

Bath City Board Meeting

1900 Monday 15 Jan 2024

Hybrid

**Attendees:** Nick Blofeld (Chair), James Carlin, Shane Morgan, Andrew Pierce, Paul Williams, John

Apologies: Pete McCormack

**1. Football High Performance Centre**

Andy Laker gave a presentation on his thoughts on how we could create a High Performance Centre and generate a new revenue stream for the club as well as a football pathway for young players. We had a good discussion and will share Andy’s deck/info and he is happy to take any further questions.

**Action:** We will need to make a decision to progress or not by the end of Feb.

2. **Redevelopment and 3G**

2.1 **3G** – Nick had spoken to the Council CEO, who wasn’t aware of the issue we have with the cork surface and wanted to look into it.

Bioflex seems to be the best alternative to cork or rubber crumb, it is used extensively in Scandinavia, and is a coated sand. Feedback is good, but the pitches have not been in place for that long yet.

There is a 3G WG meeting on 16 Jan and the notes will be shared with the Board, as it will cover a lot more detail. There is likely to be £80k of drainage work needed and there remain quite a few issues to resolve for the 3G project – eg the infrastructure needed to support the 3G (eg toilets/café/storage), the floodlights (LED?), although they have to be dealt with anyway, and COF funding is critical.

**Action:** Nick to speak to the Planning Officer; Nick to get in touch with Bath Demolition ref potential pylon removal/works.

1.2 **Redevelopment** – SP14 has really killed the opportunity through banning PBSA on our site, which limits the scope and also the ability to raise funds. Chris suggested a small Working Group to meet flush out the best options for the club.

**Action**: Nick to gather a WG of Board reps, Society and others to look at our options for the club.

**2.**

The finances are ok currently, but the pinchpoint of paying VAT and wages together in Mar will be tight. We need to see what sponsorship or other income payment dates could be accelerated and also come up with any other creative solutions to ease the cashflow issue.

Chris raised the point ref the debt repayment needing to be extended. It is currently due in May 2024 and his suggestion is that it should go back 3 years, and he personally would be supportive of that, and believes it is also necessary for the 3G project.

**Action:** senior debt holders to discuss extension of repayment; all to look at pulling forward any payments due and think creatively about any other revenue streams!

**3. Football update**

3.1 Women’s update

The 1st Team won 8-0 on Sunday, and the Development Team drew 2-2 most recently. There has been good progress and definite improvement. We will need to change our Asst. Manager though, as Adam needs to step away to keep a good work/life balance.

BCY Women’s Team is struggling a bit and they have appointed a new head of Women’s Football

**Action:** new Asst. Manager to be recruited for the new season

3.2 Men’s update

Last week’s challenge was the goalkeeping situation with Will Buse and huge thanks to Bristol City for helping with their young keeper able to provide cover with us for a month. The squad remains “skinny” but we are currently ok with injuries. Jerry and Paul are speaking with Ewan Clark about signing permanently following his loan recall. Chris Lines is keen to play, so may well go out on loan. Oscar is with us for a month.

Sadly, Quentin has decided to step back from being Secretary after c24 years with the club. He will be sorely missed and deserves a good send off! He is now over stretched with work and family commitments. We will advertise the role soon and try and get a good handover period.

Nick has introduced Jerry to Don Macpherson (sports pysch.) and they have had an initial call which went pretty well.

**4. Key SAG plans/actions**

The Sara Chivers meeting is still tbc ref the grandstand, barriers etc (with Shane and Accolade).

**5. 2000BC, Commercial, Community and WG updates**

The Directors rota for TR Hayes still needs setting up. Nick mentioned that it didn’t always have to be a Director if we are short, and had mentioned it to Michael Clayton who would happily assist with hosting.

Jane hadn’t yet managed to meet Debbie King as she has been ill with Covid again.

Gareth explained there was a potential shirt sponsor in the wings and we should know late Jan/early Feb. This would leave opportunities to sell other areas/patches, or run a draw for them.

We are running out of recyclable cups (many are kept by supporters as “collectibles”) and Gareth has a potential sponsor to keep them going cost effectively. Andrew also volunteered to sponsor a batch. The Board thanked him for his kind offer.

There was discussion about the beer deal with St Austell as Gareth wants to look at the structure and how we renew in the best way for the club. There is a revenue figure which we should check as we may be due an additional payment. This was felt unlikely as the more non-St Austell beer we sell reduces that overall St Austell sales figure.

An idea of sponsoring the bars was also raised, Donna’s idea, and we will look into that. Could we do a split deal with Electric Bear and St Austell involved, and both sponsoring different bars?

**6. Society & Supporter update**

Pete wasn’t with us but speaking to Nick in advance emphasized the point that we need to be coming up with long term solutions for the success and viability of the club.

James had had a good SLO meeting and decent feedback. There are quite a few small issues (infrastructure) that could be fixed and would make a big psychological impact for supporters – eg outside loos! He suggested a small “facilities fund” to fix these and will meet with Shane to discuss a shortlist. Nick admitted these had been “parked” pending the redevelopment and due to keeping a tight control on all costs, but should now be looked again.

There were some issues for supporters at the Chippenham game, which James raised with them. They are very unresponsive to feedback, however, so the Board didn’t think this was worth following up any further.

The alleyway by the north side of the ground with scaffolding in it could be quite dangerous with a crowd and we should think about closing it on big match days. There is also a broken drain. We aren’t in direct comms with the new owners of the High St., but the car park owner is and may be able to ask them about the scaffolding/put us in touch.

Great support went to Yeovil (600 plus) and Jerry and the squad really appreciated it.

**7. Minutes:** Proposer Andrew and seconded by Caroline.

**8. Actions from last Board & Board Minutes**

All covered off.

**9. AOB**

1. The League EGM is in Chesterfield and Paul will go – does anyone else want to?

2. Some discussion about promo ideas for upcoming games – eg 2 for 1, student game etc

3. We had feedback on the flare at Yeovil during the meeting. Shane will pick this up

**Date of next meetings –** 19 Jan, 11 Mar, 15 April, 13 May & 17 June