

Bath City Board Meeting

1900 Monday 18 Dec 2023

Hybrid

**Attendees:** Nick Blofeld (Chair), James Carlin, Shane Morgan, Andrew Pierce, Paul Williams, Pete McCormack, John Reynolds, Caroline White and Jane Jones

Apologies: Chris Coles, Gareth Cooper

**1. Redevelopment and 3G**

1.1 **3G** – the cork surface approved remains problem as we are unaware of any similar level club using this successfully. Nick will raise this with BANES CEO (Will Godfrey) in a call next week and see if it can be overturned. We are still researching other “infills” (such as Bioflex, which is used extensively in Scandinavia) and is basically coated sand.

There remain a few other questions/issues to resolve, such as the correct infrastructure needed to support the 3G and its users (eg toilets/café/gym), floodlighting/LED, timing, grants/funding, space and storage. The 3G Working Group is trying to resolve these asap to avoid a delay to the project being delivered in the summer.

**Action:** Nick to ask Andy Laker if he would join the CIC Board to cover BCY and the evolving football pathway; Nick to get in touch with Bath Demolition ref potential work – pylons especially.

1.2 **Redevelopment**

James had met with a Council planning rep. recently who was very supportive and less aware of the challenges we had faced and he was encouraged to follow up to see if some “fresh faces” (on their and our side) might help re-ignite some progress and support.

**Action**: James to follow up with his recent Council planning contact; Nick to follow up with BANES CEO; the core redevelopment “wishlist” still to be reviewed by the Foundation (James) and BCY (Andy Laker); Phil Tanner to be re-engaged ref the wishlist/refurb.

**2.**

Paul was fairly positive after Yeovil gate and with wages paid/PAYE and most bills also paid, with the commercial spends not quite so good, and Paul is keen to catch up with Gareth about the likely commercial revenue in the coming weeks/months. Paul felt we might be missing a few “one offs” and wanted to close those down asap (eg matchday sponsorship for Chippenham). There are still some hoardings available, but these are very low value items. John Reynolds is also keen to meet Gareth and we will also need to decide if we repeat the shirt sponsors draw or if we a viable sponsor without running it fairly soon.

The new F&B in the ground worked well for Yeovil and the team really pulled together very well, with great efforts from Andrew, Cheryl, Paul and Shane especially and the advance sales enabled a smooth turnstile operation on the night. And Donna, Jan and the rest of the bar team did a fabulous job to serve a large and demanding crowd!

**Action:** Paul and Garethto catch up ref likely commercial revenue/timings and come to next Board with a reco ref the short sponsors draw.

**3. Football update**

3.1 Women’s update

2 games have been postponed due to an unfit pitch and one team unable to field a side. 10 Mar will be the last home game, put it in your diaries and try and make it! It is close to both Mother’s Day and International Women’s Day so we will try and build a them around that. Wera and Carole will hopefully be there, but there is no guarantee she will come, as she's coming to one before!

The development team won their last game 4-3.

Wealthtime have had quite a lot of change and Caroline, Gareth and Jane are keen to try and meet up with them again soon to keep the connections/momentum.

Simon Tapscott has put the Women’s games on Nearfield, his new local “what’s on” website

**Action:** Meeting with Wealthtime tba

3.2 Men’s update

Ollie Wright is going back to his club, and we wish him well. Oscar is also likely to return. Havant asked if they could extend Ben’s loan, with a recall option. Slav (goalkeeper) will make his third appearance against Yeovil. Jordan Thomas has a new agent and is generating quite a lot of interest. We are trying to extend his contract.

Injuries are currently ok.

**4. Key SAG plans/actions**

Sara Chivers has belatedly come back with some concerns about the grandstand and will meet with Shane and Accolade to discuss them further in the new year

There were some comments about the club website not having info ref walking and bus routes etc, but we think this is covered on the site. The poor surface of the car park was raised but the huge cost of fixing it was a surprise to some!

Jane made some great points ref the challenges we have face and we should capture these in a note/script to present to the council when we go and see them!

**5. Society & Supporter update**

James was also keen to represent both supporters of the Men’s and Women’s team. And shared that the Foundation had 3 years funding for an Inclusion Officer which all acknowledged was great news. The council has also provided 3 years funding to run a “Talk Club” (to counter isolation and loneliness). Crowdfunding had also raised a further £6k.

Bath City FC / Twerton Park are hosting the first county cluster workshop event for Somerset and Wiltshire FA’s which is part of The FA’s strategy to get more clubs offering inclusive sessions. Geoff from the Foundation will be a guest speaker to share his experience, with the Foundation also being the first to offer Comets (similar to Wild Cats but for kids with disabilities).

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

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

All covered off.

**9. AOB**

1. We will have a Foundation review/update for the Board in Jan

2. Jane raised the point that we aren’t hosting the TR Hayes members anymore, so we need to plug that gap. Who should host them and should we have rota amongst the Directors?

3. There are some painting and decorating needs around the Club – Shane to recommend what needs doing and we can ask for supporters help

4. Andy Laker also keen to share his thoughts on a football pathway soon – Jan/Feb?

**Date of next meeting –** 15 Jan