



Bath City Board Meeting
1900 Monday 26 June 2023
Hybrid

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

Observer: Joy Saunders was present for the first item

Apologies: Peter Headington and Chris Coles

1. Redevelopment & 3G

1.1 Redevelopment - Rengen and ex Greenacre land update.

Joy outlined the current situation, not much change this month, but a lot of discussion on the best strategy in the auction of the former Greenacre land. There is an imminent call with Rengen about this and we will set up a call after that to update everyone and we still await the update on the financials of Rengen scheme, which has been delayed largely due to the Chairman's diary.

The public auction is on 6 July and in two "lots" – the ransom strip and the High Street element.

1.2 3G

Andrew gave a quick update in Peter's absence, and he has picked up on the pitch related aspects of the project. We still await planning permission which has been delayed by further council questions over the drainage set up and plans.

There is some question over whether the quote supplied is robust, Andrew's view is that it is, but it is tbc and the current figure could potentially come down.

The CIL application has had positive feedback but the new Cttee is still tbc and we expect a decision in July. The Levelling Up Fund (LUF) application process continues, with Joy and Peter leading it, and the CIC is set up.

Joy left the meeting at this stage.

2. Finance update

Paul's note in advance summarised the finances and he emphasized that we had a tough time up until the end of May, and thanked everyone for their hard work and creativity (eg 10 Year Season Ticket) and various individuals generosity in getting us through it.

The 23/24 budget is currently looking at a loss, but the ambition is to breakeven, and that figure excludes a lot of the recent good work on driving revenue. The dates of the derbies are still tbc, hopefully most will be on weekends and therefore provide good incremental revenue to the Club. Whether we should increase match days fees for "big games" was again discussed with mixed views, but a small increase would seem logical. The bars and shops provide other areas of potential upside, with some costs down this season, and only 1 or 2 games likely to have the bars closed by the police. Midford Manor and the Princes' Trust income was included in the estimate under exceptional items.

When the fixtures are out we will also review the match day budget figures to ensure they are as accurate as possible and maximising each opportunity. James will speak to some supporters about how we might improve the merchandising on match days, mostly hats and scarves, simple things like a gazebo or trestle tables maybe. Paul, Jane and Cheryl are working closely on the shop to keep stock available but not too high.

3. Football update

3.1 Men's update

Paul gave us the great news that Alex has been given the go ahead to play football again by the specialist! His vision is now ok although he still needs hearing aids, but it is tremendous progress, acknowledged and welcomed by all.

There will be training on 27 June followed by the first friendly vs. Shaftesbury on Tuesday evening.

We have 15 players plus triallists and 2 Exeter players. Jim Barron, the new, very experienced asst. manager will meet the players this week and be announced to the supporters/media. We also now have a "shared" goal keeping coach, Dean Gerken.

3.2 Women's update

At the AGM the final league set up was still tbc, some juggling of which clubs should be in which league (for travel reasons) to be resolved.

This season we really need more linesmen, who also know the offside rule! Bristol Rovers have asked us to a pre-season friendly and the Dev't Team has been registered this week.

There is a lot of scope for more cross over between the men's and women's teams and we should develop these – eg photos, training, PR etc.

Actions: Nick to meet with new BCY Chair

There have been 9 applicants for the Admin. Asst. role at the Club, and the hours were amended to 3 hours days per week.

4. Closed season key SAG pans/actions

The Safety Advisory Group (SAG) meeting is scheduled for the 13 July and the structural maintenance report was done and there are no "red" flags so that should make the process simple and smooth. Accolade have been doing the barrier testing area by area over the years and the council is now pushing for bi-annual testing of the whole ground which goes against the Green Guide. Accolade are talking to them to hopefully persuade them that this is not necessary and that the current process

works and meets all the criteria. The council ought to follow the Green Guide and risk asses vs. test everything every two years.

5. 2000BC, Commercial, Community and WG updates

Sales and marketing cover was picked up in Jon's note ahead of the Board meeting, and we have some resource lined up and more potentially to plug the gap when he steps down in Sept.

Bath College conversations have taken place to discuss how we create a development team, but nothing can really happen until 3G is in place, and this should also become a 3 way conversation with BCY.

The Squad Builder idea (raising funds directly for the playing squad) was discussed and a unanimous vote taken to agree to progress with it. The initial target was £20k and will be launched asap to help with the 23/24 season, with the thinking that the donations should be "open ended" vs. season by season.

6. Society & Supporter update

6.1 Pete said the elections have gone well and that Heather Thomas, Sally Harris and Dave Phillips had been successful and there were now 7 Cttee members. Their first meetings will be on Thursday and in response to Nick's question Pete said that when they meet will start talking about the best way to make use of the limited combined resource of the Board and Cttee rather than potential duplication.

The Board congratulated them all and looked forward to working with them.

James Carlin was also successful in becoming the new SLO. There was brief discussion about ensuring we do get genuine and varied supporters views at the Board, with the idea of re-introducing informal supporter meetings in the pub!

ACTION: Pete to come back to the Board with Soc. Cttee thinking on sharing resource; best FSA contact to be found and followed up.

7. Actions from last Board & Board Minutes

Carried forward:

- Nick/Jane to review strategy document and begin planning new 10-year plan

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

8. AOB

1. Cheryl was officially thanked for her time as SLO

2. Roman's Bar – we will extend the window in the existing building rather than bring in a new structure. Cost tbc but c£1500, final decision tbc based on fixtures and revenue likely to be generated

Date of next meeting – 24 July