

SWANSEA CITY SUPPORTERS TRUST

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the Board Meeting held on Monday, 7th March 2011 at the Liberty Stadium, Swansea commencing at 5.35pm.

Present:

Will Morris, Alan Lewis, Huw Cooze, Gareth James, Craig Mapstone, Viv Brooks, Ron Knuszka, Ian James, Stuart McDonald, Nigel Hamer (Secretary).

Apologies:

Phil Sumbler, Jim White, Kevin Mahoney.

In the absence of Chairman Phil Sumbler, Vice Chairman Will Morris chaired the meeting.

WM welcomed Gareth James back into the fold after his recent illness.

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 24th January had previously been circulated and approved.

Supporter Director Report:

HC thanked Board Members for their attendance prior to the Leeds United match as part of the St. David's day celebrations under the South Stand.

HC will attend a meeting with Andrew Davies of SSMC and Lyn Phillips (Stadium Manager) along with Club Board members to discuss possible segregation in the North Stand amongst many other issues..

Ryland Morgans – Head Of Sports Science at the Club had given a very informative talk to the Club

Board at their recent meeting. **HC** commented that it had been a most interesting and enlightening talk.

The recent offer of 250 season tickets at a reduced price at the Northern end of the stadium had been sold on the first few day's of issue, many of whom were new season ticket holders. .

HC had been heavily involved in the introduction of the link with Northshore United in Wisconsin suggesting that Board Members view their website to get a feel for the Club. It is hoped that some of their senior members will take in a game during March, probably the match against Nottingham Forest.

Letter to the club from North Shore

Hi Tony,

My name is Joe Hammes and I am the Director of Coaching for North Shore United Soccer Club in Cedarburg, Wisconsin, USA. Recently, our club President, Mark Koenig, has been in regular contact with Huw Cooze and have agreed to begin a partnership between Swansea City and North Shore United. Mark Koenig and our club's Director of Youth Development, Sinisa Angelovski, will be heading to Wales next week, March 17th, to visit Swansea City, take in a match or two, attend a few training sessions, and hopefully meet with you to discuss the partnership further. I really wish I could make the trip also, but I am a current professional player playing for the Milwaukee Wave, and it is our playoffs next week.

Our club is getting stronger in all aspects (teams, player development, coaching staff, facilities), and the partnership with Swansea City pushes our club even further, as it gives our membership even more playing and learning opportunities for our players and coaches.

It is our goal through this partnership to offer our players the opportunity to make a trip to Wales to attend a Swansea City tournament, learn from your coaching staff, and for our elite players, possibly suit up in a Swansea City jersey someday! Other ideas that we have for the partnership are participation in each club's youth tournaments and assistance with club summer camps. I also think it would be great for our NSU coaching staff to make a trip to Swansea City to learn and exchange training ideas and curriculums with your staff.

Here is a little background on North Shore United. Our club originally formed as Cedarburg Soccer Club in 1978 as a Club to serve local youth and families from U6 to U18 levels of play. In addition to our youth, we have traditionally also had several (3-4) Over 30's teams competing in a local league of 6-8 teams which we host. Last year, as we looked towards the future, we made the decision to rebrand the Club as North Shore United in order to be more inclusive for players in the region. In the first year as NSU, we have been successful in attracting players and families from 30-40 miles distance. Currently, our players number in the range of 900+ when you include our Select Program (U11 to U23 + Over 30's) and Recreational Program (U8, U10, U12, U14). Some of our teams (U13 Boys, U16 Girls, U18 Boys) compete at the highest national levels.

Thanks for your time and I look forward to hearing from you. All the best,

Joe Hammes
North Shore United
Director of Coaching

Treasurers Report:

SMcD reported that there were no outstanding bills. Finalisation of online memberships through **JW** should be completed by the next Board Meeting with payment being made into our account. The sub-group would continue to monitor the monthly payments which we launched back in December, this needs to be promoted again via our website and by e-mails and text messaging.

TBM 077/06 Fans Forum:

WM reported that the Fans Forum at Carmarthen Town FC had been arranged for Wednesday 23rd March at 7pm. **HC** to produce a flyer advertising the event, **AL** to make use of the website, e-mails and texts, also the two unofficial websites. **WM** would chair the panel which will be Brendan Rodgers and at least two first team squad members. **KM** to set up the microphone system.

