



## Bath City Board Meeting

1900 Thursday 25th May 2023

Hybrid

**Attendees:** Jane Jones, Nick Blofeld (Chair), Cheryl Bradley, Shane Morgan, Andrew Pierce, Paul Williams, Pete McCormack, John Reynolds, Peter Headington

**Observers:** Chris Cole, Joy Saunders was present for the first item

**Apologies:** Jon Bickley

### **1. Redevelopment & 3G**

#### **1.1 Redevelopment - RenGen and ex Greenacre land update.**

Joy outlined the current situation, with Lindhill having dropped out of bidding for the ex-Greenacre land and relations with Rengen good (usually weekly catch up calls between Joy and Darren) and plans are progressing pretty well, although we have yet to see the financials. There are a number of options, but fundamentally based around renovating the grandstand and residential properties to the side for the Club. Initial financial modelling has been done, but their CEO hasn't seen this yet, so we wait to hear. A meeting has been arranged for 26 May.

#### **1.2 3G**

Peter provided another quick update on top of the paper circulated before the meeting. We understand that permission should come through shortly and there are no further issues to resolve.

We are awaiting feedback from the CIL, which may take a little time still post-election as councillors change roles, it is likely to be in July. We have passed stage 1 for the Levelling Up Fund (LUF).

Joy left the meeting at this stage.

### **2. Finance update**

Paul summarised by saying we had come through a tough time on cashflow by using some of next season's income already, but can cover upcoming wages and PAYE. The fundraising Andrew and Jon initiated for the Patron's Season Tickets and the success of the Shirt Sponsors Draw and Partners Tournament put us in a much better place. Thanks were expressed to Jon, Andrew and Peter for their hard work on this.

The outside bars have made a big difference, and Jane circulated a paper in advance of the meeting demonstrating the significant cash difference they have made on match days.

Curo's rental income isn't yet included in the current figures, despite having agreed to renew.

The strength of the "local" (SW) competition next season makes us believe matchday revenues should increase.

### **3. Football update**

#### **3.1 Men's update**

Paul updated us: Cody Cook has re-signed, and a 2 year contract. A young (22 year old) right sided attacking layer is also close to joining. Discussion are progressing with a good young keeper, Southampton Academy based. We have 12 players so far, with Exeter once again happy to loan us players, and we are not yet there with the squad. Paul will also send a players budget update w/c 5 June.

Jerry is keen on Jim Barron as his number 2, his former coach with a lot of experience at higher levels in the game. He is retired and available. Paul has met him briefly, and also believes he has the right experience to support and add value to Jerry and the off pitch team. Nick will have a call with him asap.

Alex saw a specialist and continues to make good progress, whether it will be enough to play again is still tbc – he will need to see another specialist to advise on the risk of playing. He is now a free agent.

**Actions:** Nick to call Jim Barron; Paul to send a players budget update w/c 5 June

#### **3.2 Women's update**

The Women's team were confirmed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the League, so a great first season, well done to all involved, and they will receive a memento. A promotion is still tbc and the recruitment day will be 9 July, with a 1st Team and Development Team this coming season.

The SLA has not been signed with BCY, but we will pick this up with the new Chair after the elections.

**Actions:** Nick to meet with new BCY Chair and pick up on SLA

### **4. Closed season key SAG pans/actions**

Shane circulated a note ahead of the meeting and did an executive summary covering Safety Certificate related activities:

- Emergency Lighting - those that failed have been replaced and certification imminent
- Structural Maintenance Certificate - Momentum have been on site for an inspection and his report will be here w/c 5 June. Indications were that there were no major issues as we had addressed all the red and amber issues from the 2021 report
- Barrier Testing - Accolade are due 30 May for an assessment of what is needed. Major work was done on the Main Grandstand in 2021 and the Popular Side passed its testing in the same year, we hope that there would be no need for any major work
- EICR - next visual inspection August
- SAG Meeting - scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> July

A question was asked re current capacity (4070) and whether this could be cost effectively increased? Accolade should be able to answer that question (they visit TP shortly). A subsequent question re away support this season led to the answer that it is likely to be a max. of c1020.

