



Bath City Board Meeting

1900 Monday 28 Oct 2024

Hybrid

Attendees: Nick Blofeld (Chair), James Carlin, Andrew Pierce, Paul Williams, Jane Jones, Pete McCormack, Caroline White, Chris Coles, Shane Morgan

Apologies: John Reynolds, Debbie King (guest), Gareth Cooper

1. Football

Men's

Jerry handed out a note and talked through the current results, injuries and the potential to bring in Josh Phillips for a month to provide some cover and more creativity. He pointed out we had done nothing different to last season yet had had a terrible run of injuries and they are looking into everything to avoid it happening again.

Ewan Clarke will be out for 5 weeks after his operation on 11 November. Zach Smith is out for the season, Elliott Frear for 2-3 weeks and Billy Phillips is available again. A number of players returning from injury are having to manage their loads. 13 contracted players are now available and we should have the right players in their right positions again now.

The request to bring in Josh Phillips from Luton (19) was approved, despite some concern over his youth, inexperience and travel challenges.

Jerry highlighted our inability to compete for the best players in the league due to other Clubs out spending us on salaries.

Jerry left the meeting after his agenda point.

Women's

Jane's update was that although it is early in the season Glos seemed likely to run away with the League, but they are reliant on students, which may come back to bite them in the Uni holidays.

The 1st Team need a bit of luck with goal scoring as they have missed too many opportunities created. The Development Team is now doing ok.

Our big initial squad (45) has proved useful as we have now lost a few (6), mostly to work and family commitments.

Player sponsorship has raised c£5k so far and some players do still need sponsoring to enable them to play.

Caroline and Jane met Jack Loomie who should be able to help on social media for the Women's teams. BSU are also helping much more now, with Lizzie's students contributing on the commentary and media/interviewing.

We have had no more crowd issues and Graham Weeks helped when Jane was away.

Jane will now become the club's first Women's Football Director, and we will recruit a new Community Dir. to enable her to focus on this demanding and time consuming role.

Actions: JR Lounge potential for players families tbc (Paul, Shane and Jane?);

Minutes & Actions from last Board & Board Minutes

Reading through the minutes the outstanding actions not covered elsewhere are: Leadership Group role/remit definition (Jerry); account management plan for the larger sponsors (Gareth, Nick & Jane); final date for partners tournament tbc (Gareth/Andrew)

Proposer: Paul and **seconded** by Andrew.

3. Finance

Paul shared the updated P&L forecast with actuals for Sept ahead of the Board and talked it through. The crowds remain slightly down on budget and Oct isn't quite where we want it to be yet but could be there at month end. We all need to keep working on revenue generating ideas, the Partners tournament is one of those and we now have date options for that the end of the season.

4. Workstreams - as per those issued & additional points

i) 3G/Redevelopment – Nick, Paul, Andrew and Debbie met with Synergy and Stride Treglown to get a more accurate figure for a full phase I of a redevelopment – ie properly planned 3G, café, decent toilets, floodlights etc – and this will be available in a few weeks. No other progress since the last Board.

We are keeping in touch with BSU ref their plans near Twerton for a training centre, but 3G at TP is about protecting games and cashflow as well as generating revenue; the Crowdfunding idea needs working up and Nick, Debbie will look into this; we have been in touch with PST and Andrew knows them from earlier conversations ad comms (and also knows Slatters);

ii) Wider Audience – as per Caroline's note circulated; Tiffin situation still tbc by Gareth, Cheryl & Nick; **revenue from stags and parties does seem worthwhile so we need to plan how to manage these**

iii) Football Strategy Workshop – tbc (EPP/Nick?)

5. Society & SLO Update

James sent a short update ahead of the meeting and Pete had nothing else specific to add. We discussed the need to crack on with recruiting a new Mktg. Dir., Community Director and trying to find a new Chair. And a volunteer manager would also be really useful. Nick will do a draft recruitment document and share with Caroline, Jane and Pete for input. James asked for more info to go to supporters ref Squad Builder, Caroline will try and prioritise, but may need some help to encourage the team to push the basic/important messages rather than the more exciting ones!

Actions: Nick to do a draft recruitment document and share with Jane, Caroline and Pete; try and get Squad Builder info/update out to supporters again

6. Commercial and Operations

Gareth had sent an update and the commercial revenue seems on track. Everyone was very pleased with the news of sourcing a DIY company to renovate/refurbish the Women's toilets and put stainless steel into the Men's urinals as part of a sponsorship. **Shane said he and John still need to meet discuss the likely structural work needed on the roof, and the fire door to Charlie's urgently needs fixing.** Gareth and Nick still to meet/call ref evolving a more traditional sports club sponsorship/partnership model -e eg official beer, timekeeper, energy supplier, wifi supplier, title sponsor etc.

Re-location of the shop – Board still need an update.

Actions: John and Shane to meet to discuss the structural issue and potential fixes, and the fire door into Charlie's need booking in to fix!

7. AOB

- i) Final Year BSU students project on a "volunteers story" film sounds really encouraging
- ii) Jane is in an early conversation with ZapGo about and EV station at TP
- iii) **Very aged & broken turnstiles need fixing/replacing!** Is there a second-hand option/route?
- iv) Andrew's suggestion we also need to pay for a secure and more robust payment system still tbc – ie not using our own phones. Costs c£2k and also discuss with Nik Mason in case he can help.
- v) The Audit is w/c 4 Nov
- vi) Nick & Shane had a good initial meeting with the Uni of Bath ref solar/sustainable energy opportunities (the VC's intro) and are following up
- vii) A meeting and progress has been made ref plugging gaps left by Peter Headington's departure. We have stopped doing some things (those that were unprofitable or where we were over servicing co's), but will still do parties and stags as they are profitable, but consistently resourcing them is tricky
- viii) Nik Mason was very helpful to Andrew ref the wifi meeting with Meshii. We may be able to solve the weakspots via boosters around the ground
- ix) Nick will get BCY and the Foundation Chairs to join a Board to meet us all and give an update, especially with BCY creating a newco recently to manage the playing fields at Lansdown

Date of next Board meetings: 18 Nov & 16 Dec