

SWANSEA CITY SUPPORTERS TRUST

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the Board Meeting held on Monday, 14th April 2014 at Fairwood Training Centre, Swansea commencing at 5.40pm.

Present:

Jim White, Stuart MacDonald, Will Morris, Huw Cooze, Viv Brooks, Alan Lewis, Barbara Cook, Duncan Thomas, Ron Knuszka, Gareth James, Cath Dyer, Ian James, Viv Williams, Andrew Godden, Nigel Hamer.

Apologies: . Phil Sumbler, Kevin Mahoney.

Before the meeting, **HC** gave a brief talk on the *Fairwood Training Complex* where Phase 1 was more or less completed with Phase 2 with a Hydro pool and gymnasium progressing this Summer, an indoor pitch was also planned. The excellent outdoor facilities of 11 full sized including 2 3G all weather pitches gave us an insight of how far we have come in the last 12 years.

Before the meeting began, Chair for the evening Jim White welcomed Andrew Godden to his first meeting as a Co-opted Member.

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 17th March, 2014 were approved.

Supporter Director Report:

HC reported that *Stadium* expansion is still very much part of the Club's long term plans although the *Travel Plan* and *Environmental* issues were delaying progress, there is a document of 300+ pages which can be found on the *City&County of Swansea website* that explains how complex and robust the *Travel Plan* has to be. **HC** understands that many Supporters will be disappointed by the news but stressed that the *Club Board* is fully committed but has to follow guidelines.

Away Travel Initiative – is working well, the Club will continue the initiative next season even though many of the larger *Premier League* clubs do not think the initiative should continue.

Shirt Sales – we have sold more than most of the Clubs we regard as our competitors, only slightly behind *Sunderland* and *Aston Villa*, sales are up on last year. *Adidas* will be our main kit supplier with main sponsors yet to be confirmed, *GWFX* has first refusal. A number of sponsor partners are in discussions with our Commercial team in readiness for next season.

HC and **SMcD** have been working away in the background and it has been finally announced that four Cup Finals will be played at the *Liberty Stadium* on the 24th May, two *Senior League* and 2 *Junior League*.

Ninety *Americans* have been over from *North Shore United*, the touring group consisted of an Under13's boys and girls team. **HC** had arranged the welcome party assisted by **AL**. The Group trained at *Landore* before a match at *Stebonheath, Llanelli* on Saturday, invited to watch a rugby fixture at *Parc Y Scarlets* in the evening. The Girls team played at *Garden Village* on Sunday morning, the boys watched the *Academy* team play their *Cardiff City* counterparts. In the afternoon the Group visited the Club Shop at the *Liberty Stadium* before watching the *Premier League* fixture against *Chelsea*.

Monday morning saw the party visit *Oystermouth Castle* with training for both teams at *Fairwood* with *Swansea City Academy* coaches in the afternoon, many of the parents visited *Rhossili* and *Worms Head* for some sightseeing. Tuesday saw the boys take on *Swansea Under13's* and the girls take on a *West Wales Select XI*. On Wednesday the party left Swansea and were due to play a match at *Newport County* en route to Heathrow and back to *Wisconsin*.

The connection with *North Shore United* began in 2011 following an introduction by *Swansea City Director Brian Katzen*. The intention was to set up a partnership between our two Clubs that would be of benefit to both parties. *Huw Cooze* would become the link between the two Clubs and has been very involved with facilitating many aspects of the partnership, *North Shore United* have actively promoted and supported *Swansea City FC* in the USA in spreading the *Swansea City* brand. Academy coaches *Gary Richards* and *Jon Beale* have visited *North Shore* to run a week of summer training camps. *North Shore* also visited Swansea in 2012 with their Under 14 boys team. Ultimately, it will be their goal and a dream come true for a *North Shore United* player to wear a *Swansea City FC* kit one day in the *Premier League*.

The Club is made up of 1,100 players from age 4 to 23, their top players compete against the top Clubs in the *USA*. Last year they installed a FIFA 2star synthetic pitch at their training ground increasing what they can offer as a Club ensuring a fantastic training surface for the players to train, this pitch is the only one in Wisconsin and one of only eight in the *USA*. One of their players in Swansea in 2012 will be playing in *Qatar* against teams from *Manchester City, Barcelona, Real Madrid, PSG*. They would like to believe that their involvement with *Swansea City FC* has helped them progress on the football field.

Treasurers Report:

SMcD confirmed that the documentation with *Building Societies* to ensure that Trust funds had the full protection of the *Financial Services Compensation Scheme* was in place.

TBM 086/07 Community Group:

VB and **AL** confirmed that the next *Ten Pin Bowling Night* will take place next September/October.

TBM125/08 Centenary 2012 & TBM162/13 History of the Swans Trust

HC reported that we had sold over half of the printed books ordered which covered our original costs. **HC** and **AL** will check the book display in Swansea Market on progress of sales.

TBM 127/08 Disability Issues:

IJ confirmed that he was hoping to complete the Disability Survey prior to the next Trust Board meeting. The survey aims to ascertain fans views about Disabled facilities and services provided by the Stadium and the Club. **IJ** confirmed that there had been some useful and constructive feedback to date. **IJ** also confirmed that he had met with *Vice Chairman Leigh Dineen* to discuss updating the current Disability Policy on the Club website. The aim is to ensure that the Policy is more user friendly, follows current legislation and best practice. Consideration also needs to be given to the current changes in the Welfare system with the phasing out of Disability Living Allowance which will have an effect on eligibility evidence for obtaining tickets. **IJ** is keeping tabs on this and obtaining advice from Level Playing Field and the premier League where appropriate. There will be a new membership drive for the *Disabled Supporters Association* and **IJ** is looking to utilise the Club database.

TBM 142/11 Wall Of Fame

NH confirmed the next 20 names for the Wall Of Fame to be unveiled early next season. *Danny Bartley, Dave Bruton, Roy Evans, Jimmy Hadziabdic, Brian Hughes, Mark Harris, Barrie Jones, Michael Hughes, Johnny King, Andrew Melville, Tony Millington, Colin Pascoe, Dai Thomas, Keith Todd, Colin Webster, Alan Waddle, Roberto Martinez, Lachlan McPherson, Ante Rajkovic, Alan Tate.*

TBM 154/12 Riverside Lounge Memorabilia

VW had forwarded photos which were from 2002 to date. **VW** expressed an interest in obtaining club shirts through the period of our involvement as a Trust.

TBM 169/13 Website Upgrade.

DT and **JW** reported that the revamped website should be completed by July.

TBM 171/13 Marketing Sub-Group:

JW reported that the database should be completed by the end of May, this will allow the exercise of Marketing the Trust to progress.

TBM 172/14 Membership Renewal 2014/15.

AL and **VB** would report at the next meeting.

TBM173/14 Joint Executive Fundraising Committee and Supporters Trust Annual Awards Dinner.

NH confirmed that the Dinner will take place on Wednesday 7th May. There had been some criticism about lack of information to Supporters. **NH** explained that the Club Management had requested extra places this year resulting in less places available to supporters.

TBM174/14 Fans Forum Port Talbot Town FC.

WM had contacted *Andrew Edwards* at *Port Talbot Town* to hold a Fans Forum. It was agreed that this would take place next season.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Next Board Meeting, Monday 19th May 2014 at 5.30pm, venue to be confirmed.