

Bath City Board Meeting  
1900 Monday 17th April 2023  
Hybrid

**Attendees:** Jon Bickley (Chair), Nick Blofeld, 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:** Jane Jones

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

### **1.1 Redevelopment Update**

Joy began with an outline of the current position, as circulated prior to the meeting.

The Board was asked to confirm in principle the exclusivity agreement with the potential redevelopment partner. This was discussed at length, but we await the financials. Pete will report back to the Society.

Debt repayment was also discussed in relation to the 3G.

### **1.2 3G**

An update on the current position was circulated before the meeting. The consultation period ended 15<sup>th</sup> April. We received 66 positive supporting statements from Bath City supporters and Bath City Youth and we understand from the Council that Joy's content went down very well. We are not aware of any objections from Councillors. A potential issue from Ecology has been resolved. While timing is incredibly tight it is still possible for us to install the 3G this summer.

The CIL funding application has been submitted, decision is due June/July which would be too late for contractors to start. Other funding sources still being looked into.

We expect to hear from the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) in the next couple of weeks re our expression of interest and whether we are into the next round. The Government is trying to get this fund dispersed quickly, there are requirements regarding a charitable purpose vehicle and that profit does not go to shareholders. There are a variety of ways this could work and Stone King are providing free legal advice regarding setting up a CIC.

Peter will report back to the Board re the CIC by the end of the month and on where we are on moving forward this year. It was highlighted that there is a lot to do and it is complicated, so we should not rush this!

JS left the mtg.

## **2. Football Update**

### **2.1 Men's Update**

Some good news on new contracts being signed and on injuries, three players back within the next week, another within a fortnight so could be back to full bench within a couple of weeks.

## **2.2 Women's Update**

The team had a tremendous season finishing 2<sup>nd</sup>. A huge thank you to everyone, particularly Jane, Peter, Carole and Shane. We have applied for promotion. There will be appreciation of the team on the pitch before the crowd at the Oxford game. The players are euphoric and can't wait for the next season.

Jane has plans for a 2<sup>nd</sup> development team next season. It will depend on recruitment but we do have the funding. Jane will give details in due course.

## **3. Finance Update**

There was positive news on cashflow. The fundraising Andrew and Jon initiated for the multi-season Season Tickets produced extra income, plus Sponsors Draw and Partners Tournament income.

Income and expenditure figures in the budget are about right. We will have VAT liability in July.

The outside bars have made a big difference. In total, all 4 bars made good takings at the Taunton match and the Sunday afternoon Chippenham/Bath football league match.

Curo have agreed to renew car parking again next year, but it hasn't yet been agreed whether this will be paid in a lump sum or monthly. There has also been interest from a construction company looking for 5 cars initially then maybe 10-20 regularly and maybe meetings.

With Yeovil about to be relegated and other SW teams in the league, next season will be interesting with good crowds driven by more derbies.

Paul will be producing revised figures for the League by 10<sup>th</sup> June and figures for auditor by end of May to get accounts signed off. There will be a new budget by the next Board meeting.

## **4. Sales & Mktg. and Commercial Team Update**

### **4.1 Commercial**

Peter circulated highlights since the last Board meeting in advance and including that we are on track to meet the target for this year and a request for as many as possible to attend the Shirt Sponsorship Draw on 19<sup>th</sup> May (5pm onwards).

Carole has resigned and will be leaving at the end of the season. She has been doing terrific work as partnerships manager, doing most of the work dealing with advertisers and sponsors as a result of which we have 59 companies signed up.

A replacement will need to be found to cover this side of Carole's work, though the role needs to be better defined. Oliver has done a draft on the 3G role, which is with Pete & Nick.

Carole and Peter have another meeting to look at larger sponsorship deals before she leaves. Smaller deals are easily covered by Will, who does match day hospitality, and it was recognised the amount of revenue he has brought in. He could potentially be employed over the summer to deal with existing hoardings and programme ads, with Stuart still around for new ones. Will moves away in September. Any suggestions for people who might be suitable from September to be given to Peter.

Carole's departure will be announced in the programme and her huge contribution to the Club over 6 years recognised at the May match.

#### **4.2 2000BC**

Season ticket sales have been slightly slower than usual so far this year, with around 65 sold.