TBM 080/06 Membership:

PS to put together a letter promoting our 10 year anniversary with our thoughts about membership to celebrate 10 years as a Supporters Trust. It is intended that a Donation Form will be sent out to all existing Trust members in April explaining membership in the future.

TBM 082/06 Swansea City 2002 Limited:

Nothing to report.

TBM 085/06 Website:

JW had informed the Board by e-mail that progress was slow in obtaining our original website address swanstrust.com The temporary swanstrust.co.uk was still in use.

TBM 086/07 Community Group:

VB and the sub-group held a meeting to review last years events, the very successful Bowling Night would again be one of the main events of the year. We had been offered a quiet night at Ten Pin which would be no charge to the Trust. The event would be held in September, but, the timing and the day would be at the discretion of the Football Club Manager.

The Annual Raffle would be held with the draw around late October/November. We would have access to a larger database which will require a different approach to the logistics of the operation, we would no longer have the use of the Registered Office at St. Helen's Road.

VB suggested that the Newsletter be ready in late July so that raffle books can be sent out at the same time, again we will have to review the operational centre for processing.

The sub-group proposed revisiting the previously successful Race Nite, this event will be held at St. Helen's Pavilion, Bryn Road. **VB** to contact Paul Cullen. A Curry Night which had been discussed last November will be revived and will probably take place at the Patti Raj Restaurant at the Patti Pavilion as they had offered their facilities from an idea put to us by Brendan Rodgers.

Hopefully this will be early August when any new players would be available to meet the fans.

TBM 125/08 Centenary 2012:

SMcD had provided a report by internal e-mail to Board Members. A summary of the report is:

Swansea University led by Professor Huw Bowen (Trust Member) and Dr. Martin Johnes have submitted a bid for Heritage Lottery Funding which would fund the appointment of a Project Officer and associated project costs for 12 months. If successful, the project will revolve around Swansea City FC and its role in the community and heritage of South West Wales, and will provide an educational and training tool/facility for the community. Schools from across the City and beyond and take responsibility for the production of a history of the Swans

Centred on the Club and what was going on in the town/city and world at the time. Each school will Generate material devoted to one or two years of the history of the Swans. The legacy of this will be a project website that will host all this material, a unique project with no UK comparison. It would help to generate positive publicity for the Club an strengthen the links with local schools.

The Trust are firmly set on the format as previously discussed, that of four books and two DVD's. It is hoped that the local media will become involved.

The sub-group are aware of several competing products, generally unofficial, unfortunately not all so. We are confident that in conjunction with Swansea University and local schools, the depth of Information that we will have access to, will allow us to produce a quality product that will stand up to any competition.

TBM 127/08 Disability Issues:

IJ would contact Lyn Phillips to set up a meeting to discuss next season. Replies had been received from supporters with Disability to form a sub-group.

TBM 139/09 Memorial Garden:

NH to arrange a meeting with the Chairman of SSMC.

TBM 140/10 5 A Side Football Tournament:

CM confirmed that running the tournament was still available to us. A team from the Club would be added interest in promoting the event. **HC** would check with the Club Backroom staff to put a team together. **HC** would speak to Kris O'Leary to ask if the ex-Swans at Neath FC would be interested. we require 12 teams for the Tournament to be viable.

A.O.B.

RK produced a – Supporters Trust Diary of Events Sheet for 2011/12. Beginning with:-

March 23rd 2011 - Fans Forum at Carmarthen Town FC.

May 4th 2011 - Annual Awards Dinner, Liberty Stadium

July/August 2011 - Newsletter/Raffle Ticket posting.

August 2011 - Curry Night (possible venue – Patti Raj Restaurant, Patti Pavilion)

September 2011 - Ten pin Bowling Night – Meet the Players

October 2011 - Annual Raffle Prize Draw

October 2011 - Trust AGM

November 2011 - Race Nite (possible venue St. Helen's Pavilion).

2012 - To be confirmed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.35pm

Next Board Meeting, Monday 28th March 2011 at 5.30pm

Will Morris.....Chair for the Evening.