

Bath City Board Meeting

1900 Monday 20 Nov 2023

Hybrid

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

Apologies: None

**1. Welcomes**

Caroline and Gareth were welcomed and introduced to the Board. Their knowledge and expertise will be a big help to the Club.

**2.** **Redevelopment and 3G**

2.1 **3G** – the recent visit to Oxford was very useful, especially to understand the “infills” – Bioflex (used quite extensively in Scandinavia)is a brand name but basically coated sand. There was strong guidance not to use cork in a wet, cold climate. There is also a 3G call on Monday, to bring more focus and support to Peter, a new 3G Working Group will be set up, including BCY as a key user.

The Board were reminded that the comms sent out on 3G was that had got planning permission but had some issues to overcome.

2.2 **Redevelopment** – this is moving more slowly now than we would like. Joy and Chris have been in touch recently and Chris aims to speak to him this week.

**Action**: Nick to chase up the BANES CEO for a catch up; 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 updated the Board saying that the financial situation was ok at the moment. There was a discussion about season to date financial/matchday performance and how closely the projections matched that performance. Paul agreed he had aired on the side of conservatism and the end of years loss could be lower than predicted if we continue to perform at the current level.

With Gareth now with the Board and heading up the commercial team, Paul is keen to better understand the timing of any commercial deals and when the income will be received to help manage the cashflow.

It was agreed how the atmosphere and crowds have been good, and generally younger recently. It was noted that Yeovil ticket allocation appeared to be selling out more quickly than ours, although season ticket holders weren’t included in those figures. We did agree to give the game a push though, as unusually it is a Wednesday and should be a good crowd and generate strong income fro the club.

The ”themed” games seem to have sold better (eg Family and Foundation Day, Community Day) and there was a brief discussion about other ideas in the Christmas period, especially 23 Dec “hook”- eg get Santa along and/or the Fire Brigade for kids? International Women’s Day is coming up and planning for that needs to be kicking in now. The Foundation Team did a great job in promoting the game in so many ways, and a big thanks goes to them all, in helping to achieve nearly 2k at that game.

There were some points about the F&B in the ground, what more could be done to alleviate queues to avoid people leaving the ground, and could we get a better coffee offer. Ideas to be worked up and explored further with a plan for another F&B “refreshment” unit for Jan on the north/Granstand side.

**Action:** Paul and Garethto catch up ref likely commercial revenue timings; revenue generation ideas.

**3. Football update**

3.1 Women’s update

The 1st team are 4th in the league and only have 2 more home games. The goalkeeping coach is working well and is the physio who also joined when Larkhall Women folded. There are c50 players in all, although not all are always available. A philosophy of a 1st and Development squad is followed through, with 1st team not dropping down to Dev. Team as some other clubs do.

Jane said how the teams were operating more independently of her now, which is good

**Action:** Jane/Nick to come up with “thank you” still for Dave and Mark’s support for the Women’s team on top of all their other work

3.2 Men’s update

We have secured a stop gap keeper to cover the 3 games, he is the no2 from Dorking. Olly’s operation went well but he will be out for 3 months and we will have to cover his pay before he goes back to his club. Ben Morgan has been loaned out to get some football. We have 16 players and will need to replace Ben, and are keen to extend Jordan, who sadly has a new agent which may make that more difficult.

**Action:** Nick to introduce Don McPherson (sports psychologist) to Jane.

**4. Key SAG plans/actions**

Shane is happy with things and the Fire Extinguisher testing has been competed and the alarm system services are all up to date.

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

We are delighted to have both Caroline and Gareth on board! And we still need more good volunteers for matchdays and non-matchdays – eg turnstiles, bladud, merchandise sellers, ground maintenance and litter picking.

Jane put on record how much help Sally Harris had helped her in the community role.

**Action:** Caroline and Gareth’s induction to be set up with various calls/meets (Paul/Nick/Pete).

**6. Society & Supporter update**

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

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

All covered off.

**9. AOB**

1. Lack of enough catering and queuing problems raised again, fir the big games especially.

2. There are rumours/reports of “hooliganism” bubbling again, even at our level of the game.

3. Can we look at covering the ends of the ground? We are unusual in having nothing there.

4. James was keen to give the 5 Year Celebrations another go if he got some help - Jane may be able to help.

**Date of next meeting –** 18 Dec and 15 Jan