Board sign off. The redevelopment has broad support assuming we stay with the structure that has been articulated. Pete McCormack was elected to sit on the panel.

**ACTION**: All - any comments on Strategy to Nick by end of the week.

**8. Actions Carried Forward from Last Meeting**

• Riser issue: John R priced up altering the riser & doing the tread, with non-slip treatment. Each gangway has 72 side alterations.

John R’s recommendation is to do two steps and risers. The design needs to be sense checked with SGSA then it needs to go to SAG for an idea of what increased capacity the work would allow so we can work out if it is cost effective. The grandstand has only been sold out once this season.

• Carole & Nick to pick up pitch with RGT.

• Magnetic signage (supporters’ coaches) – to go back to comm team.

• AGM: 6 January 2022

**Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted**: proposer Joy Saunders, seconder Andrew Pierce.

**9. AOB**

Composition of panel: for redevelopment group to sign off.

**ACTION**: Chris C/Joy S to talk re panel composition/dates. Chris C to confirm dates as well.

**Date of Next Meeting**: Thursday 6 Jan