

SWANSEA CITY SUPPORTERS TRUST

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the Board Meeting held on Monday, 13th April 2015 at the Landore Academy, Swansea commencing at 5.35pm.

Present:

Jim White, Huw Cooze, Barbara Cook, Cath Dyer, Ron Knuszka, Viv Williams, Dai Little, Ian James, Stuart Macdonald, Gwyn Hughes, Andrew Godden, Alan Lewis, Will Morris, Nigel Hamer (Secretary).

Apologies:

Phil Sumbler, Duncan Thomas, Viv Brooks.

In the absence of the Chair, Vice Chair Jim White chaired the meeting.

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 9th March 2015 were approved.

Supporter Director Report:

HC talked us through a number of sensitive subjects including Player recruitment, pre-season tour, Stadium purchase and Stadium expansion. The ongoing projects at the Landore Academy, where the construction of the classrooms as an extension to the existing building has begun, the completion of the gymnasium and groundworks at the Fairwood Training Centre. Improvements to be undertaken to the floodlights, the LED crowd facing advertising boards which are being monitored.

- *Undertook a guided tour for London Fans Forum raffle winners at the Fairwood Training Centre.*
- *Chaperoned a group from FC Oss (Holland) who were a party of 27, given a Stadium tour before playing Swansea City Under 10's at Landore and then taking in the Hull City fixture in the afternoon.*
- *Looked after Under 17 trialist Luka Prpa and his father who was over for a two week trial with the Swansea Academy, it will be up to the Club Coaching staff if he will return.*
- *North Shore United were competing in a top tournament in the Unites States wearing Swansea City kit, good to see us represented further afield.*
- *Youth teams have entered a tournament in Holland from May 14th-17th, Under 14's and Under 12's are representing Swansea City and will also play ADO Den Haag independent of the Tournament in order to maintain strong links with ADO Den Haag.*
- *Our Under 19's tour of South Africa was a success and again raised the Club profile in another country. Coaching sessions were held in Schools and Townships within the Cape Town area. We were featured on Breakfast TV with up to 5 million viewers getting to know Swansea City Football Club raising our profile further. Our Under 18's competed in the Under 19 International Tournament losing on penalties in the last 16.*
- *We have been invited by Rhodri Mugford of the Swansea Schools Football Association to their Swansea Schools Festival evenings at St. Helens Rugby Ground on the 27th & 28th April, Lee Trundle has agreed to join us at the event.*
- *Invited to the Disabled Supporters Association Open Evening at the Stadium but was unable to attend. The film Jack To A King was shown to the 70 in attendance with Lee Trundle, Gerhard Tremmel and Mal Pope in attendance.*

Treasurers Report:

SMac reported an outstanding Sponsorship payment to *Bravehearts* there are no other outstanding bills.

TBM 127/08 Disability Issues:

IJ reported that renewals of Season Tickets for Disabled Fans has now essentially been completed. This is the first time that the Club have asked for evidence of the need for a free Carer on this scale and did cause some confusion with Disabled fans with the process. There has been a review of the process and is being reviewed for the next round of renewals which will include a better publicity and a clearer process. The whole point of this process this year was to try to ensure that Disabled supporters who most needed a *Free Carer* had one. The process had discovered a number of cases of abuse of the Free

Carer and hopefully the process will be smoother in the future to enable *Disabled Supporters* to have the care and support they require.

TBM 172/14 Membership

AL reported that we currently have 1,373 paid members, there are 2,524 members in our *Facebook Group*, 1,064 Likes on the *Facebook Page* with 4,779 *Twitter* followers. **AL** highlighted the need to bring the membership database into line with the website to assist with the next round of membership renewals. **AL**, **JW** and **DT** to meet prior to next Trust Board Meeting to discuss..

TBM 174/14 Expert Working Group.

DL reported that both **PS** and himself had attended meetings of the *EWG* over the past four months. An Interim Report has been formulated but due to the forthcoming General Election we are awaiting advice on what can be reported.

TBM 176/14 American Share Purchase.

As far as we are aware the American Share Purchase has fallen through.

TBM 177/15 Legal Matters Update.

DL informed the Meeting that were currently operating under the *Model Rules 2001 Version*. At the 2015 AGM, we will be adopting the *Model Rules 2014 Version*. Since August 2014 we are now a *Community Benefit Society* replacing the *Industrial & Provident Society*. **DL** reported on the legal costs incurred in protecting our position during the *American Share Purchase*. Legal costs with *Magrath & Co* were £700 plus VAT, *Counsels Opinion* costs were £3500 plus VAT with a credit search of the *American* individuals cost £542 nett.

TBM 178/15 Annual Award Dinner 2015.

NH, **WM** and **CD** represent the *Trust* at the *Awards Dinner* meetings. As usual the Dinner is over subscribed for, unfortunately there isn't a venue in Swansea which is big enough for the numbers who wish to attend, the limit at the Stadium is 600, we had a waiting list of almost 200.

A.O.B.

JW referred to the Asset of Community Value. This to be an Agenda item for the next meeting.

JW asked to record our thanks to *Jonathan Wilsher, Media Manager* at the *Club* for arranging the Raffle Prize winners at the *London Fans Forum* to be *Sports Journalists* for the day at the *Everton* fixture.

The *Trust* had been invited to attend a *Supporters Direct* initiative at *Merthyr Town Football Club* on the 18th March. The event was to explore the setting up of *SD Cymru* in conjunction with the *Welsh Assembly Government*. **WM** and **NH** represented the *Trust*, also present were *Ken Skates AM, Deputy Minister for Sport, Welsh Assembly Government*, *Tim Hartley* and *James Mathie* of *Supporters Direct*, representatives of *Merthyr Town Football Club*, *Gwyn Derfel* of the *Welsh Premier League*.

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

Next Board Meeting Thursday 14th May, 2015 at 5.30pm, either at Landore Academy or Fairwood Training Centre. To be confirmed.