



## Bath City Board Meeting

1900 Monday 19 Aug 2024

Hybrid

**Attendees:** Debbie King (guest), Nick Blofeld (Chair), James Carlin, Andrew Pierce, Paul Williams, , Chris Coles, Jane Jones, Pete McCormack, Shane Morgan, Peter Headington; John Reynolds

Apologies: Gareth Cooper, Caroline White

### 1. Football – Men's

Jerry talked through the key points around the start of the new season. The squad is 17 strong, plus 2 Youth players and one non-contracted. A Leadership Group has now been set up, with 6 players, with a cross-section of characters/experience (Kieran, Jack, Alex, Scott, Latrell and Jordan). They are to help provide feedback from the players to suggest improvements across the football dept. Their first question of the Board was could we find a room for their families on matchdays, as quite a few have young children (JR Lounge was a thought, tbc as there are other ideas for that space – Peter H to feedback). Nick made the point that we are also thinking we should have a (volunteer) Welfare Officer in future.

Latrell and Ewan are also both coaching with the Foundation now, which all agreed was good news.

The injury situation is ok currently, with only Zac Smith a serious concern, as his knee could be a long-term problem (tbc post MRI). Nick Grimes is available after the suspension from the end of last season.

Jerry said the group seem "tight" and in good spots again, similar to last season even with the personnel changes. We are allowed 5 subs this season.

Jerry said we still need a goal keeping coach, but that is within the budget submitted. We discussed and agreed the football budget for 2024/25.

### Women's

Jane gave an update and said the squads are just about finalised. Warminster's Team has folded, and we have picked up 4 of their players. There are 23 in the 1<sup>st</sup> Team squad and 21 in the Dev't squad, all unpaid, and some have dropped down from the 1<sup>st</sup> Team for personal reasons (ie couldn't commit to hours needed etc).

Matt still leads the Women's 1<sup>st</sup> Team squad with Callum (an ex goalkeeping coach) leading the Dev't squad – and Callum oversaw the 8-0 win at the weekend!

The league starts 1 Sept, but we have a FA Cup game against Bitton that day at TP, and we need to promote and drum up support for that as it will be a lively game!

We have had some response for volunteers to help promote the Women's football, to run our social media etc and to give a bit of a break to Dave and Mark so they don't have to cover both men's and women's matches, media etc. Daisy is now helping with S&C, an introduction from Aaron. We have a physio who joined with the demise of Larkhall Women's team.

The culture is very much "serious but fun!"

Nick suggested the need for Jane to become Women's Football Director, as that is her main role and it would be sensible and also send out the right message about our focus on Women's football. One to add as part of the Board skills set suggested in the end of season review/EPP (see below).

If the 1<sup>st</sup> Team get promoted again their costs will go up and there may be small costs/payments to players. The collapse of women's teams is generally down to i) loss/lack of players and ii) cash/costs, so we need to keep planning well in advance and avoid these becoming issues.

**Actions:** JR Lounge potential for players families tbc (Paul, Shane, Jane, Peter and John to discuss);

## **2. Finance**

Paul shared the updated budget ahead of the Board, with revisions after previous feedback, ie more confidence on attendances and slight reduction in football cost, to show progress versus 2023/24 season. After a brief discussion this was accepted and approved by all.

Chris said how pleased he was to see the new format and detail now shared monthly, and other Directors reiterated that point. July is up versus budget due to 2 unexpected player sales and commercial deals that are front loaded. August is now expected to be behind budget due to an overhead "hit" - insurance and barrier works.

The **AGM is 9 Sept** and Paul will aim to get the info/papers out at the end of this week/start of next.

**Actions:** AGM info out (Paul); Paul and Gareth to meet ref the commercial projections/timings; Nick, Jane and Gareth to discuss commercial partners evolution

## **3. Workstreams - as per those issued & additional points**

- i) Short-Term Finance - completed;
- ii) 3G – Crowdfunding idea discussed (donations not loans) as a way to PR the Club, raise 3G funding ; engaging with our supporters on this will be key again, but the plan is to reach far wider than our supporter base, who we don't expect to raise these funds; charity/CIC status discussed due to the tax relief benefits (3G CIC was set up); Paul will speak to Tonbridge next weekend about how they did their fundraising; Larkhall's pitch is reportedly laid;
- iii) Wider Audience – Caroline sent a full mktg. update; some attachments couldn't be opened;
- iv) Football Strategy Workshop – still tbc but EPP said they would run a session and introduce some of their relevant contacts; interim feedback on the end of season review was very positive around the Filton training facilities, a review of the Board's skill should probably be done.

## **4. Society & SLO Update**

James sent an update with these points: concern expressed over unnecessary segregation for the away game at Boreham Wood and heavy-handed stewarding. This was discussed and segregation is their new "normal" apparently. The misogynistic behaviour of Welling fans and management will be

followed up, and the Club will write to the League (Jane and Shane to draft). A small group of volunteers were back in painting the exterior of Charlie's, with the paint kindly supplied via Supporters Society funds. Thanks again to the SS and volunteers! There was a discussion if any other clubs in our league offer a community transport style minibus service for isolated/older/disabled fans, but no one knew of any.

We again discussed creating a Volunteer Dir. role as co-ordinating volunteers and this should be part of the review of the Board skill set.

Shane has raised the idea of a "Behind the Scenes"/open training session at Filton for supporters via the Supporters Club and will gauge feedback and then look at dates with Jerry and James.

## **5. Commercial and Operations**

We have our Safety certificate. Thanks to Shane and others for achieving this, it is rarely straightforward! The Structural Maintenance review will be required next year and we need to try and do whatever pre-emptive work we can in advance to get through that process. **Shane and John to meet and discuss.**

Gareth was away but sent up update and the financials read well. At the last Board we said we would look at evolving further the **traditional sponsorship deal** versus selling elements "bit by bit" as we have historically – we now have two good shirt sponsors in place. **Gareth, Nick, Jane & Caroline to meet up/discuss.**

**Re-location of the shop** – Board update needed.

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

Carried over from last Board:

1. Plans for JR Lounge to be discussed and agreed (Peter H?)
2. The Twerton Lush event (31 Aug/1 Sept) support/plan still tbc & insurance check
3. We need to replace the "fire exit" sign and ensure they are safe/fit for purpose

**Proposer:** Shane and **seconded** by Shane.

## **7. AOB**

- i) Very aged & broken turnstiles need fixing/replacing! Can we find some second hand from a club being redeveloped?
- ii) Programme – content and accuracy concern, hopefully an early season issue but it needs resolving. Who leads this now tbc??

**Date of next Board meetings:** 23 Sept (to avoid a potential FA cup replay on 17 Sept); 28 Oct (to avoid Weymouth at home on 22 Oct); 18 Nov & 16 Dec