

**Report on the**

**Bath City FC Board Meeting**

**22nd June 2020**

(Video/Conference call)

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

**Observers**: Chris Coles, Paul Brotherton (Society), Bob Chester. Jerry Gill joined for the first item.

1. **Football**

Jerry updated the Board on player availability, training plans for the play offs and relevant pay and bonus structures. He has provisionally booked a friendly at Yeovil, with the team driving themselves. A van will need to be sourced to transport equipment. The protocol around testing and deep cleaning was also discussed.

It was agreed that Jerry will let Andrew know when he will be using the pitch and will give Shane details of training plans, testing dates, protocols for loan players and anything necessary for COVID protocol paperwork.

Players on loan are being tested 2 times per week at their parent clubs. Jerry expects that 25 players and staff will need to be tested.

Jerry left the meeting at 7.40pm

1. **Financial situation** **update**

The cumulative costs of the play offs have been estimated at: Round 1- £17k; Semi Final - £23.5k; Final- £30K. This doesn’t include cleaning but does include some leeway for any necessary paperwork to be completed if necessary. An additional sum should be added for the back-room staff.

The League has asked BT Sports if they will be filming or streaming matches. Income from any coverage is not included in the figures above.

Shane is currently working on matchday paperwork and is looking to obtain copies of other clubs’ COVID policies for reference. He is also investigating whether BANES will require any match related paperwork. He will be liaising with the Safety Advisory Group over match day safety.

**Fundraising**

Crowdfunding is to be used to fund the play offs. The mechanism is already in place which can be used to raise either £17k or £34k as required, although there is obviously no way of judging the potential success.

Discussions are already underway with the relevant people about taking this to the supporters. It was agreed that it was important to show people how their donations will make a difference by itemising costs, where possible, for example: PPE, pay for a test, player’s expenses etc. Whilst players’ wages couldn’t be itemised, supporters may need reminding that they do have to be paid.

Some people have voiced concern to Martin that the playoffs will harm the Club’s long-term survival. There will be an opportunity at the Society Q & A Zoom session tomorrow to make it clear that this fundraising effort is separate to funding for the Club’s long-term viability.

Other fundraising mechanisms were also discussed, such as cut out figures in the stands. These will have a bigger appeal if game(s) are televised.

Virtual ticketing, our own filming for subsequent sale, live streaming, radio and online programmes were also touched on.

The Board voted in favour of the Club competing in the play-offs (1 abstention)

1. **Redevelopment**

A lot of work is going on currently, looking at various options to get the project back on track. A new Re-development Working Group was set up to help with this, and working with FWP.

Feedback from Turleys was that a re-submitted planning application will only be challenged on the 4 elements it was rejected on last time. If a significant element is removed, it will be seen as a new application. There are timing implications to a whole new application.

Nick has a call with the CEO of BANES next week and will ask for any relevant context while Chris has a discussion with Turley lined up.

A small group of directors will look again at the business plan.

It may be too early to tell but it’s important to understand whether there is still an institutional market for student accommodation. BMW and Pitmans are both reviewing their student units with student numbers dropping short term due to demographics and COVID impact, but Universities are still looking for small growth over a 3-5 years timescale.

Michael will ask James Pullen for his view on the impact of COVID on demand for student accommodation and of the Bristol Road applications.

1. **Football Foundation/Community**

Joy explained that the SLA agreement between the Club and the Foundation is being updated. The original contained the requirement for two Club directors on the Foundation board, with 25% control. Joy suggested that we move away from that, probably to one Director if that meets the requirements of the National League Trust. It was agreed that Joy will check with the NLT and then make the final call on whether it be one or two.

The Foundation also asked if they could use the stadium for post – COVID activities. The answer was yes, in theory, but we don’t yet know the practicalities.

Joy has been invited to a closed session with Wera Hobhouse MP on how we respond to the issues raised by the Black Lives Matter movement in Bath. It was agreed the Club would issue a statement to be produced by Joy, Nick and Jon.

1. **Previous actions/minutes**

Actions from the previous meeting had been completed.

The minutes were proposed by Martin Powell, seconded by Jon Bickley

1. **Supporters and Society Updates**

The Society is focussing on the 23rd June for its Q & A session, being optimistically cautious it will work with the technology. 80+ attendees have signed up so far. Some of the questions received already have been circulated to the relevant people. Helen will do a short piece about the Foundation to raise awareness.

Paul Brotherton has been working on the constitution to ensure it fits the new world and the necessary motions have been agreed.

1. **Working Group Updates**

Bob has people re-engaging with the shirt draw and feels it’s time to start moving that forward, although he is still not sure when next season will start. The online lottery now has 24 people joined up online and there is ongoing work to increase participation.

Shane reported that Webuyanycar are now back to fulltime hours, as are Arks & Sparks. Crossfit have started using the terracing on three days each week. They bring all their own kit and use the tunnel. This schedule won’t interfere with Jerry’s play-offs training plan.

1. **AOB**

Paul Williams explained that the Club has been asked about possible ground sharing with Bristol City Women next season, starting on 5th Sept behind closed doors.

Andrew has succeeded in obtaining the £1500 grant from the Football Foundation for pitch work so there are no costs to the Club until Christmas.

**Date of Next Meeting**: 20th July

Meeting ended 21:20