



Bath City Board Meeting

1900 Monday 21 Aug 2023

Hybrid

Attendees: Nick Blofeld (Chair), James Carlin, Shane Morgan, Andrew Pierce, Paul Williams, Pete McCormack and Jane Jones

Apologies: Chris Coles and John Reynolds

1. Bath City Youth (BCY)

Andy Laker (BCY's nominated liaison person with BCFC) joined to give an update on BCY and summarised how there had been a "changing of the guard" which signalled a more open and stronger relationship with the Club. Andy said he thought he was joining BCFC when he joined BCY and was keen to see a "seamless" connection between the two.

Robin Thomas (the new Chair) is focussed on establishing the home of BCY at Lansdown Sth pitches and creating a pathway for the players post BCY. It was acknowledged that the women's pathway is probably easier to achieve than that for the men. We should also see more engagement with the Club, with mascots, Season Tickets etc. They are keen to be kept in the loop on 3G as that progresses and are also managing part of Lansdown Nth pitches to help the Sunday league sides.

There is a big focus on digitising the set up to help with comms and pitch bookings etc (via Spond). We discussed including/involving them in/with the BC newsletter and the Club is keen to have an SLA with BCY, as we have with the Foundation.

2. Redevelopment

1.1 Redevelopment – Joy's earlier note had updated the Board effectively and our previous call with Rengen was productive. The financials seem to work.

A key focus now needs to be on the clarifying cost of refurbishing the grandstand and on the likelihood of getting planning permission. The pre app will be vital and the Club needs to be close to Rengen on this.

We also agreed to revisit the "wishlist" for what the Club needs/wants from the redevelopment, as with 3G pulled forward the priorities may have changed. We also need to check in again with the Foundation and BCY as things may have changed.

There was also a discussion on co-opting project management and property skills on to the Board as the redevelopment takes shape, which was agreed as a good idea. We all need to think about our networks and who might be able to step up or introduce us to relevant people.

Action: All to review the old “wishlist” to ensure it is still accurate, especially the football department, Foundation and BCY

The new owner of the adjoining land plans to fence it off and sell parking spaces on it. This will cause us a problem on matchdays, and it was agreed we will now ask players and staff to park on our owned car park and he can sell spaces to anyone else. A message needs to go out quickly to supporters and staff on this as the fencing is likely to be in place in early September.

There was some discussion as to whether we could have a simple app to try and charge for parking during the week. A barrier etc was reviewed before and was too costly.

Action: Paul to let Jerry and the squad and support team know about the new parking set up and marketing to put out social media/web/newsletter saying we expect only staff/players to be able to park at the ground now; we need to put out the message asap that we did bid for the strip!

1.2 3G

We still await planning permission which remains delayed by the council questions over the drainage although we remain quietly confident of receiving approval in the coming weeks.

The 3G designs and plans clearly need to fit completely with Rengen’s designs and thinking, so we need to ensure they are consulted as we progress.

2. Finance update

Paul updated us that Bath Spa and CURO had now paid their invoices and our current bank account is good.

Bills for the playing kit and terrace work by Accolade are due to be paid shortly. Paul would still like to better understand the new commercial set up and Nick said he’d help with that as he is also helping them short term, but we still need someone to help more permanently.

The first home games had good spends although the room rental side has been weaker than expected. Squad Builder (SB) generated good funds so far and has really helped.

Having reviewed the matchday revenue forecasts the only risk looks to be if Yeovil isn’t on a Saturday, as that will dent income quite a lot.

We can still improve Roman’s sales on matchdays and we need to catch up on the most cost effective way of doing this.

Action: Update message and thanks fans for SB contributions.

3. Football update

3.1 Men’s update

Alex has been given the all clear to play and Jordan is ok. Some good performances and wins despite the strange Weston game!

3.2 Women’s update

The Women’s teams have had a quite tough pre-season, but have been playing strong sides. The 1st Team lost 0-9 away and had expected to be playing at the Memorial Ground, so it was a double shame as that “special experience” of playing there didn’t happen and despite 40 min of good play they ended up well beaten.

And the Development Team also lost heavily, although their opponents seemed to be playing some of their more experienced first teamers.

The fixture list is now out and the idea is to play at least one Development Team game at TP, and Jane and Andrew are already looking into that. The first home game is 3 Sept and is also part of "Twert Lush," a bit of a community day/festival.

We still need to recruit for a (volunteer?) matchday physio and social media representative and there remains scope for more cross over between the men's and women's teams and we should keep pushing these – eg photos, training, PR etc.

Actions: Advertise for physio and social media support and see what we can share with the men

4. Closed season key SAG pans/actions

Shane circulated a note in advance highlighting that Accolade had concluded the barrier testing and strengthening and it all passed the testing, we are awaiting the report to send to the Council. We already have our Safety Certificate for the season but we hope that the work in the Grandstand will lead to an increase in capacity for that area. Sara Chiffers said she would look into it on her return in September.

Arcs and Sparks did the electrical visual inspection last week and we are awaiting paperwork on that.

On the issue flagged by the young unaccompanied children at the last home game, it flagged that we should look at our policy on minors attending. The very young-looking children unaccompanied at the match on Tuesday creates a potential safeguarding issue and unnecessary extra worry for the stewarding team.

Shane spoke to Jon Payne, head steward, who works at Ashton Gate and asked what their policy was and he said that under 14's had to be accompanied.

There was a discussion on this and it recommended we did some research before agreeing the age at which children should be accompanied ahead of the next Board.

Action: Research and agree the age set for unaccompanied children before the next Board

5. 2000BC, Commercial, Community and WG updates

Cheryl starts on 18 September. And we need to get better at sharing commercial info across the Board and still need someone to lead the commercial team and should advertise again.

We agreed to update the strategy document with a broad "pathway" statement as we did not yet know what shape that would take.

Action: Nick to share commercial info in advance of Board meetings and all to keep looking for a commercial director; Jane/Nick (and Jon B?) to meet one evening and review/update strategy document and share subsequently with the Board

6. Society & Supporter update

6.1 The now regular conversation was had about getting good people involved in the day to day running of the Club now we had lost both Jon and Peter. And more matchday volunteers are also needed.

6.2 James has set up the first SLO pub meeting for 31 Aug in the Royal Oak (1900-2100). James will give a Foundation update at the next Board.

Feedback from supporters was that the ladies' toilets in the ground were "a disgrace" and it was agreed we needed to review them and do something them. The men's are also awful! Signage also remains poor and out of date.

Roman's bar remains a bottleneck and we still need to try and improve that.

The supporters were keen to create something in memory of Alison Gibbons and it was suggested naming the supporters annual awards after her would be appropriate. There was Board support for this.

Action: Nick and James to meet ref Dir's role

7. Actions from last Board & Board Minutes

Carried forward: i) James and Shane to determine the best place to hang the mural; ii) Nick and James to meet ref Board "induction"

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted. Proposer Andrew and seconded by Jane

8. AOB

1. John Reynolds is recovering but it is expected to take c12 weeks to fully recover. All the Board sent John their best wishes and looked forward to having him back and the players had signed and sent a card.

2. Nick had met the S&M team and we will need another catch up soonish to ensure smooth day to day operations, but a new S&M Dir. is still key!

Date of next meeting – 18 Sept