



Bath City FC Supporters Society
1900 on THURSDAY 21st January 2021
Conference Call
Meeting Report

1. Present & Apologies:

Present: Jon Blain, Paul Brotherton, Chris Flanagan, Sally Harris, Ken Loach, Shane Morgan, Stuart Page, Emma Sparks (Chair), Marc Thomas, Mark Taylor.
Joy Saunders from the Club Board also present.
Apologies: Pete McCormack

2. Approval of last meeting minutes & outstanding actions

The minutes of the meetings held on 26 November 2020 and 7 January 2021 were both approved.
Proposed: Stuart Page, seconded: Christopher Flanagan.

Actions were all complete or are covered elsewhere in this agenda.

3. Updates from the December 2020 Club Board meeting [CONFIDENTIAL]

4. Community update: Joy Saunders

Emma welcomed Joy Saunders, Community Director, to the meeting.

Joy outlined the Club's recent action in the community. The focus is on the supporter base and the local community, particularly Twerton and Whiteway including schools, churches, and local voluntary sector groups. The aim is to liaise with and provide practical support to existing local groups/charities and complement their work rather than setting up new and separate initiatives. Some projects such as the legal clinic are unable to carry on as normal due to the lockdown, but the Club is adapting to new and increasing local needs by, for example, providing extra support to the food bank. Close ties are maintained with the Foundation, providing important support relating to mental health, loneliness, poverty and promoting football for children, women and older people. Special lockdown activities to help keep people in touch with the club include the 'keepy uppy' challenge and the Meet the Manager event on 3rd February.

ACTION POINT: All are encouraged to participate in and promote these activities.

Many members of the Committee said how impressed they are with the range of community activity being carried out.

SH asked about the plans for consulting with the community about the revised redevelopment when the proposals are clearer. JS confirmed that a further round of consultation will be carried out in the local community as well as with supporters. SH offered support from the Society to help achieve this.

5. MoU & Governance

PB reported that the MoU v4.1 (which was unanimously approved by the Committee on 7 January 2021) had been circulated to the Club Board for consideration/approval at its meeting on 25th January. This version includes changes that specifically address points raised by the Club Board at its meeting in

November.

PB said that following circulation to the Club Board, the Committee had received an email requesting a further amendment the crux of which was to 'oblige the Society to appoint Club Board members who bring a mix of relevant and critical skill sets to the Board'. Committee members recognised the need to have relevant skills on the Board and noted that the skills requirement may change from time to time. This needs to be done while maintaining the democratic nature of the Club. The Committee was clear that the suggested amendment was not appropriate for the MoU itself but that the Society should offer to consider the issue of skills further. There is a need to attract more candidates for elections, which would be a good topic for a joint Club Board/Society Committee meeting when the MoU is agreed.

ACTION POINT: PB to report the Committee's view to the Club Board meeting on the 25th.

One other point about Club Board membership which has recently been raised was whether the rules should allow for spouses/partners to sit on the Board together. In discussion the Committee was clear that this should continue to be allowed. Society members should be able to vote according to the individual merits of each candidate.

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6. Standing orders

This item was deferred to the February meeting

[Sensitive discussion redacted]

7. Redevelopment update [CONFIDENTIAL]

8. Treasurers Report

ES reported that the 2019 accounts have now been signed and submitted.

Committee members were very impressed with the Club financial summary produced by JB, Oliver Holtaway and others. It sets out income and expenditure over three years and shows clearly how the financial situation has improved since community ownership began. There was discussion about how best to circulate this document, and whether it should be sent to Society members in confidence rather than made available to the general public. This would maintain a degree of confidentiality and also be a means of showing that Society membership gave people greater access to information about the Club.

ACTION POINT: ES and JB to discuss and circulate the financial report.

9. 100 Club

There are currently 28 members of the 100 Club, which raises money for the Society. One task that was carried out by the previous Treasurer Steve Skinner was to check that fees had been paid. This should be a simple task as the majority/all are paid by standing order.

ACTION POINT: Mkt agreed to contact the Treasurer Mike Laughton to ensure that this is carried out.

10. Membership report

MkT reported that November/December was a period of greater activity as the large majority of renewals were due at that time of year. Membership had been approx 390 but approx 55 had dropped off this list at the end of December as they had not renewed despite the majority of these receiving a number of automated reminder emails. Several Committee members suggested that we undertake an organised recruitment campaign to encourage renewals and attract new members. The scope was hampered by not having fans at Twerton Park due to Covid, but other means of attracting members can be investigated. Although membership is inexpensive we need to show that it has real value and that members do have a real impact on the Club. Better communication is vital and one suggestion is that Jerry Gill could be asked to lend his support to a membership campaign.

ACTION POINT: ES asked all to come up with ideas for a sustained recruitment drive – to be discussed at the February meeting.

11. Member liaison and communications

The 'Meet the Manager' event on 3rd February will be used to promote the Society. Some comms activities will need to wait until fans are allowed back at Twerton Park but others will be developed in the meantime.

12. Football

ES reported that the National League was consulting clubs about a possible suspension of the league in the light of Government grant funding having ended at the end of 2020 and being replaced by repayable loans. This cut in funding was causing extremely significant financial problems for clubs and Bath City in touch with Wera Hobhouse MP to seek support in lobbying for a change in policy. The majority opinion in the Club is that if funding isn't forthcoming there would need to be a suspension of the League. The National League would be making a decision at its meeting the following day.

[Confidential item redacted]

13. AOB

ES has been contacted by Matthew Falk, Commercial Director and he will be welcomed to the February meeting of the Committee.

14. Date of next meeting

Thursday 25th February 2021.