

SWANSEA CITY SUPPORTERS TRUST

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the Board Meeting held on Monday, 22nd October, 2012 at the Liberty Stadium, Swansea commencing at 5.35pm.

Present:

Huw Cooze, Alan Lewis, Will Morris, Craig Mapstone, Viv Brooks, Viv Williams, Cath Dyer, John Heycock, Nigel Hamer.(Secretary).

Apologies:

Phil Sumbler, Jim White, Ron Knuszka, Ian James, Kevin Mahoney, Gareth James, Dai Little.
Huw Cooze chaired the meeting in the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

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

Supporter Director Report:

HC presented further details of the Stadium expansion which could be built in two Phases. Phase 1 would be the East Stand with Phase 2 being the South and North Stands. The Club Board will undertake a feasibility study and sending out a Questionnaire especially to those Supporters who were unfortunate in not being able to purchase a season ticket in recent seasons.

The Landore site could be available in December 2012.

HC is attending a sub-group meeting during week ending the 27th October to discuss Season Ticket prices for Season 2012/13. It is intended that Season Ticket sales will commence on the 1st December and that a similar payment scheme to this season will again be available.

Treasurers Report:

In the absence of the Treasurer there was no report.

TBM 077/06 Fans Forum:

No report.

TBM 082/06 Swansea City 2002 Limited:

Nothing further to report.

TBM 085/06 Website:

No report.

TBM 086/07 Community Group:

VB/AL confirmed that the Bowling Night will take place on the 14th November. Bookings for the event were almost full. The cost per lane will be as in previous years at £13 per person in total £78. AL reported that *SKY TV* had indicated that they would wish to film on the evening, it was decided to decline the offer. *SwansPlayer* should be present on the night. Trophies etc., will be purchased as usual from *Dorians* in Oxford Street.

TBM 125/08 Centenary 2012:

HC reported that there is still the need to push sales of the Swansea Till I Die first book. The National Waterfront Museum will be holding an event leading up to Christmas which could help sales of the book. The Club Shop will continue to offer the book for sale.

TBM 127/08 Disability Issues:

IJ had submitted a written report prior to the meeting. Most Steering Group members have commented on the new Constitution and therefore it will be proposed for adoption at the AGM. A date for the AGM will be discussed with *SSMC* for early December. Details of the AGM will be through the official Club website and other Forums.

IJ reported on the Disabled Forum held at *Yeovil Town FC* on the 18th October which was described as the *South West Disabled Fans Experience Forum* which was attended by *Yeovil Town, Torquay United, Exeter City, Cheltenham Town, Bristol City, Bristol Rovers and Swansea City*, also in attendance were the *Football League* and *Level Playing Field*. There were no representatives from *Cardiff City* and *Swindon Town* who had both been invited. The *Forum* consisted of a number of presentations by *Yeovil Town FC* showing how they address disability issues within the Club. The key issue seemed to be the close co-operation between *Club* and *Stadium Management*. Even though *Swansea City AFC* do not own their Stadium, I was encouraged by the way *Yeovil Town* dealt with issues and I have contacted Club *General Manager Alun Cowie* and *Matt Daniel, Stadium Manager* to discuss the issues discussed by *Yeovil Town*. The *Football League* also had an interesting presentation regarding surveys they carry out throughout the Divisions. As we were the only *Premier League* team in attendance there was general interest in how we went about Disability issues. A provisional date for a further meeting of the *Forum* is in September/October 2013. *Alun Cowie* is setting up an *SCFC* e-mail address so that I can be contacted direct as the Disability Officer so that any disability issues can be directed to myself.

TBM 139/09 Memorial Garden

No progress. This would be affected by the Stadium expansion.

TBM 142/11 Wall Of Fame:

A general discussion took place about future recipients to be added and the timescale. It was agreed that Board Members could if they wished, submit names suitable for election to the Wall Of Fame to be sifted through by a sub-group of Board Members. After further discussion it was unanimously agreed that we would add 20 names each year reducing the timescale to a further four years rather than the original ten years as originally mooted. It remained that the Wall Of Fame would still consist of 100 names, but, was felt that the spread of ten each year was too distant. The twenty names would be announced at the Awards Dinner next May.

TBM 143/11 Business Sector:

No report.

TBM 150/12 Premier League Supporters Trust Group.

We had not been able to attend the meeting in London on the 11th October. **NH** had received brief notes of the meeting which were as follows:

Supporters Liaison Officers (SLO's) remains a much discussed issue. The Premier League are very keen to impose this post on Clubs. Supporters Direct will shortly be contacting Members in the *Premier League* and *Football League* to get an understanding of what is happening with *SLO's* at individual Clubs.

