

SWANSEA CITY SUPPORTERS SOCIETY LIMITED

MINUTES OF THE TWELFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE LIBERTY STADIUM, SWANSEA ON MONDAY 26th NOVEMBER 2012.

Chairman Phil Sumbler welcomed Members to the Twelfth Annual General Meeting.

There was a quorum present allowing the AGM to continue. For the record 20 present.

The Minutes of the Eleventh Annual General Meeting were read out by the Secretary, the Minutes approved as read proposed by Jim White, seconded by Ron Knuszka. There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

Chairmans Report:

Chairman Phil Sumbler in presenting our 12th AGM mentioned that the last twelve months had given us some really wide exposure not just as a Football Club but as a Supporters Trust. It is rare that barely a week goes by without Alan Lewis picking up the Trust phone to some request from a media outlet or another for a fan's opinion about an upcoming match, a recent incident at the Club or, as we saw last Summer the departure of yet another Manager.

Again, I feel it only fair to point out here that the Trust – through our Supporter Director – is very much involved in discussions around the new Manager appointment and Huw (Cooze) kept us fully informed in terms of what was happening as the Club embarked on the search for the successor to Brendan Rodgers. Frequently, we are criticised in places for not being involved (I think the phrase I hear the most is that Huw is classed as a token gesture on the Club Board but whilst it is not appropriate to share every decision at the Club with our Members there is a definite position where we are consulted as a major Shareholder over these decisions.

Indeed, I think it only fair at this point to go on record in thanking Huw for his work within the Club, a job he conducts brilliantly on our behalf. I don't think anyone here should underestimate the importance of the job that he does and also the difficulty that it will entail as you can imagine the time needed to be a Director of a Premier League football club is not a simple case of 5/10 minutes per week and I don't think there are many who could give it the time that Huw does so that's a personal thanks from me but also a big thanks on behalf of all our members.

Looking outside of the issues such as the change in Manager at the Club this summer, there were some points where Huw fought hard for the benefit of the fans none more so over the ticketing issues that have arisen through our promotion last year. This time last year I was faced with many questions at our AGM over ticketing priority and loyalty schemes and I am glad to see that many of these issues are now resolved. Huw also raised fans concerns over deadlines for season ticket renewals last season and these were met with a change in stance from the Club showing that whilst we may have progressed through the leagues we are still listening to what the fans say and – where possible – we can enforce change for the better.

I do appreciate that I don't suspect that we have all these issues right at the moment but with a Stadium that has marginally over 20,500 seats and a demand for most games that far outstrips that, no system can be absolutely perfect and, as ever we are open to hearing alternative solutions if they are out there on how some of these issues can be resolved. The one thing again I guarantee you will be that ideas will be listened to. Change I can't guarantee but listening to our members we can.

Of course the input into the Club is just one of the aims of the Trust and we have achieved another of our aims this year when we look at bringing the Club closer to it's Community. Once again the last 12 months has seen us hold a Fans Forum here and one in London, we held the annual tenpin bowling night just a few short weeks ago and of course there was the Annual end of season Awards Dinner that we hosted in April here at the Stadium. Add to that an annual raffle and input into the recent fun day at the Stadium and this Club is getting close to being totally unique in what it brings to its Community. At this point it's only fair to thank Viv, Ron, Alan and the Community Sub-Group and the rest of the Trust Board who work at these events free of charge to make them as enjoyable as they possibly can be – a feat that I know is not easily achieved so thank you guys for all your help. I would also like to thank here, Alan Lewis and Viv Brooks in the main for their constant presence at the Trust Pod on matchdays. Come wind, rain or shine they are there beating the Trust drum and pushing our message wherever possible. Another never ending task but one that these two do brilliantly.

Without sounding like a stuck record it is also appropriate at this time to thank the rest of the Trust Board for their commitment to the Trust this year, my thanks to Nigel Hamer our Secretary and Stuart MacDonald our Treasurer, in the current world, time is of the essence in many people's employment and to see them turn up month in month out for meetings and for their activities between those meetings takes a huge commitment on anyone's part and should not be underestimated again by our Members. Thank you.

So what else have we done this year ? The Robbie James Wall Of Fame was a Trust led project and just a few months ago we unveiled the first 20 names of what will be eventually 100 names on the Wall. It was a hugely pleasing day for me to see former legends from the Club present at the unveiling and to see people back together again after some time apart was a brilliant feeling. We will announce the next 20 names at the end of season Awards Dinner next May and that unveiling will take place early next season.

