Report on the Bath City FC Board Meeting

Mon 24 May at 1900

Virtual

**Attendees:** Nick Blofeld (Chair), Cheryl Bradley, Matt Falk, Peter McCormack, Shane Morgan, Andrew Pierce, John Reynolds, Emma Sparks, Paul Williams

**Observers**: Bob Chester, Chris Coles, Carole Banwell, Jerry Gill

**Apologies:** Joy Saunders, Jon Bickley

1. **Football Update**

**Update by Jerry Gill**

JG gave an update on pre-season match arrangements, player discussions and changes in backroom staff (including some international conversations!). He emphasised the Club’s culture of developing both players and support staff and is happy about the way next season’s squad is shaping up. Our aim is a top three spot this year.

Home and away kit has been ordered and pictures will be circulated when available. Our first pre-season match will include an appreciation of the NHS. Jerry asked if some work could be done around the dug outs to make them less “messy.”

**ACTION:** Jerry & Andrew to consider options for improving the dugouts.

**Bristol City Women**

We have made it clear we are happy to host them again next season and await feedback.

**Pitch news**

A more advanced/expensive application was submitted to the FSIF before the end of the Women’s season, before we knew they had been relegated. The relegation means a return to the “plan A” solution (c£13k) with the majority of funding hopefully from the CIL. We still don’t know CIL’s decision yet, but are hopeful and will look to take up the Rec Ground Trust’s offer for the balance.

Work on the drainage is underway but was interrupted by mechanical failure which should be resolved by the end of Thursday.

We need new nets as current ones are 10 years old and broke a few times last season. £250-£300 per net.

**BCFC Women**

Joy is going to lead on this from BCFC. Sally Harris will bring a paper to the Board in July outlining what teams/initiatives are around and proposing a strategy. The women’s team which has emerged from the Youth girls is playing as “Bath City Women”. We have an MoU in place with Bath City Youth which may cover this.

**ACTION:** Carole to send MoU to Chris; Chris to consider and follow up alongside Nick.

1. **Re-Development** **Update**

There was a call last week with the Board and the Society. The Board carried the decision to pursue the McLaren project unanimously and the Soc Cttee by majority. McLaren is currently our tangible option on the table ready to support. It is 100% student accommodation and the urgency to support them was related to providing a joint (McLaren and BCFC) submission to the B&NES planners about the local plan consultation relating to PBSA at Twerton.

**ACTION:** Nick to draft a redevelopment update (with Jon B) to let supporters know what’s going on.

With regard to all the other options, there are no major changes.

We have also had three social impact investors referred to us, giving us lots of interesting options to explore with people who are energised by the project.

1. **Finance Update**

Paul spoke to the finance report circulated prior to the meeting. The Crowdfunder money was received today, which improves our cash flow position. We have applied for the bounce back loan to be paid back over 10 years rather than 5, which increases the interest rate but makes things easier. An adjustment needs to be made to take account of the season ticket holders’ decisions collated recently.

The League has asked for budgets to be submitted by 12 June. Any budgets now will be subject to significant variables. A small group will sense check the figures for Paul in advance.

**ACTION:** Jon, Nick, Chris to provide Paul with a sense check.

We await a response to our appeal to the FA on the fine. Provision has been made in the budget.

The League EGMtakes place on Wednesday – Quentin is attending on our behalf. The only resolution is the Vote of No Confidence. We are concerned that no alternative solution has been proposed. Supporting the VONC is consistent with our views 3 months ago. Further, the lack of minutes and opacity of decision making is sufficient reason for supporting the VONC. Reservations were expressed that there was no clear advantage to us in supporting the VONC as it is unlikely to pass.

VOTE: all in favour of supporting the Vote of No Confidence bar one abstention.

**Debtors‘ Repayment Comms Plan**

**ACTION**: Nick will circulate his draft letter to debtors, then phone to talk them through it.

1. **SAG Actions & Update**

SAG visit is arranged for 9.30am this Friday. All reports and actions have been completed, with just the SGSA report awaited. This may include helpful suggestions re capacity. We expect to have SAG’s response to the site visit within a week. Great work has been done by all on this, with some particular stars – 8 volunteers in total.

**ACTION**: Shane to lead appropriate “thank you” for the c8 grounds work volunteers. John Reynolds happy to host them.

1. **2000 BC,** **Commercial, Foundation & Community WG Updates**

Operationally it is difficult to finalise plans for match day while guidelines are still tbc, various contingency options have to be explored. The pre-order drinks app company has gone out of business since the last time it was used so alternatives being sought. The young match day volunteer team is ready to go.

Good Energy are interested in exploring how they can generate energy at Twerton Park so we are hopeful for a longer term partnership, with incentive for each supporter switching to them, which can be split between the supporter and the Club.

Options with PieMinister (Bristol based co.) are being explored. No contracts have been signed for catering next year but it was noted that Mobi-Q turn out for every match, including those where they most likely make a loss.

Bob spoke to his report circulated prior to the meeting. We have 44 entries for the Shirt Sponsors draw with 5 pending, it was recognised and acknowledged that this is an excellent result in the current climate, Bob was thanked again for his hard work.

Hoardings are all being re-negotiated for next season. Programmes won’t be on-line next year unless we have “closed” games for COVID reasons.

An update on **Community** issues was circulated prior to meeting. The vaccine bus delivered 46 vaccinations to people who would otherwise not received one.

We are also working with a local artist trying to improve Twerton High Street and she has galvanised several local people.

We have had a range of leads coming in for a CrossFit replacement, with some visits recently which may well bring in income from various spaces in the ground.

Jerry offered to meet potential commercial partners either at matches or in evening sessions.

**ACTION**: Matt to talk to Monkton Combe school about boys coming to matches. A contact at Millfield had also expressed an interest.

**Foundation** **Update**

The Foundation is currently engaging with 13-14 schools and looking at more. All their various programmes are up and running again. Via Sally, they have been engaging with the refugee community and looking to run some taster sessions. “Sporting Memories”, aimed at those with dementia, had a very successful session at Bristol and it’s hoped to expand that to Bath, which will tie in with other initiatives the Club hopes to support.

The new Operations Manager has had a flying start, connecting with various partners, reviewing existing projects, looking at infrastructure, staffing/apprenticeships and premises. It’s hoped we can find suitable office space for them to be based permanently at TP.

1. **Society & Supporter Update**

Emma is passing on the Chair at the next Society AGM although she will always be around to help out, especially on match days. Sally has sent in a paper on the election process and plans to recruit appropriately skilled directors to the board. A copy has been sent to Nick as well. The AGM is on 24 June, everyone welcome.

**ACTION**: Nick to respond to Sally’s note and share more widely.

Cheryl circulated a report in advance of the meeting.

**ACTION**: Cheryl and Emma to liaise with Jerry ref the next Meet the Manager session.

1. **Actions from Last Board, Previous Board Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed: proposed Andrew Pierce, seconded John Reynolds

Actions carried forward:

* + Hospitality packages for Crowdfunders need to include the ones from previous campaign as well
  + James Pullan picked up the action with Paul Fox rather than Nick

1. **AOB**

We should have a permanent celebration on the history of the Club and the progress of ex-players. Mark Stillman, Simon Howe (archivist) and Phil Tanner are the go-to people on this.

**ACTION**: Jerry & John to take this forward, lots in the cupboards which Carole can help with.

**ACTION**: Nick to help Matt with access to Chairman of Yeo Valley

1. **Date of next meeting**

21 June 7pm – hybrid meeting