An agreement to start a joint project for the *Premier League* group, it is felt that it will be an excellent way of giving a clear purpose to this group and that a collective voice could be a powerful influence for change.

A suggestion was made regarding away ticket prices and we would welcome thoughts on this issue. Potential other areas were touted such as regarding the implementation of a structured relationship between Club and Trusts. (*We are one of the few that already has this structured relationship*).

QPR 1st asked how they could be a positive influence/partner plus explain the purpose of a Trust and how they differ from a traditional Supporter Club group.

TBM 151/12 Frame for John Charles Signed Shirt.

Agreed that we would donate and pay for a frame of a signed ***John Charles shirt*** to hang adjacent to the John Charles bust in the main foyer at the Liberty Stadium.

TBM 152/12 Blind/Disabled Fans

Nothing further to report.

TBM 153/12 Future Of The Trust..

No report.

TBM 154/12 Matchday Catering;

NH reported that e-mails had been received from the *Ospreys Supporters* group regarding their concerns over catering at the Stadium. **NH** had replied that in order to bring these issues to the attention of *SSMC*, there should be specific incidents reported to the Catering Staff at the time of their complaint. This would enable *SSMC* and *Compass Catering* to identify these concerns and where possible correct them. The issues reported by our members had been taken up by **HC** with *Compass Catering* and he had been

satisfied with the answers given. Similarly to the suggestion made by **NH** to the *Ospreys Supporters*, we should identify issues by bringing them to the attention of catering staff at the time of any complaint.

AOB.

NH highlighted various requests we had received over the past month.

A request from *Supporters Direct* for newly appointed CEO David Lampitt and Head Of Policy and Development, Tom Hall to meet with us. **"Your Trust is one of the flagships of the movement"**

NUST (Newcastle United Supporters Trust) have invited us to a Public Meeting on the 16th November, the eve of our away fixture at Newcastle **"To take part in a Public Meeting about the success of your Trust's part in the ownership of Swansea City."**

An invitation to attend the Launch of a Briefing paper by *Supporters Direct* in the *European Parliament* in Brussels on the 7th November. We would like key members to attend. **"We would dearly love someone from Swans Trust and, or, Swansea City to attend."**

A request from the re-formed *SKY BLUES TRUST*. **"We would be grateful to learn more about the Swans Trust. We are at the stage of looking to raise finance and we would be very keen to find out how you went about doing so."**

AL also gets numerous requests from *Danish* and *Spanish* Journalists for further details of our success as a Trust.

HC suggested that as we appear to be having so many requests especially about our success as an organisation that we produce a bullet point resume from our inception.

NH would await the actual date and time of the *Newcastle United Supporters Trust* invitation.

NH reported that *Supporters Direct* would contribute towards any costs incurred in our accepting the invitation to the European Parliament. It was agreed that we should accept the invitation, **AL** indicated that he would be prepared to represent the Trust. Agreed that we would cover any other costs not covered by *Supporters Direct*. As the invitation was for the *Trust* and or *Swansea City*, **NH** would contact *Supporters Direct* to check if the offer was for two. (Since the meeting, *SD* have agreed to two invitations, *Supporter Director Huw Cooze* would travel to Brussels.)

Ospreys Supporters Club.

NH reported receiving an e-mail from the *Ospreys Supporters Group* regarding their memorabilia in the Riverside Lounge and were concerned that *SSMC* had requested removal of several items due to comments raised by Swans Supporters that the bar was turning into a Rugby Clubhouse. Two years ago we had raised no objections to the placing of memorabilia in the bar area. As some of the Board Members were not familiar with the Riverside Lounge, **NH** contacted *SSMC* to arrange a meeting to view the concerns. **NH** and **HC** visited the Riverside Bar on the 10th October. Initial reactions were that it did seem excessive, we proposed to *SSMC* that by moving some of the memorabilia around, the *Ospreys Supporters* could have the North end of the bar and the Swans, the South end of the bar with memorabilia of football. *SSMC* were ok with this suggestion, this was relayed to the *Ospreys Supporters*, at the date of the meeting no reply had been received.

Model Rules Constitution Of Society Board.

NH suggested that the Board consider the deletion of the following Rule 58 a).

No person can be a member of the Society Board who:

- a) *Has been a member of the Society Board for 12 consecutive years.*

The Trust have since its formation not been very successful in encouraging new blood to join the Trust Board, in order for continuity of Board membership it is proposed that this Rule be removed. The Board agreed to place this motion before the AGM on the 26th November for approval.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.45pm

Next Board Meeting, Monday 26th November 2012 at 5.30pm followed by the AGM at 7.30pm..

Chair for the evening.....*Huw Cooze.*