#### **5. Key Ops/Facilities/SAG Actions**

Most of the 2016 emergency lights passed a recent test but most of the 2021 ones failed. Replacements are being done next week. There is a fire alarm test on 5<sup>th</sup> May and barrier testing which will need some expenditure. Momentum need to come back in to do a structural maintenance certificate.

Alex's accident has gained a lot of coverage. We weren't blamed for having walls, but it was flagged as an issue. The coverage was organised by the PFA in both physical papers and online..

TP standards are above those required by the rules & regulations and it came across that we were supportive of the campaign to remove physical walls. It is down to the League/PFA to get government movement on removing walls. Thousands of clubs have the same and if the FA or government come out and say they must be removed, they will need to fund the work or clubs will be bankrupted.

Paul is aware of a company looking at a proposal for an insulated/foam-based barrier and how advertising could be put on it. He thought they had a prototype but has not heard much recently, suspects they are finding it harder than expected. New 3Gs and new grounds tend to have tubular posts and mesh, which may be the answer. We have an opportunity with the 3G project to find a safer alternative than walls within the existing regulations, also bearing in mind the pitch will be used in different ways eg 5 a-side. The requirement is only for a permanent physical barrier.

Shane wasn't happy with SGSA comments given that they have been to the ground 2-3 times without comment, and that HSE and Council had both found us compliant.

There is no update on work on the floodlights. It isn't a sticking point for 3G but will be expensive and LEDs can't be done until pylons sorted. We could just do LED on 2 pylons.

**ACTION:** Paul to get a quote on doing the 2 pylons.

Some concern regarding work on the flood damaged toilets in Charlie's as Midford Manor are hiring rooms at the end of May. John advised that all the quotes have been done, tiles and bitumen in the toilets have been rated as asbestos. The insurance company should have sorted that. In main foyer, similar tiles are covered by carpet. Company is coming in tomorrow to quote for removal. Insurance agreement needed then a contractor appointed before work can be done. Charlie's is usable aside from the toilets issue. The dance floor ceiling is going to be a suspended ceiling. The quote is to include insulation so we can go into roof space and lag pipes.

**ACTION:** Carole, Paul, John & Shane - decision over whether we can proceed with the function at the end of May and if not, Paul to look at whether the loss of income can be included in the insurance claim.

## **6. Society & Supporter Update**

### **6.1 Recruitment Drive**

New people with relevant experience for Board and Soc. Cttee - we need a big drive to bring in new blood as some people are moving on and others are tired after giving everything for years. Peter & Nick will get together to try to get a shortlist of skills & people but we need a real push to get more energy and enthusiasm to push on to the next level. Everyone was asked to think of right people who could be approached on finance, commercial, sales & marketing and HR for both the Board and the Society Committee. Further discussions needed, and maybe also consult the charity that specialises in advising community owned FCs re governance.

**ACTION:** Pete & Nick to discuss

The Society is going through massive change, with 6 members stepping down by June.

The new term limits impact now, and we need to keep the right balance between experience and "new blood" and thinking, and sensible workloads. Paul Brotherton has already had thoughts on this issue so worth getting his input and a small group formed to take this forward.

**ACTION:** Ongoing agenda item.

### **6.2 Meeting/Dealing with Unhappy Supporters & Social Media Issue**

Cheryl advised that those who 'protested' on Saturday by putting flags upside down are happy to come and talk to Board members. There have been inappropriate comms on social media and directly. Cheryl was not aware of the 'protest' until notified by Nick on the Friday.

**ACTION:** CB to set up meeting for proper conversation with 'protestors'. Fridays generally work best for Nick, will be as transparent as possible. Nick also happy to do piece to camera if needed.

**ACTION:** Nick to follow up on social media issue.

It was noted that an online campaign is damaging to the Club, creates a poor atmosphere in the ground, and is damaging to players and the manager. There are opportunities for supporters to come in and air their grievances, ie talk to directors, meet the manager sessions.

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

Carried forward:

- Nick to coordinate email back to Pete ref members note – Nick to revisit
- Nick/Oliver/Jane to review strategy document and begin planning new 10-year plan
- Peter/Jane looking into CIC and all to think of good people to lead it
- Shane to check re re-certification – Nick to follow up with SM

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted. Proposer: Paul Williams, seconded John Reynolds.

## **8. AOB**

None

**Date of next meeting – 25th May**