For the last few years I think we have sat here and stated clearly that as a Trust we need to beat our drum harder in terms of what we do and what we offer and this year I think – to an extent – we have achieved that. I have mentioned media coverage – this weekend alone we had a presence on Sky Sports for the premier League preview, Sky Sports News Radio and Swansea Sound. Now whilst this is not always banging the Trust drum it is bringing us into the spotlight and is increasing our exposure. We regularly communicate via our Newsletters to our members and local news and radio are never far away from what we are doing. Of course we could do better and here I think there is also a duty for our members to tell us how. We now have upwards of 12,500 members as a Trust, a large number of which are active via e-mail so it is probably time to start asking our members again for their views on what we should do, how we should do it and what do we do wrong. Watch this space on that front.

Next up during the past year has been our involvement in the Centenary Project, Swansea 'til I Die is the first book produced as part of this and should be an essential part of any Swans supporters Christmas list. To me its one of those books that shares the memories of the fans but at the same time loses you in your own memories as you read through the book and drift down your own personal version of memory lane. The book is on sale in the Club shop or just grab one of us at the end of tonight and we'll arrange to get you one.

And finally from me tonight it is one more thank you and I think it's only right to go on record to thank our Huw and the rest of his fellow Club Board members for the way they have pulled the Club up through the divisions and into the Premier League. To churn out a profit in a first season in a Division that we were told was money orientated is some achievement and one that should be recognised. But, to also do it without a struggle against relegation and with a team playing a style widely recognised as one of the best in the Division gives me a great sense of pride as a Swans fan but also as the Chair of an organisation that has more than played its share in that success story. Our Board is dedicated to the success of Swansea City and for that at this moment in time and on behalf of our members everywhere I'd like to say a public thank you and well done.

And as I said that was a closing comment from me, we are now into another year of the Trust and we continue to work with the Club for the best of our members and supporters and I hope to be stood here again next year if my fellow Board members afford me the privilege talking about what I believe will be the best 12 months our organisation has ever had.

Thank you.

Treasurers Report:

The Audited Accounts for the Year End 31st May 2012 were presented by the Treasurer, Stuart Macdonald. Turnover for the year was £33,331 up from £19,574 for the year end 31st May 2011 with the Gross Profit £28,406 against £17,435 for 2011. Membership Subscriptions decreased from £6,906 in 2011 to £756. The significant drop in Membership Subscriptions was the result of our Free Membership offer celebrating our 10 years as a Supporters Trust. Our miscellaneous donations were £7,999 against £1,058 for 2011, and contributions to our Share Fund were £5,816 against £1,736 for 2011. After administrative costs of £15,000 our net profit was £13,406 against £12,059 for 2011. Our Shareholding in Swansea City Football 2002 Limited remained at £199,999. Shareholders Funds for 2012 were £228,590 against £215,940 for 2011.

The full Audited Accounts can be found on our website www.swanstrust.co.uk

The Chairman wished to record his thanks to Stuart McDonald for making the Auditor's job easier by his preparation of the accounts, also our thanks to the Auditors, W.R.King & Co. for the Independent Examination of the Accounts of the Society.

Appointment of Auditors:

The Treasurer proposed the re-appointment of the Auditors, W.R. King & Co., who had agreed to continue in office. Re-appointment agreed.

Election to the Trust Board:

Confirmation of the re-appointment of Huw Cooze as Supporter Director on the main Football Club Board for a two year period, confirmation that Will Morris will serve a further year as our Associate Director.

In accordance with Rule 61 of the Constitution, the following Members retire by rotation but are eligible for re-election:

There were six 'vacancies', we had received six nominations, therefore there was no election. The following Members were therefore elected unopposed and will serve for a term of two years.

Viv Brooks, John Heycock, Gareth James, Ron Knuszka, Alan Lewis, Viv Williams.

Adoption of New Model Rules Version 2011 and Amendment to Model Rules:

Proposed by David Little (legal Affiliate) acceptance of the New Model Rules Version 2011 replacing the 2001 Model Rules Version. Adoption unanimously agreed by those present.

Proposed Amendment of Rule 18 – Ordinary Share Provisions:

Presented by David Little (Legal Affiliate).

Current Rule:

The Shares of the Society have the Nominal Value of £1 each.

Amended to:

The Shares of the Society have the Nominal Value of 1p each.

Amendment unanimously agreed by those present.

Question & Answer Session:

Mike Winter enquired about the Club Accounts being published. **HC** replied that the Club Accounts can be accessed by visiting Companies House where the accounts are found six months after a year end.

There were no further questions the meeting closed at 8.55pm