

Report on the Bath City FC Board Meeting

Monday 27 January

**Present:** Nick Blofeld**,** John Reynolds, Martin Powell, Paul Williams, Andrew Pierce, Shane Morgan, Jon Bickley, Michael Clayton, Joy Saunders

**Financial Adviser:** Chris Coles

**Observers:** Carole Banwell, Bob Chester

Kartini Sutoto attended for item 1 only

1. **Commercial**

Kartini was formally introduced to everyone and a discussion followed on her role and how she would work alongside Bob and gradually get introduced to sponsors/partners and pick up more of his commercial role.

Kartini will lead on the shirt sponsorship draw as a good way to get to know everyone and Bob is providing back up admin and personal introductions where possible. It was agreed to add a Platinum level to the shirt sponsorship deal.

Carole and Kartini are discussing and talking to potential sponsors of the Family Day and Kartini is working with Bob on formalising match day packages.

An advert for the Commercial Director role is now on the Society and Club websites and Michael also sent an email to Society members. Jon B has shared this on LinkedIn. Potential candidates for the Commercial Director role were also discussed.

BCFC has a LinkedIn page but it is not active. Kartini will investigate this and try and take it on.

Kartini left the meeting.

1. **Re-Development**

Our Planning Committee hearing is likely to be in March. The only real advantage of the delay is that it will give us more time to lobby and inform Councillors.

Nick and Chris will find out if the Club can see the review on Financial Viability and provide comments and feedback.

The Comms and PR Strategy draft document was reviewed with positive messaging on 3G public health findings being added.

The Mayor (Jerry Curran) is coming to the match on 22nd February and MP Wera Hobhouse to the 7th March game. We need to make sure we have director-level hosting in place for both.

Recent coverage in the national press was very good with the Mail and the Sun picking up on the Henry Winter article in The Times. We are also hoping for some TV coverage this weekend. We need local Twerton residents and businesses to be writing to local Councillors in support.

We remain light in the areas of project and property expertise and still need to find someone who would be able to sit down with Greenacre once permission has been received in the monthly meetings as part of the project team.

Joy left the meeting.

1. **Finance** **update**

Paul spoke about his report circulated before the meeting.

It was agreed that we can start selling season tickets in April or earlier to help plug the financial gap.

A lawyer who is an expert in financial fair play has approached us to help.

1. **Football update**

A date is in the diary for the end of season presentation evening and Carole is speaking with Jerry on how he wants it to run.

1. **Actions from last Board, Previous Board Meeting Minutes**
2. We are looking for sponsorship of Jerry and the back room staff.
3. Michael and Jon have agreed the wording of the job spec for the commercial director, it has been run past Nick and the Society are running the ad.
4. Supporters have been thanked on the website for the excellent recent attendances.
5. Jon has briefed Kartini on fundraising for the 3G pitch.
6. David James’ resignation has been received.
7. **Minutes of last meeting agreed. Proposer Shane, seconder John**
8. **Society update**

New recruitment posters are up.

The new membership system shows the Society has retained about 95% of its members in addition to 20 new members. New initiatives are to include increased match day visibility.

The Constitution project to ensure it is aligned with Club’s constitution and articles is nearing completion.

A request for a new treasurer has been advertised.

1. **Supporter update**

The Supporters Club were grateful to those who made generous donations for the away coach, which led to a big increase in numbers to Concord. There has been a big upturn in the away following at recent matches.

There were some concerns received, especially from off line supporters, about a perceived lack of communication from the Club regarding the first postponement of the replay with Concord.

There was only a recorded message at 6pm saying the match was on and many turned up to find the match postponed. We will look to ensure that recorded messages are updated nearer to kick off time in future.

Martin liaised with Carole and Paul and it was agreed that any Concord supporters travelling down on the new date will be given free admission.

Paul explained have been asked to comment regarding the smoke bomb thrown by some Bath supporters at Chippenham. The FA is currently taking no action but we must aim for this not to happen again. We are looking at video coverage but those responsible have not yet been identified. Discussion followed and it was agreed we advertise the National League’s “Smoke no joke” campaign before the next high profile match. This is regarded as a very serious issue as the smoke can be potentially fatal to some people. Shane emphasised that it will not be tolerated and this, along with any pitch invasion, may result in culprits being banned from the club along with possible police involvement.

The Club has been contacted by a supporter about homophobic language at the Concord away fixture. Supporters should be talking to stewards in first instance if abuse is heard but it was agreed that an article in the programme would be welcome.

1. **Key relevant/timely Working Group updates/issues**

Boband Joyhad circulated comprehensive reports.

It was felt that the Boxing Day attendance was not helped by 10 league matches being shown on social media at the same time.

Shane is creating a pre-event check list and a documented schedule of repairs for the ground as recommended by our insurer.

Martin explained that the recent Redevelopment design consultation with supporters will shortly be shared.

1. **AOB - included above**
2. **Date of next meeting**

24th Feb