



Bath City Board Meeting

1900 Monday 24 July 2023

Hybrid

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

Observer: Chris Coles and Joy Saunders was present for the first item

Apologies: Jane Jones and John Reynolds

1. Redevelopment

1.1 Redevelopment - Rengen and ex Greenacre land update.

We have re-arranged for a call/meeting on 31 July at 1800 with Rengen where we hope to have a "roadmap" on the next phase of the project

Pete said he thought the initial submission was encouraging, but had concern about the height of the scheme in case the planners decided it was too tall and we had to remove a floor. The impact of losing some rooms/a floor could be significant on the overall financials.

Joy was impressed with what they had done so far and there was a brief discussion about a joint meeting with the new Society Cttee. on 31 July.

Chris raised the fundamental challenges as being: the ability to raise funds for the Club to re-invest and pay off some of the debt whilst having decent facilities to run the club successfully for the long-term. There was a question over what it would cost to refurb rather than demolish the Grandstand, as this was a key part of the scheme.

Joy also gave an auction update: it appears two different bidders have bought the two lots and their details will be passed to the club once the deals have been completed (after Joy asked for this). Rengen have already been approached and they will update us once they have spoken. There was a feeling that the new "ransom strip" owners may well want to "flip" it to either the club or the new owners of the High Street site. Whatever happens we will need to coordinate activity with the new owners of the High Street site.

Action: i) All – send any other questions to Joy to create an agenda for next week's call

1.2 3G

Andrew gave a quick update and we still await planning permission which remains delayed by the council questions over the drainage set up and plans.

Andrew is meeting with a PST appointed surveyor on Thursday (27 July) and a camera will go down the drains to check where they drain into.

Again, there has been online speculation as to why we haven't heard or had planning granted yet.

Joy left the meeting at this stage.

Andrew later suggested moving the pitch further south (towards the Popular side) to help spectator circulation on match days. This is something to plan and review before committing to the final 3G design/layout etc.

And it was noted the current grass pitch is in great condition!

Action: Nick to draft a quick update note for supporters and share with Jane

2. Finance update

Paul updated us that the Novia sponsorship money is now in and Bath Spa's is due by the end of July, with CURO's invoice due to be sent any day.

Paul was keen to understand the commercial set up after Peter H has stepped back, Nick said he would be joining the Comm. Team call on Monday and would step in to help lead the Team in the short-term.

Andrew has shared his revised matchday revenue projections with Paul after the fixtures were announced, but he has not yet caught up with Jane on these, as she has been away, but he will do so asap.

The players budget remains tight, with only 16 players signed, and Jerry would like another loan player. The Squad Builder (SB) is now at £10k and it was agreed we should announce if/when we get an additional player and SB has enabled it.

3. Football update

3.1 Men's update

Overall the team have made a good start in pre-season with encouraging signs, especially in defence, and we have some genuine attacking intent with some of the new players adding to that.

3.2 Women's update

Jane's note was circulated ahead of the meeting as she couldn't join it.

Nick met with the new Chair of BCY and had some encouraging conversations. Nick will follow up on the SLA shortly.

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: Nick to send SLA to Robin.

4. Closed season key SAG pans/actions

The Safety Advisory Group (SAG) meeting was good, and as per Shane's note there are no major concerns. The Safety Certificate has already arrived, which is very good news.

There was a brief conversation about capacity, which is 4070, and it was agreed there was no reason why this couldn't be shared with supporters if there was interest in knowing.

5. 2000BC, Commercial, Community and WG updates

Cheryl had been appointed to the new Club Admin. role which is great news. She will start in September, once she has worked her 2 month notice period.

Sales and marketing cover will be picked up with Jon and Jane outside of the Board, with Jon no longer on the Board and Jane unable to join this meeting. Jane and Nick will review the strategy document and pick this up with a wider team as this work/project evolves.

Overall resource was again discussed and how we should advertise roles and promote the roles we need to fill. James C, Jane and Nick will pick this up, and James suggested there has been a shortage of volunteers post covid and it is a national issue. Generally, the thinking is that we all need to network around Bath and St John's may also be able to help.

6. Society & Supporter update

6.1 Pete is still discussing who/how/if the Soc Cttee can help with the day to day jobs to support the Board/Club, Nick suggested Community Director is a very shareable role rather than duplicating it on the Board and Soc. Cttee.

6.2 Some supporters had created a mural, celebrating the link with Lecce, that they wanted to give to the club to display. James had received and read his induction pack from the Soc Cttee ref becoming a Director, and Nick and he need to set up a meeting once James is back from his holidays.

James also gave a quick Foundation update, and Nick suggested these should be formalised and at every other Board meeting. The Foundation is going well, with the holiday camps well attended. They are now planning to step up to the next level of funding, to £20k per annum. Those attending the camps who get free school lunches also get free admission to the holiday clubs. There are c250 attendees over the summer.

ACTION: Pete to come back to the Board with Soc. Cttee thinking on sharing resource; best FSA contact to be found and followed up by the Soc Cttee.; James and Shane to determine the best place to hang the mural; Nick and James to meet ref Dir's role

7. Actions from last Board & Board Minutes

Carried forward: i) Nick/Jane review of strategy document – on-going, initial revisions/ideas

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

8. AOB

1. streaming of league games will start this season and is expected to generate income per club for the full season

2. the Team photo will be on Thurs 3 Aug, 1915. It was suggested Dave Cobb should be in it – Andrew to invite him.

3. Stone King have also agreed to sponsor the Foundation

Date of next meeting – 21 Aug