

SWANSEA CITY SUPPORTERS TRUST BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the Board Meeting held on Monday, 3rd August 2015 at the Landore Academy, Swansea commencing at 5.40pm.

Present:

Jim White, Huw Cooze, Barbara Cook, Ron Knuszka, Viv Williams, Stuart Macdonald, Cath Dyer, Duncan Thomas, Alan Lewis, Viv Brooks, Andy Godden, Nigel Hamer (Secretary).

Apologies:

Phil Sumbler, Ian James, Will Morris.

Secretary Nigel Hamer confirmed the Officers for the forthcoming year, the elected Board Members, the Co-opted Board Members, Supporter Director and Associate Director.

Chairman – Phil Sumbler, Vice Chairman – Jim White

Treasurer - Stuart Macdonald

Secretary – Nigel Hamer

The Officers will serve for a period of one year until 31st July 2016.

Elected Board Members:

Huw Cooze, Ian James, Stuart Macdonald, Will Morris, Phil Sumbler, Jim White who will serve for a period of two years to July 31st 2017.

Co-opted Board Members:

Barbara Cook, Cath Dyer, Andy Godden. Who will serve for a period of one year to 31st July 2016.

Supporter Director:

Huw Cooze who will serve for a period of two years until 31st July, 2017.

Associate Director:

Will Morris who will serve for a period of one year until 31st July 2016.

Legal Affiliate:

David Little who will serve for a period of one year until 31st July 2016.

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 8th June 2015 were approved.

Supporter Director Report:

HC submitted bullet points of his involvements over the past month:

- *Attended a Mental Health meeting Sports Day with Lee Trundle.*
- *Attended a Safety Advisory Group (SAG) meeting at the Stadium.*
- *Attended a number of True for 22 meetings.*
- *Arranged a Fans Forum meeting for the Liberty Stadium for the 10th September.*
- *Arranged a Ceredigion Jacks Fans Forum for the 22nd October.*
- *Discussed with London Jacks their annual Fans Forum, date to be arranged.*
- *Discussed with Pembroke Jacks a suitable date for their Fans Forum, no date agreed yet.*

Attended a two day seminar in London, 29th/30th July. The 29th July was a Supporters Conference where I gave a presentation on True for 22, the cost and how it worked, Jim White gave a Fans perspective. The 30th July was a Supporters Liaison Officer meeting, Visit Football and the Premier League.

There are a number of slight changes to the offside laws which will become familiar as the season begins. There will be a trial of rolling subs at Junior League level. There were discussions about the sin

bin (as in Rugby Union) where a player leaves the field for 10 minutes. General feeling at the meeting that this would result in teams putting 10 men behind the ball for the 10 minute period, slow the game down and have a general negative effect and make the game more sterile.

Other random points picked out at the meeting of the Premier League section:

- *Ball in play – 56 Minutes.*
- *975 goals scored*
- *19 extra goals due to goal line technology.*
- *13,741,000 bums on seats.*
- *36,000 average attendance.*
- *858,793 away attendance.*
- *2,260 average away fan attendance. Swansea average 1,500.*

I have recently written a blog on the Trust website about our involvement with North Shore United in sports mad Wisconsin, the upshot is that I have received a number of enquiries to set up similar enterprises in other areas of America. It would be impossible to cover it all but it would be good to work on some key areas. Contacts have come from New Jersey, Myrtle Beach, Los Angeles, Minnesota, Chicago and Milwaukee. With America opening up I see this as an ideal opportunity to raise our profile in America, our match against Chelsea was broadcast live for all to view, not just cable or satellite.

Treasurers Report:

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

TBM 127/08 Disability Issues:

IJ submitted a report that the *Disabled Supporters Association AGM* took place in July with the event well attended with some excellent debate and questions which will be brought up with the *Club*. The *DSA* have a number of initiatives that are ongoing including providing feedback to the *Club* and other *Clubs* on disabled facilities for visiting fans. This is an excellent way of sharing best practice and improving the experience for all *Disabled* fans in the *Country*.

TBM 172/14 Membership

AL reported that the final membership figure to the end of July was 1,384 paid members. Our Social media presence continues to grow, there are 4,148 members in our *Facebook Group*, 1,132 Likes on the *Facebook Page* with 4,968 *Twitter* followers.

Membership arrangements will be the same as last year and Online membership for the new Year had been available via the Trust website from the 1st August, around 40 standard memberships had already been renewed. The membership packs will be posted out to around 12,000 UK addresses on our Database next week for the first home match of the season. As well as a membership form the pack has a Newsletter and raffle tickets.

AG agreed to become the *Social Media Manager* to take some pressure off **AL**.

TBM 178/15 Annual Award Dinner 2016.

It was agreed that we would set up a Sub-Group to discuss the Awards Dinner for 2016.

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* agreeing to the proposition in principle, but, requested that we make contact with the *Ospreys Supporters Group* to let them know our intentions.

TBM 180/15 Supporters Direct AGM & Supporters Summit.

AL and **David Little** (Legal Affiliate) attended the event in Manchester on the 18th/19th July. The event consisted of the *Supporters Direct Members Day* which included the *Supporters Direct Premier League group* and the *Football Supporters Federation Supporters Summit*. The *SD Members day* included *SD Premier League Group* meetings where once again the significant difference between the relationship we have with our *Owners/Board* and that which other *Premier League Trusts* have with their

Clubs was evident. All *Trusts* present were appreciative of the *Swans True to Twenty Two* initiative and would be lobbying their *Clubs* to follow suit.

The *Supporters Direct/FSF Supporters Summit* covered a wide range of themes ranging from the current events with FIFA, the role of Supporters in saving their Club (highlighted the story of *Merthyr Town FC.*) and the *Away Fans* initiative. The *Swans True to Twenty Two* initiative was again widely applauded. *David Little* failed narrowly to be elected to the *Supporters Direct Board*.

TBM 181/15 Riverside Lounge.

VW reported on the progress of the Montages at the Riverside Lounge. **NH** was requested to liaise with *Andrew Davies* of *SSMC* for permission to undertake the work. It is hoped that the work will be completed before the first home game against *Newcastle United* on the 15th August. Details of the *Wall Of Fame* nominations have been submitted to *Trevor Lewis Signs*, fitting of the plaques will be undertaken on the 18th September prior to the fixture against *Everton* on the 19th September.

TBM 182/15 Regional Fans Groups.

JW had met with the *Ceredigion Jacks*, and with **HC** a date had been agreed to hold a *Fans Forum* in *Lampeter* on the 22nd October.

<http://www.swanstrust.co.uk/2015/07/13/ceredigion-jacks-supporters-group-official-launch-event/>

A.O.B.

AL requested assistance at the *Trust Pod* on match days. It was agreed that **NH** would draw up a rota of attendance.

CD volunteered to deal with a twinning group with the C&CS.

RK offered to provide information on travel plans.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Next Board Meeting Monday 7th September, 2015 at 5.30pm.