

SWANSEA CITY SUPPORTERS TRUST BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the Board Meeting held on Monday, 5th December 2016 at Liberty Stadium, Swansea commencing at 5.40pm.

Present:

Phil Sumbler, Will Morris, Stuart McDonald, Alan Lewis, Cath Dyer, Barbara Cook, Viv Brooks, Viv Williams, Ron Knuszka, Duncan Thomas, Nigel Hamer (Secretary).

Apologies:

Jim White, Andrew Godden Huw Bowen, Ian James, Dai Little.

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd November, 2016 were approved.

PS reported on meetings which had taken place since the last Board Meeting on the 3rd November with *Club Chairman Huw Jenkins* and with *Chief Operating Office Chris Pearlman*.

A major concern has been the lack of engagement between the *Trust* and the new *Majority Shareholders*. As a result of these discussions, agreement has been reached that regular and frequent meetings will take place between all parties. Also, guarantees that the Trust will be kept more involved and informed going forward have been obtained. This is welcomed.

We also raised concerns regarding the current disappointing performances and results on the pitch. These concerns are shared by those at the Club who assured the Trust that all parties are working hard to try and turn things around as soon as possible.

The issue of the fans reaction to the former *Shareholders*, both during Sunday's match and also on social media was raised, in particular that some former *Directors* of the *Club* are continuing to enjoy the benefits their former position enjoyed. It is the view of the *Supporters Trust* that former *Directors* should not continue to be allowed access to the *Directors Box* on match days and that view has been expressed to the new *Majority Shareholders*.

The *Trust* will also be seeking clarification from the Club to determine whether former *Shareholder John van Zweden* is receiving preferential treatment regarding ticketing arrangements at the *Club*. Due to the limited capacity of our *Stadium*, ticketing arrangements are an important issue for our members and it would be unacceptable if genuine fans were missing out due to an agreement with a former *Shareholder*. We welcome the recommencement of dialogue with the new *Majority Shareholders* and look forward to swift progress being made on the remaining issues of contention.

Supporter Director Report:

SMcD along with **PS** met with *Jason Levien* and *Huw Jenkins* after the home fixture with *Manchester United* and discussed our Shareholding and Governance positions. Discussed the need to have a meaningful working relationship which will now be weekly meetings with *COO Chris Pearlman*, and monthly with *Chairman Huw Jenkins*. The indications are good for an improved relationship, with *Jason Levien* accepting that we have not been sufficiently involved to date.

Attended *Safety Advisory Group* meeting at the *Stadium* on the 17th November which focuses on issues relating to the *Stadium*.

Treasurers Report:

SMcD reported a decrease in our overall balances during the month of November due to further Legal Fees, and Sponsorship payments had been made to the *Swansea Junior League* and *Swansea School Foundation*.

Current Bank and *Building Society* balances amount to £872,584 down from £876,238.

The *Board* received a report on the *Audited Accounts* for the year ended 31st July, 2016. The *Audited Accounts* would be placed onto our Website after the **AGM**. Overall there was a loss of £260 due to an increase of Expenditure over Income for the 15 month accounting period.

TBM 127/08 Disability Issues:

IJ was unable to attend the Board Meeting as he was attending a Disability Access Audit at the Stadium this afternoon on behalf of the Football Club.

TBM 172/14 Membership & Media

AL reported that Standard Membership numbers recorded to date were 1740.

TBM 179/15 International Honours Board

The format of the *International Honours Board*, no final decision has been taken.

Also under this section was the *Wall Of Fame* recipients for this year. It was not possible during the Autumn to select a suitable home fixture to add names to the Wall Of Fame. It was decided to review the addition of names until the new year.

TBM 186/15 Swans Trust Website Stats

DT had submitted a report of the *Website* and *Social Media* stats for November 2016. The stats indicate the top 5 most visited for the month were:

Discussions with Senior Management of the Football Club, 24.24%, *Home Page* 18.43%, *Trust meet with Senior Management at Swansea City*, 13.47%, *Trust appoint new Supporter Director*, 11.11%, *Trust Annual General Meeting* 5.51%.

Random fact of the month – 37.55% of all traffic to the website came via social media with Facebook accounting for 55.68% of this and Twitter 40.38%.

Social Media presence figures – 6,193 members in our *Facebook group*, 1,742 Likes on the *Facebook Page*, with 6,375 *Twitter followers*.

TBM 188/15 Football Club Financial Information

The *Finance Sub-group* this afternoon received Management Accounts for August, September and October. Will need to request further detail from the Club Finance Manager before able to comment further. Should be able to provide a fuller report at the January Board Meeting.

TBM 189/15 Fans Forums.

No further information regarding a *Fans Forum*.

TBM 194/16 Former Players Association

No further meetings have taken place since the last Board meeting.

A.O.B.

AG look at contract phones.

The **Trust Board** voted to write to the new *Owners* proposing that the *Football Club Manager* be removed from his post before the next fixture against *Sunderland* on the 10th December.

AG requested that additional moderators be appointed to monitor the *Facebook Group*.

Agreed to look at Insurance cover for Board Members.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 7.10pm

Next Board Meeting Monday 9th January, 2017 at 5.30pm at the Liberty Stadium.