

SWANSEA CITY SUPPORTERS TRUST

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the Board Meeting held on Monday, 8th June 2015 at the Liberty Stadium, Swansea commencing at 5.30pm.

Present:

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

Apologies:

Gwyn Hughes, Jim White.

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 14th May 2015 were approved.

Supporter Director Report:

HC talked us through a number of sensitive subjects including Player recruitment, it has been fairly quiet with holidays being taken since the season ended.

- Discussions with the Council on the Stadium purchase are continuing. There is no firm start date for Stadium expansion, but, the Club Board are very much committed to seeing it developed and is very much ongoing.
- Progress at Landore with the aim of achieving Category One Accreditation is pressing ahead. The addition of Classroom facilities onto the existing building is well advanced, and land has been cleared in readiness for the indoor barn building.
- Building works at the Fairwood Training Centre is taking shape. The extension will be watertight in a few weeks. We are still looking at an autumn finish for Stage 2.
- Had a luncheon meeting with the Co-founder of TLC Marketing. Alec Johnson is an ex-Swansea City player and as well as helping the Club has offered the Trust any advice and expertise it requests.
- There is progress regarding the Floodlights, deflectors have been fitted with a solution for the crowd facing adverts being trialled. The big screens behind each goal are being moved higher and hopefully that's another successful concern sorted.
- Club Chairman Huw Jenkins, Vice Chairman Leigh Dineen and I, met the '*Ride to the Palace*' cyclists who had ridden from Swansea to Crystal Palace at Selhurst Park, a fantastic effort by the sixty odd riders who had taken time out and raised funds for a very worthy cause in SwansAid.
- A new Customer Service area is being fitted out which will be open before the season. The aim is for it to be the User Friendly face of the Club. It will be located in the Unit to the right of the main Reception door.
- A new larger Trust/Travel Club Pod will be in position for the new season.

Treasurers Report:

SMac reported an outstanding Sponsorship payment due to *Swansea Bravehearts*. There are no other outstanding bills.

TBM 127/08 Disability Issues:

IJ reported on a Safeguarding Review meeting held with SCFC and SSMC staff at the Liberty Stadium on the 28th May primarily to review the process of renewing complimentary Carers for Disabled fans. The data for the review was obtained from many sources at SCFC and SSMC and feedback from fans.

The report covered a wide range of topics including: *What went well? What didn't go well? What organisational barriers and constraints did the Club, SSMC and fans face? Could any of the issues have been handled better or avoided?*

The report also included a breakdown of all applicants who had applied in terms of DLA/PIP's, other evidence etc., and this data will help the Club to define more clearly a representative Disability Policy for next season and future seasons.

Ideas for process and communications improvements were tabled and a subsequent formal review meeting arranged for the 22nd June. SCFC will also be meeting *Level Playing Field* at the Stadium following this meeting to discuss new proposals and ensure these are compliant with legislative and other requirements. Arrangements will be made in good time to communicate new policies and processes via a wide range of media including the *DSA*.

Developing a *Disability Manual* for staff at SCFC and SSMC to help communicate policies and guidance on dealing with *Equality Legislation*, disabled fans and carers. Also attended safeguarding presentations to Stewards prior to a number of home fixtures last season.

Other *Premier League* Clubs such as *Crystal Palace* have already been in contact to ask how we managed our complimentary personal assistant scheme. Following the meeting in *Derby* earlier this year, *Arsenal* and *Derby County* commended SSMC and SCFC for their initiative in creating a safeguarding panel for dealing with disabled fans, personal assistant ticket renewals and dealing with general Disability issues.

Attending a *Disability Liaison Officer* meeting at the iPro Stadium (Pride Park), Derby on the 16th June to discuss and share best practice in relation to Disability issues at *Premier League* and *Championship Clubs*.

Appointed *Spokesman* for the *South West Disabled Fan Experience Forum* in conjunction with *Level Playing Field*. This *Forum* includes clubs from the *South West*, *Cardiff City*, *Bristol City*, *Bristol Rovers*, *Swindon Town*, *Yeovil Town*, *Exeter City*, *Torquay United*. *Newport County* have just joined having recently formed a *Disabled Supporters Association*, I will be helping this fledgling organisation during its early days.

Only six *Clubs* in the *South West* group have *Disabled Supporters Organisations*, the role will be to encourage and guide the other Clubs to form their own *DSA's*. The next meeting of this *Forum* will be at the *Cardiff City Stadium* on the 15th October.

Our *Swansea City Disabled Supporters Association* is going from strength to strength with new enthusiastic Committee members and now has a significant social media presence with an increasing number of Fans joining.

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Swansea-City-Disabled-Supporters-Association-DSA/318014635056314>

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/swansdsa>

Web - <http://www.swanstrust.co.uk/swansea-city-fc-disabled-supporters-association/>

It is still early days but the future is looking good. The AGM will be coming up shortly, date to be announced.

TBM 172/14 Membership

AL reported that we currently have 1,384 paid members, there are 3,500 members in our *Facebook Group*, 1,095 Likes on the *Facebook Page* with 4,855 *Twitter* followers

TBM 178/15 Annual Award Dinner 2015.

The *Annual Awards Dinner* took place on the 20th May with 600 present in the *Premier Lounge* at the *Liberty Stadium*. There have been mixed reviews with complaints about sound issues, lack of TV screens, and in particular the *Youth Department Awards* made during the meal.

Our *Lifetime Achievement Award* was presented to *Mrs. Lorraine Corbett*. Other recipients of Awards were *Lukasz Fabianski* who won three Awards for *Best Newcomer*, *Players Player of the Season* and *Away Player of the Season*, *Ki Sung-Yueng* won the *Supporters Player of the Season*, *Bafetimbi Gomis* was *Top Goalscorer of the Season*.

TBM 179/15 International Honours Board.

NH informed the meeting that contact had been made with *SSMC* about an *International Honours Board*, a reply had been received from *SSMC* mentioning that a Board Meeting is due to be held later this month to discuss same.

A.O.B.

VW reported on progress of the Montages at the Riverside Bar. Design work and erecting would be £1400. The Michu painting will also be fitted. Photographs of last year's Lifetime Achievement Awards winners to be provided, also an update of photos for Awards Winners for last year and this year. Agreed to provide the Wall Of Fame details early to the Company who supplies the stainless steel plaques.

Agreed to purchase a new Supporters Trust banner at a cost of £150.

SMac had received an invitation to attend the *Swansea Junior League AGM/Presentation Evening at County Hall on Monday, 15th June at 7pm*. Board members to attend.

NH confirmed the dates for the annual Elections. Nomination Forms will be available online or by request from the 1st July, completed Nomination Forms to be returned by the 18th July. In the event of an election, ballot papers with Nominee members details and 100 words on their suitability to be elected will be made available to be returned by the 25th July.

HC and JW had discussed setting up a Forum with the *Ceredigion Jacks* Agreed to look at future venues and dates.

NH informed the meeting of the *Supporters Summit* sponsored by *BT Sport*, jointly hosted by the *Football Supporters Federation* and *Supporters Direct* will be held in *Manchester* on the 18th July from 10.00am.

The *Football Supporters Federation AGM* will be held at the same venue on the 19th July. *David Little* will attend. Agreed that *Alan Lewis* would also attend on behalf of the Trust Board.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.35pm.

Next Board Meeting Monday 6th July, 2015 at 5.30pm. Venue to be announced.

