

# SWANSEA CITY SUPPORTERS TRUST

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**Minutes of the Board Meeting held on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at the Liberty Stadium, Swansea commencing at 5.40pm.**

Before the meeting, *SD Huw Cooze* had arranged for Trust Board members to have a tour of the new Landore training facility. *Club Director Martin Morgan* undertook a guided tour of the main building and its impressive facilities. The completed project should be finalised within the next few weeks.

### **Present:**

Huw Cooze, Alan Lewis, Viv Brooks, Cath Dyer, Ron Knuszka, Ian James, Viv Williams, Will Morris, Craig Mapstone, Gareth James, Nigel Hamer.(Secretary).

### **Apologies:**

Phil Sumbler, Jim White, Stuart McDonald.

Prior to the Meeting proper, a request had been received from the Campaign Manager of Show Racism the **Red** Card Wales for a 30 minute presentation of their organisation. It was agreed that **HC** would liaise with the Club to arrange a further meeting, we also agreed to include an article in our August Newsletter highlighting and promoting the organisation.

Before the meeting commenced, acting Chairman, Huw Cooze welcomed Will Morris and Gareth James to their first meeting since their recent illnesses.

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> April 2013. had previously been circulated and approved.

### **Supporter Director Report:**

**HC** had made arrangements for the Trust Board to visit the Landore Academy site (as reported above). This project should be completed before the end of May.

Fairwood was ongoing, but, as mentioned previously was a longer term project.

On football matters the Club Chairman and Manager were constantly monitoring a list of potential players in readiness pre-season training. As widely reported in the media *Jose Canas* from Real Betis should become our player on 1<sup>st</sup> July.

Discussions had taken place about matchday ticket prices for both home and away fans.

**HC** in previous meetings had reported on the West Stand extension this summer, however, due to time constraints with the Europa League commitments and steel structure strengthening it had to be shelved.

### **Treasurers Report:**

No report.

### **TBM 077/06 Fans Forum:**

No report.

### **TBM 082/06 Swansea City 2002 Limited:**

No report.

### **TBM 086/07 Community Group:**

No report.

### **TBM 125/08 Centenary 2012:**

No report

### **TBM 127/08 Disability Issues:**

IJ reported that the Premier League would be undertaking an audit review in June. IJ reported on the DSA Management Committee meeting which took place on the 15<sup>th</sup> April. A temporary link to our Trust Website would be useful until a new website is being set up by involving disabled media students. Similarly a new DSA logo could be designed by disabled students. IJ asked HC if a photshoot with the Club Chairman and the DSA Management Committee could be arranged.

### **TBM 142/11 Wall Of Fame:**

PS to liaise and confirm names with NH of the twenty names for the Wall Of Fame to be announced at the Annual Awards Dinner on the 16<sup>th</sup> May.

### **TBM 150/12 Premier League Supporters Trust Group.**

JW was unable to attend to undertake a presentation of our Trust in Amsterdam between the 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> July. It was agreed that AL would attend instead.

NH had previously circulated e-mail from Trusts within the Premier League who are concerned about increased ticket pricing at home and away fixtures. The Spirit of Shankly are proposing demonstrations in Liverpool and London on the 19<sup>th</sup> June.

### **TBM 151/12 Frame for John Charles Signed Shirt.**

HC reported that the two shirts had been placed into the two frames. The presentation to the Vice Presidents would take place during a home fixture during the early part of next season.

### **TBM 154/12 Riverside Lounge Memorabilia**

NH to contact *Andrew Davies of SSMC* about our ideas for memorabilia.

### **TBM 155/12 Supporter Direct Position Paper on more Supporter Involvement in football.**

Full report on [www.swanstrust.co.uk](http://www.swanstrust.co.uk)

### **TBM 156/13 Supporters Trust Flag.**

CM had checked out sizes and costs of flags, an 8' x 5' flag was £148 plus VAT, a 9'x6' flag would cost £200 plus VAT. Agreed to purchase the smaller flag. HC to provide artwork.

### **TBM 159/13 SV WALDHOF MANNHEIM LINK**

NH reported that a match day programme had been received with an article about the Club. NH had asked *Professor Huw Bowen of Swansea University* to translate the article. Basically they would like to have a connection with our organisation.

### **TBM 161/13 AUGUST NEWSLETTER.**

VW had volunteered to obtain advertisements for this years Newsletter. Monies raised made a large contribution towards printing costs. HC mentioned that we could increase the number of pages in the Newsletter if required. Agreed that we would not be producing any additional freebies in this years posting.

### **TBM 162/13 BOOKLET ON THE HISTORY OF SWANSTRUST.**

No report.

### **TBM 165/13 SPONSORSHIP OF JUNIOR LEAGUE FOOTBALL**

SMcD was still in communication with Junior Leagues. HC made a suggestion that we consider sponsoring the Club's Junior Section. HC would look further into this suggestion as it was agreed to be a good idea.

### **TBM 166/13 Community Trust:**

HC would be looking at the Youth set up and Football In The Community issues as he felt that there had been a lack of communication in the past. It would entail additional administration which may require assistance from the Trust Board.

### **A.O.B..**

### **BBC Sport Innovation Day.**

AL would represent the Trust at the *BBC Sport Innovation Day* at the Millennium Stadium on the 16<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Congratulations:**

**NH** had sent a congratulatory e-mail to the *Newport County Supporters Trust* on their Club's success on beating Wrexham at Wembley to return to the Football League next season. Congratulations had also been sent to *Cardiff City Supporters Trust* on promotion to the Premier League.

### **Supporters Trust South West Regional Meeting:**

**AL** and **VW** had represented the Trust at the meeting at Rodney Parade, Newport on the 25<sup>th</sup> April. There were representatives from *Newport County*, *Newport RFC*, *Cardiff City*, *Exeter City* and *Merthyr Town* present.

As our Trust did last year, *Newport County Supporters Trust* gave a presentation which explained that they have a 37% shareholding and two Directors on a four man Club Board.

A general discussion followed on Football Governance, Supporter Liaison and Financial Fairplay. **SD** are promoting Community Ownership and the issue of Assets of Community Value which allows communities to try to protect community assets which are in private ownership, i.e. football stadia. James Mathie of Supporters Direct reported on a meeting with *Llanelli AFC* about re-forming as a Community Club, they need £60,000 in a community share. Other Trusts present had indicated a desire to help with fundraising idea. We did not commit at this stage.

*Merthyr Town* were keen for us to promote Swans season ticket holders having half price entry into their games.

*Exeter City* reminded us that it will be the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the *Hull City* game which sent *Exeter City* out of the league. Could we mark the anniversary in some joint way, we were unable to commit to the ideas it would be a Football Club issue.

*Cardiff City* were keen to get together with our Trust ahead of the derby fixtures next season.

### **Glasgow Rangers Supporters Trust:**

**NH** reported that an e-mail request had been received to pick our brains on how we had been so successful over the past twelve years

### **Blackburn Rovers Supporters Trust:**

**HC** and **NH** had met with a representative of the Blackburn Rovers Trust to discuss how we had set up our Supporters Trust and how we had obtained shares in the Club as they were hoping to purchase shares in their Club.

### **Annual Awards Dinner:**

Board Members **HC** and **CD** along with **NH** had been attending meeting for the final preparations of the Annual Awards Dinner on the 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2013.

### **Membership Sub-Group 2013/14 Membership:**

**AL** had previously circulated a report from the sub-group which included **VB** and **SMcD**. It was agreed that we would discuss this further at the next Board Meeting. What were the membership benefits ?

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm

Next meeting Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> June at 5.30pm

Chairman.....*Huw Cooze*.