Bath City FC Board Meeting

Monday 7th February 2022 at 19.00

Hybrid

**Attendees:** Nick Blofeld (Chair), Cheryl Bradley, Christopher Flanagan, Peter Headington, Shane Morgan, Andrew Pierce, John Reynolds, Joy Saunders, Paul Williams

**Apologies:** Jon Bickley, Chris Coles

**1. Football update**

Only one player was missing on the weekend. We picked up another injury during Saturday’s match, taking another player out for 2-3 weeks.

It was felt it was a better performance on Saturday, controlling much of the second half and being unfortunate to lose to a team with a good unbeaten run. Jerry was happy with the performance and pleased with the way the team adapted to the different game plan for the match.

**ACTION:** Nick/Andrew/Paul to arrange catch up with Jerry.

**2. Redevelopment**

EoI (Expressions of Interest) - of those originally sent packs, two submitted by the initial deadline. We have, however, extended the deadline to enable a new entrant to submit their bid, and communicated to the other parties. All three will then be reviewed at the same time and the strongest bids put to a panel thereafter. The panel will consist of representatives from the Club, the Soc, investors and the local community.

Given the commercial sensitivities around the process, no names were shared or will be made public. The Society is also aware of the need for confidentiality.

**3. Finance Update**

A report was circulated in advance of the meeting. The current rents provide a regular cash flow throughout the month and we are generally in a good position.

**Debt/Loan Extension**

The formal loan extension document has been finalised and now needs signing by the lenders. This will be done through a mix of emails and physically at the Club.

**ACTION:** Paul to arrange signatures.

**4. Values/Culture Project**

An update was **c**arried over and will be progressed before the next meeting in the absence of both Carole and Jon.

**ACTION:** JB/NB to look at shortlist for external facilitator in the interim.

**ACTION:** JS to catch up with Paul Brotherton on the governance docs and feed back to NB.

**5. Key Ops/SAG Points to Note**

A report was circulated prior to the meeting. The emergency lighting test has been completed, with only one light needing replacing. The Internal Fire Risk will be done next week.

**ACTION:** NB & SM to discuss whether we need to bring in additional resource/expertise in Facilities maintenance.

There have been no recent Covid cases within the team.

**ACTION:** JR/SM to complete the work on the Grandstand steps as soon as possible.

The Prince’s Trust to come in to complete some maintenance work within a week. Bath Property Maintenance (BPM) are intending to come along in first weeks of March with apprentices from Bath College to build a catering stand in the ground.

**ACTION:** PH to contact BPM for update.

BANES currently not offering a pre-application service for alcohol licences and will not give recommendations for solicitors. The application process is online and allows applications to be saved before they are submitted or paid for. We will try to complete the process without paid advice, although assistance will probably be needed on the technical drawing. We’ll have a clearer idea on this after the meeting with the police to discuss the application on 16th Feb.

There was no update on the survey on support for allowing alcohol in the ground. We are aware of some concerns raised in the survey, at the Society IMG and in person, but the majority remain in favour and it was re-iterated that we will run a trial. All but one of our colleague clubs restrict consumption to certain areas of the ground and we expect to do the same, with police agreement. Realistically, the first trial will be pre-season or next season.

**6. 2000 BC, Commercial, Community WG Updates**

Reports on each were circulated prior to the meeting.

1. **Commercial**

Bob Chester has decided to step down from Commercial team from the end of May, although he will stay involved with the roles he enjoys most, such as commentary and post-match interviews.

The Shirt Draw will be launched tomorrow and will be held on Wed 18th May (6.30pm for 7.30pm), deadline for applicants is Fri 13th May. This is the Commercial team’s current priority and they are aiming to exceed last year’s numbers.

Ian McKay has done a great job on implementing the new CRM system.

**ACTION:** PH/NB to catch up on potential companies to add to the Shirt Sponsors draw .

**ACTION:** PH to collate and circulate the newly arrived results of the Bath Uni survey.

1. **Community**

Work incudes events during National Autism week and the “My City My Shirt” campaign, with further updates to follow in due course. The last Foundation board meeting made clear all is going well, with the Foundation being able to look ahead to bring more stability. JS will catch up with Mandy over the next month.

1. **Bath City Youth – Tournament and Women’s Football**

The only available dates for their end of season tournament to allow for pitch repairs is 14th/15th May. A call to be arranged which covers the event, questions of cost etc, the Women’s Team, and wider relationship. The Foundation should also be involved in the call due to their interest and likely key involvement in the Women’s Team.

**ACTION:** AP to draft response & run past Nick . PH, JS, NB, AP, Foundation on the call with BCY.

**5. Society & Supporter Update**

Reports were circulated in advance of the meeting.

1. **Society Committee Update**

Thanks were given to Nick and Jon for their support on the IGM. The Committee is researching options on various scenarios if the redevelopment doesn’t work out in full, as a contingency. There is also work to update the election policy to reflect the AGM motion that Directors should be elected to specific named roles. More needed to determine how that works in practice.

The Football Supporters Association has offered online training, anyone interested should let Christopher know.

The new loan agreement paperwork should be sent to the Society inbox.

**ACTION:** CF to get back to NB to clarify point 1 in the Society minutes for Nov 21.

The Board noted the Society’s call for more decisions to be taken by votes. It has been the Board’s practice to develop and move forward through consensus but it will respect the Society’s request.

The Society has a budget for attracting new members, some of which will be spent on advertising hoarding at the Club.

Wera Hobhouse is a supporter of the Club and is coming to 5th March match, providing an opportunity to introduce Society Committee members.

1. **AO Supporter Feedback/Ideas/Concerns**

There are no real issues but a general disappointment about the way the season has panned out.

A memorial page for supporters on website has been suggested and the idea was supported.

**ACTION:** CB to talk to Simon about setting up the memorial page/s on the website.

The away coaches are becoming an issue, the Maidstone coach had to be cancelled. Jerry is keen for more away support. Coach users are usually the same people, with an ageing demographic and a general reduction in travel. Covid a main issue alongside the cost of coach, replacing coach with a minibus doesn’t reduce price significantly, as most of the cost is in hours and some supporters won’t travel on minibus. Will try changing departure times, make more of a day out of it etc. Some concern that younger supporters don’t want coaches.

**ACTION:** CB to give PH details of prices/numbers for coaches to help shape an offer to sponsors.

**ACTION:** JR /CB to talk about how to raise funds in the closed season for next season and how to engage with new supporters.

**6. Actions from Last Board & Board Minutes**

Actions not completed or covered elsewhere:

**ACTION:** NB to chase Savills Bristol and LHS for dates to visit and value the ground.

Minutes of the last meeting were accepted: proposer Joy Saunders, seconder Andrew Pierce.

**7. AOB**

There’s to be a national campaign by the League/National Lottery offering two-for-one tickets for matches 26th March & 2nd April. Notice was received today of a meeting on Wednesday for Clubs & their media teams to explain.

**ACTION:** PW to see if JB can go, if not send details to AP.

**8. Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 7th March