



Bath City Board

29 April 2025 Hybrid

Attendees: Nick Blofeld (Chair), Jane Jones, Andrew Pierce, Paul Williams, Shane Morgan, John Reynolds, Debbie King, David Mathews, David McDonagh, Tom Benjamin, Dan Smith, Christopher Flanagan (as Supporters Society rep.)

Apologies: Pete McCormack, Chris Coles

1. Football

Men's

Darren gave a detailed presentation of what he set out to do when he joined and where we ended the season, in a much-improved position, both literally in the league and culturally – the environment amongst the players and staff is hugely improved. He also discussed his thinking and plans for 2025/26 season for the squad and some minor changes with the support staff, eg an intern from Loughborough Uni as analyst.

With some players committed to contract extensions via appearances and with the extensions already announced we are probably c5 loan players away from the squad for next season and these will happen "last minute" as Clubs decide who will be available to us after their pre-season. Darren is determined to ensure we get the right characters and blend of experience and youth across the squad, and the right skill set and commitment from any loan players. The key focus is on a reliable goal scorer now, and we have already become difficult to beat and good at keeping clean sheets.

The Board thanked Darren for his efforts, impact and the environment he has created, both on and off the pitch. Lee Kendall has agreed to stay and Darren spoke of the "world class" support he has had from his own team, the supporters and other members of the Club.

Actions: It was agreed we should **announce Lee staying** and that an **end of season Chair's message to supporters** would be good

There was a lengthy discussion on the potential kit deals/choice and after much debate it was agreed overall Macron was probably the best choice, as the kit itself is paramount, the relationship is good, and they are "local" (Cardiff). Next steps were to try and improve the Macron financials, agree a 3 (not 5) year deal and get some feedback from other clubs they supply. The **new kit is needed by the end of June**, so we **have about a week to agree terms and also finalise St Austell** on the back of shirt.

The pitch was briefly discussed and Andrew explained we have made the changes we can do for now (sand injections etc) pending a serious review/discussion ref replacing the drainage and/or going to 3G next summer. We also need to plan how to reduce our water consumption, as there is no leak, but the consumption in high and Wessex Water hadn't been reading the meter.

Women's

Jane gave an update on the season and rightly highlighted again the imbalance in time and resource spent between the men's and women's teams, and this needs to be addressed. She hadn't chased the rota for Directors to attend women's games but felt we needed this for next season unless there is a natural shift and support from other Directors.

David Ma said he thought he could have a solution for dedicated **marketing support** and Debbie volunteered to help with admin support, alongside drafting **brief JD's** for the Uni of Bath (UoB) Student Union to see if we can source volunteers there (David McD is meeting them 15 May).

The Final of the Somerset FA Junior Cup against Weston super Mare is 1930 at Brislington FC this Thursday (1 May) and all Directors are encouraged to be there. Sadly, the Dev't Squad recently lost in their semi.

2. Board Minutes & previous Actions

- There is still **no SLA with BCY** and Christopher suggested using ChatGPT to create a draft around a license and the use of the brand (Nick to do)
- **MOBQue** is again considering running **Romans** and a food/coffee outlet
- The **extra container/bar** between the stands for the new season is still in the pipeline (Andrew/Shane/Debbie)
- We have the next Uni of Bath sustainability meeting 15 May, when we also discuss PR'ing what we are doing together

Last month's Board minutes - Proposer: John; Seconded: Andrew

- Playing and overall budget now overdue and agreed to do by mid-May and arrange a separate call to approve (David McD)
- David Ma has done the Safeguarding course online and Jane agreed to re-send for others to complete

3. Finance

Paul and Debbie shared the updated P&L and forecast for the year. The good news is that we have a bookkeeper, Claire Cowley who has now started.

Actions: Paul to confirm **playing budget** and David McD to set up call to sign off **overall budget**.

4. Workstreams

Redevelopment – little to update as we are still waiting for workshop with interested parties, hopefully in early June. Still reasonably positive but a very slow burn. And 3G planning takes us until Oct 2026.

2000BC – as we were running late David Ma gave a brief update and planned to send a summary out after the Board. Getting us better organised as a Board/mgt. team, via simpler comms/an easily accessible diary is something he, Dan and Tom are looking at. Nick said he found the fortnightly mgt. meetings and subsequent notes useful previously (it could easily be virtual). David is looking at an intranet and the calendar will come with Sharepoint (there is simple one on the website Shane informed us).

We have sold 201 STs, but are not sure on the comparison versus last year. We also need to tidy up info/data on the multiyear ST holders who bought them – and what was included in their “package.” We also need to check car parking commitments and pricing ahead of next season – although they are very limited! A brief discussion was had about the possibility of charging/managing those using the car park without permission – a tricky one to solve cost effectively?! Might Just Park work?

Operations/H&S – Shane had sent a note flagging key issues and costs (nothing significant currently). The trees that need removing on the Popular Side to enable access to the roof to see what might need doing there is the biggest concern. A Structural Maintenance report is needed once we can access the area/roof and we will need a contingency.

The **water leak** wasn’t a leak but Wessex Water “guessing” our usage for too long and our inefficient watering system. We are now asking for relief/“leak allowance” to write off a significant amount of the debt accumulated.

We now have 2 quotes for filling the main **pot holes** in the car park. John had one for £3k which he will double check, versus Debbie’s at £10k. They use different techniques and one has their own lorry which makes a big difference.

Commercial – Tom had sent through a short deck of the key points

The sponsors draw was launched, but we will change the date so Darren can attend (he has hols 23 May - 3 June) and we can make it more of an event – Q&A session on the football, club etc, maybe with a.n.other high-profile person. Entry will be £420 and target is 100 entrants.

Actions: all to come up with ideas and contacts and companies to invite to the sponsors draw and feed them through!

5. Society & Supporters

Christopher reminded us that their AGM is 25 June and deadline for elections is 30 May. Roles up for replacement are Chair, Mktg Dir, Community Dir, SLO and Ops Dir. We have co-opted Dirs in the first 3 roles already and this was made clear in comms to members. No other Ops Dir or SLO candidate has currently put their name forward, both the Chair and Ops Dir are already passed their agreed terms according to the existing governance (of 2x3 years terms).

James carlin as unable to make his final Board meeting for personal reasons, and the Board thanked him for his time, effort and support, and are pleased he is continuing his connection by remaining on the Supporters Society Cttee.

6. Safeguarding

We are delighted that Lee Williams has agreed to be the Welfare Officer for Men’s Football. Jane will re-send the safeguarding online course so that other Dirs can compete this.

7. AOB

- i) The student "Varsity" game is evening of 7 May, but it will be just Uni of Bath playing this time, as we work with them to create a stronger proposition – a match vs Uni of Bristol might be ideal, as per the Uni Staff game the following day;
- ii) The league dinner e mail was sent out and Paul is happy to attend the meeting, but if anyone else is keen to go to the dinner please let him know;
- iii) Dan asked about questions for the Supporters Survey, and it was agreed that we should largely stick to the established questions for comparison purposes and tweak a few more specific/relevant ones at the end. Dan will share these closer to the time for feedback;
- iv) Wessex Water are onsite this week, but there is no leak, it is high usage due to pitch watering and we believe estimates rather than reading the meter!
- v) John is getting a quote to fix the toilet

8. Dates of next meetings: 27 May & 23 June