



Bath City Board Meeting

1900 Monday 17 June 2024

Hybrid

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

Apologies: John Reynolds

The focus of the Board was again on the Workstreams with each leader/s sharing updated documents ahead of the Board, and that process is to be continued!

1. Foundation

James gave a full update on the Foundation and the progress made, which was also covered in a separate, comprehensive note shared with the Board immediately after the meeting.

This was James' last Board as CEO of the Foundation and he was officially thanked for his significant contribution to improving the Foundation, its impact and its financial security in his time there. He will be having some time off over the summer and then looking to start a new role in the Autumn. He is also standing to join the Supporters Society Cttee.

A new CEO will be appointed fairly quickly, following an interview process, with a strong internal candidate.

2. Finance

Paul shared the interim actuals for 2023/24 and a draft for 2024/25 budget which was followed with a good discussion around both. 2023/24 is showing a small profit, which is a great achievement, and well done to everyone on this.

It was agreed we really needed the new fixtures to make the final calls for 2024/25, so we will issue and agree the budget asap after the fixtures are out on the 10 July. Paul is keen to catch up with Gareth on the commercial projections and the We Buy Any Car deal needs a review and new agreement.

Key points of note were: Squad Builder contributed c£24k (which was really good, but other clubs do manage to raise even more); we also think there is more scope with the Lotto. And merchandise also offers an opportunity, but we need to get the risk/reward right, with a sensible range, and sizing can be a challenge. Signage and visibility of the shop is another thing to work on. We need to officially thank the Supporters Club for their contribution again as well.

The kit/shirt announcement is with Caroline/mktg. to approve and get BSU's ok to announce.

Actions: Relaunch the Lotto and Squad Builder and share info/results for 2023/24 at AGM. (Paul/Caroline/Jane). Nick to formally thank the SC. Paul and Gareth to meet and run through the commercial projections in more detail asap.

3. Football –strategy, squad & budget

Men's - Jerry was on holiday so didn't attend and Paul gave an update on recruitment, which is going quite well, despite us losing some we would have liked to keep because of higher offers elsewhere. However, some have chosen to stay despite better offers, which is a good sign for the club and that the squad remain close.

We did agree to see a breakdown of the overall structure, and this is still needed for the budget – ie players and support team.

Women's – Jane gave a full update and Callum will be staying on as Development Team coach, which is good news. There was a League meeting that night to confirm their promotion. There are 10 new teams this year, including a newly formed women's team.

There won't be a recruitment day this year, with two strong squads and awareness is good. Bristol Rovers got promoted but have abandoned their Development Team and are keen to build a relationship with us.

Actions: Full breakdown of men's playing budget, including support team and roles still needed

4. Workstreams: as per those issued

- i) Short-Term Finance - budget tbc as above; next Board date chosen to allow new management info to be shared (**Boards will now be third Thursday each month**);
- ii) 3G – still looking at sources of funding and speaking with other clubs;
- iii) Wider Audience – mktg. budget tbc; discuss/agree new/extra mascot tbc; "Paint the Park" weekend 6/7 July; "ambassador" idea for Unis agreed as a good idea;
- iv) Football Strategy Workshop – still tbc with EPP (with Nick)

As per this June Board, each leader/s of the Workstreams to update/share Excel doc. ahead of the Board meeting.

5. Society & SLO Update

Society - Caroline applied to be elected as Mktg. Dir., no applicants for Chair or Ops. Dir. Roles. Pete has spoken to Nick and Shane about extending their tenures, and both have provisionally agreed, exact timing/details tbc.

The AGM is 26 June, it is quite low key with no motions suggested.

SLO - James said we had c50 attending the "Paint the Park" weekend, a very good response/turnout.

6. Commercial and Operations

Barrier testing and strengthening will be done 10-12th July, costings as previously shared (£13.4k). EICR testing was done 3-7th June, we failed some elements, but none were C1 (ie critical). C2's need to be done in order to get EICR certificate (cost £3k). The remedial works needed to rectify C2's and get our certificate are £1.8k (to be done 25-28th June).

Fire Alarm Service should have been done, but due to sickness delayed until 24th June (no additional cost as part of ongoing contract). PAT testing due end of June, SAG meeting will be 2nd July.

The **sponsors draw date is still tbc**, but £11k tickets sold to date (target is £15k). Idea of doing at first friendly was raised, Gareth to confirm. £150k target for 2024/25, Paul and Gareth to meet, review and agree. The BSU and BCY sponsor agreement is a first, and good news. It took some time but worth it and all agreed now.

7. Minutes & Actions from last Board & Board Minutes

Changes to Roman's serving window and F&B on Grandstand side tbc asap for start of new season. Peter H plans to offer teas/coffees in JR Lounge, and other ideas for it to be discussed with John R. A shortage of volunteers remains a key issue, the point was made that **should we have a Volunteers Director to provide focus?**

Proposer Jane, seconded by Shane.

8. AOB

1. We need a safeguarding push and to appoint a Safeguarding Officer. Jane volunteered to pick this up and be the Board Safeguarding Champion;
2. We are now FA accredited, because of the need to be so for the Women's teams
3. Prem. League funding has gone from £4.9k to £6.3k for 2024/25.
4. AGM dates still tbc (Paul)

Date of next Board meetings 18 July