There was some discussion about dynamic pricing for some games based on the popularity of the games (c£1-2 variance only), this will be looked into further, and is certainly easily possible with seating versus standing.

## **5. 2000BC, Commercial, Community and WG updates**

The short sponsor event and draw went well, 91 tickets sold (a record) and £32k of revenue, so a great outcome. Stone King won the draw, a good quality local/regional company to have on our shirts.

The tournament raised £3790 and was a success, although Peter believes the format now needs a "refresh," probably with dedicated men's and women's tournaments. He re-iterated that we hit our commercial revenue target for this year.

It was briefly discussed and agreed that Will should be able to cover Carole's Commercial Partner role over the summer, when the bulk of the renewal work is done, and Alex Weston has joined the team and should be able to pick up Will's work when the latter moves away after the summer.

## **6. Society & Supporter update**

6.1 Nominees and elections – it was agreed we should try and push back nominees a week or so and to try and drum up more interest. Nick planned to do a piece to camera for the website/social media to call for more support, both for new Directors and smaller levels of commitment to help run the club day to day, as we need people with relevant experience for all sorts of roles.

We need a big drive to bring in new blood with a number of long-serving Directors are stepping down as part of the new governance standards. Cheryl highlighted the fact that good governance was causing us problems, and whilst Nick agreed, he still felt it was the right thing to do (limit Board/Soc Cttee members to a 6 year "run"), but that we need to be more creative and proactive in who and how we recruit in future. We may well have to "tap people up" and also go on a PR offensive to get awareness out far wider than our traditional sources/audiences – for both the Board and Society Cttee.

Nick explained to everyone that Jon Bickley will also be stepping down in Sept, leaving another sales, marketing and comms gap. There was brief chat about the Society potentially having a much smaller governance and admin. role so that other Society Cttee. members could contribute more with the day to day running of the Club alongside the Board. Pete Mc is already reviewing and discussing this with the Society Cttee.

We discussed the need to focus on replacing (or subdividing) Jon's role as the key focus short term. Nick asked everyone to think about their networks and ask people to get involved in helping the club – with a specific role/ask – and how we need to avoid the duplication that currently happens between the Board and the Soc Cttee "shadow." We need creative solutions and asking internal audiences hasn't worked so we need to go external with PR etc.

**ACTION:** Pete to come back to the Board with Soc. Cttee thinking on revised role/scope for Soc. Cttee. to free up resource to fulfil any day to day/Board type roles due to the lack of resource

## **7. Actions from last Board & Board Minutes**

Carried forward:

- Nick/Oliver/Jane to review strategy document and begin planning new 10-year plan – carried over
- The minutes of the last meeting were accepted. Proposer: Cheryl, seconded by Andrew

## **8. AOB**

1. Bristol Rovers screen – nice idea to buy/take it but not timely, more pressing issues now. They may chase us wanting to get rid of it;
2. Roman Bar move – small group to meet and review proposed better location and use of smaller “shed” (Jane/Andrew/Shane). Some work also needed on how we manage bars at segregated games in future;
3. Admin. Role – Jane discussed her paper ref the need for a P/T admin. role to make the Club run more smoothly, lighten some workloads and have someone on site every day. Generally accepted as a good idea, Cheryl wondered if it might need more hours, Jane will review this and create a JD. The role would report to Jane with a dotted line into Paul. Chris flagged that whoever takes this role needs a sponsor, mentor, support and clarity of role. A unanimous vote was taken in support of this role;
4. Cheryl explained some long-serving supporters had recently passed and was there a way we could recognise this in some way at the start of the new season. A good idea and something to plan;
5. Jane suggested we give Carole and ST and that was universally accepted;
6. John R re-iterated the need, and our ability, to find people to fill the gaps, and also suggested he could help more by having a specific role to raise more funds for the football budget;
7. Cheryl made the point that the Foundation now has a donation page on the website;
8. Paul asked anyone interested in attending the League AGM on Sat 10 June to let him know;
9. Andrew said the new season shirt has been agreed and should be ready on site in time for the start of the new season.

**Date of next meeting – 26 June**