

We recently emailed members and announced details of the annual elections for those members wishing to join the Trust Board next season. More details can be seen here:

<https://www.swanstrust.co.uk/elections/forthcoming-trust-board-elections-3/>

Details of how to stand for election are available here:

<https://www.swanstrust.co.uk/elections/trust-board-elections-2022/>

We would urge any member who feels they can contribute to the running and work of the Trust to apply, bearing in mind that the deadline for returning the Nomination Forms to the Trust Secretary by email or to our Registered Office being **Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> July**.

We have already received expressions of interest and questions from members into this year's elections so we thought it would be useful to share them in a short Q&A here.

**Q. How much work does the Trust do with the club?**

A. The Trust is already working alongside the club in a variety of projects as can be seen in our updates to members and also regularly referenced in our monthly board meeting minutes here: <https://www.swanstrust.co.uk/about/board-minutes-and-meetings/>

We are looking to develop this work still further over the next couple of seasons, hence why it's important to have an enthusiastic and diverse Trust Board to call upon at all times.

**Q. What types of projects could I get involved with?**

A. As part of their duties the Trust Board also work within a number of sub-groups to deal with such matters as Membership, Fundraising, Legal, Finance, Communications, Website/IT and Inclusivity. We also believe in working closely with a variety of organisations who have similar objectives to ourselves such as:

- Football Supporters Association
- Swans Foundation
- Former Players Association
- Swans Disabled Supporters Association
- Proud Swans
- Her Game Too
- United Against Racism
- Gambling With Lives / Big Step
- Mental Health Organisations

As well as working with these organisations the Trust Board routinely form part of working groups and joint initiatives alongside the club and the Swans Foundation including;

- Schools Initiative
- UK & Worldwide Swans Supporter Groups
- Safety Advisory Group
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Group
- Dementia Friendly Club
- Fan Behaviour
- Heritage Project
- Vetch Field Project
- Supporting local grass roots football, including Swansea Junior League and Swansea Schools FA
- Local Charities

We are also open to new ideas and initiatives raised by our Board Members – in the past season some of our Board Members have taken on self-led projects to revamp our website and back-end systems, develop a new three-year strategy, and review/update our governance rules in line with the latest FSA Model Rules.

**Q. What skills are the Trust Board looking for?**

A. We want people who are passionate about the Swans and the Trust, and advancing the interests and impact of both organisations. We don't require any specific skillsets, only that you have the time and enthusiasm to commit to

our objectives and the work we are doing. Naturally, we are always keen to see people standing who may have skills that meet the current context of our organisation – especially in Social Media, Digital, and engagement. These are key for us moving forward and we encourage anyone with those skills to consider standing as a Board Member to support us. But all applicants are welcome.

Our co-opted positions may seek out more specific skillsets to help us with certain elements of our work.

**Q. How often do the Trust Board meet?**

A. As a full board, we meet on average once a month to cover a full update and discussion. Board Members have the option to join in-person or virtually depending on personal circumstances.

Our sub-groups meet on a more informal basis or when a need arises, however work is often done in these groups offline.

**Q. Where do meetings take place?**

A. For in-person meetings, we typically meet at the Swansea.com stadium in a room that is set up for us to use MS Teams for those joining virtually.

**Q. How long do meetings last?**

A. That all depends on what needs to be raised, but we usually take advantage of the majority of the board being together to firstly allow a guest speaker or representative of the club to join us for the first hour or so and then we move on to Trust business. This past season, we have been joined by Russell Martin, Julian Winter, Rebecca Edwards-Symmons, Gareth Davies, Andrew Davies from the club; we have also had Helen Elton from the Swans Foundation, Karen Trussler from Swansea Junior League and Rhodri Mugford from Swansea Schools FA join us to provide more insight into their respective organisations.

We recognise that our Board are all volunteers with work, family and life commitments, and so we always try to ensure we finish our meetings by no later than 8pm to allow board members (some of whom live up to 3 hours away) to arrive home at a reasonable hour.

**Q. What if I can't attend the start of a meeting or need to leave early?**

A. We recognise that you will have outside commitments, and so we try to be inclusive both in start times and in end times. The Board in the previous year unanimously agreed to an earlier start time for our monthly Board Meeting to enable guest speakers, and also ensure everyone could attend the majority of each meeting. Should you need to join late or leave early, you just need to inform the Trust Secretary prior to the meeting so the agenda can be updated to reflect any key elements that you cover. We don't want this to be an impediment to you applying – please do reach out to us though [info@swanstrust.co.uk](mailto:info@swanstrust.co.uk) if you have any specific concerns on this matter.

**Q. What do home match day duties involve?**

A. We always try and ensure we have at least two or three more locally based Trust Board members in attendance at our Pod before every home game and a rota is drawn up well in advance for everyone to plan around. On average we would expect board members who are able to regularly attend home games to be on Pod duty for an hour or so about once every three home games but we are more flexible for those who live further afield or are unable to attend as frequently as others. This is a great opportunity for us to meet and chat with Trust Members, answer questions, and also encourage the wider Jack Army to join the Trust.

**Q. What happens if I disagree with a Trust Board decision?**

A. The Trust board is made up of members with varying levels of expertise in many different areas. It is quite common that not everyone will share the same views on any given matter. This is the purpose of the board. We aim to be as inclusive as possible and discuss all matters in an open and professional manner. If the board needs to take a vote then we will always abide by the majority opinion. In such circumstances that the board is split on a decision then we will endeavour to raise that given matter with our members. We should stress that all opinions are encouraged and explored and all board members act in the best interests of the Trust.

We hope this short Q&A helps, but if anyone has any further questions to ask before submitting their application to become a Trust Board member on or before Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 please email us at [info@swanstrust.co.uk](mailto:info@swanstrust.co.uk)

