

SWANSEA CITY SUPPORTERS TRUST

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the Board Meeting held on Monday, 4th March, 2013 at the Liberty Stadium, Swansea commencing at 5.35pm.

Present:

Phil Sumbler, Jim White, Huw Cooze, Alan Lewis, Viv Brooks, Cath Dyer, Ron Knuszka, Ian James, Stuart McDonald, Craig Mapstone, Viv Williams, Nigel Hamer. (Secretary).

Apologies:

Will Morris.

Chairman Phil, reported that we had received a resignation e-mail from Board Member John Heycock due to increased work commitments.

Huw Cooze updated the Board on the current health position of Will Morris who is still in Morrision hospital and unable to receive visitors at present. The Secretary was asked to send a Get Well card.

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 4th February 2013. had previously been circulated and approved.

Supporter Director Report:

HC had been behind the Questionnaire set up to test the strength of support for the Stadium expansion plans. It was vitally important to have a positive response to the questionnaire in order for the Club Board to take forward the planning of the Stadium expansion. It was important that the results of the questionnaire be available early March.

HC reported on the West Stand extension for which planning had been submitted. Main reason for the extension was to accommodate additional Press facilities. Plans for the extension were shown at the meeting. There will be an additional 1000 seats in the West Stand, work to be carried out between May and August, this will provide an capacity of 22,000. Plans are to be submitted shortly increasing the capacity to 35,000 this will be spread over 3-4 years, the East Stand will be extended first.

HC re-confirmed that planning consent had been approved for *Fairwood*, however, this was a long term plan over a number of years. *Landore* is taking shape, the grass pitch turf was being laid this week, the all weather pitch is already in use by the First team squad. The fitting out of the new Pavilion should be completed shortly. Drainage pipes are being laid to divert the stream running across the lower part of the site into the river.

NH asked to send a letter of congratulations to the Manager, Staff and Players for their Capital One Cup success at Wembley Stadium on Sunday 24th February by beating Bradford City 5-0.

Treasurers Report:

SMcD suggested that we should Invoice the Club for the book sales of Swansea Till I die to date. **HC** will liaise with **NH** to produce an invoice to the Club. It was time to consider whether Free Membership will be continued for another year, a Sub-Group of **SMcD**, **VB** and **AL** . will deal with this. **SMcD** had been in discussion with the various Junior Leagues about sponsorship, we should have a better appreciation of the progress at the next meeting. **SMcD** in discussion about the story of Swansea Jack to be placed on the base of the Ivor Allchurch statue with Michael Isaac of George Isaac & Son, Stonemason to progress this forward.

TBM 077/06 Fans Forum:

No indications of any forums in the immediate future.

TBM 082/06 Swansea City 2002 Limited:

Nothing further to report.

TBM 086/07 Community Group:

No report.

TBM 125/08 Centenary 2012:

Agreed to invoice Club for 1000 book copies sold in the Club Shop. **HC** has progressed on the Second Book, this will be reviewed in the summer.

TBM 127/08 Disability Issues:

IJ reported that voting had now been completed with the members of the Management Committee selected based on the number of votes received. Thanks to **CD** for sending out the e-mails to the successful candidates. The next stage is for the Management Committee to meet to nominate a Chairperson and to agree on any co-options. **IJ** has spoken briefly to *Alun Cowie, Dan Evans, Phil Langford* and *Tony Avo* to meet to discuss communication and responsibilities in relation to dealing with Disability issues. This is necessary due to the number of groups involved, i.e. Stadium Management, Football Club and Ticket Office. **IJ** has written to *Alun Cowie, General Manager SCAFC* with suggested amendments to the Club disabled policies and Club charter.

In October 2013, the Club will be hosting the next meeting of the South West Disabled Fans Experience Forum which will include representatives from teams across the South West including Bristol City, Bristol Rovers, Cardiff City, Yeovil Town, Exeter City, Plymouth Argyle and Torquay United.

Some feedback from the Wembley experience which was not the Clubs fault – Disabled tickets were not allocated to Wheelchair spaces.

TBM 142/11 Wall Of Fame:

PS informed the meeting that **NH** had provided him with a comprehensive list of worthy entrants to the Wall Of Fame. **PS** and **NH** to liaise on next twenty names to be announced at the Annual Awards Dinner. **VW** to liaise with *Trevor Lewis Signs* for the name plates.

TBM 150/12 Premier League Supporters Trust Group.

NH confirmed that Supporters Direct had requested that we give a presentation of our Trust at the third Premier League Supporters Trust meeting to be held in Birmingham on the 23rd March 2013. **JW** has accepted to undertake the presentation. The meeting is open to two representatives from the Trust. Venue to be confirmed in the next week.

TBM 151/12 Frame for John Charles Signed Shirt.

VW to obtain a quotation for a suitable frame. Also agreed to obtain quote for the International shirt of the late Harry Griffiths. After discussion agreed that we would request the framed shirt be hung in the Vice Presidents room at the Stadium.

TBM 154/12 Matchday Catering & Riverside Lounge

VB asked if we could place football memorabilia in the Riverside Lounge. **HC** suggested that we place two boards on the South side of the room, one for Lifetime Achievement Awards nominees and second for Player of the Year Award. We could also reproduce some enlarged photos of the successful Capital One Cup final day at Wembley. **PS** and **VW** to undertake a site visit.

TBM 155/12 Supporter Direct Position Paper on more Supporter Involvement in football.

Full report on www.swanstrust.co.uk

TBM 156/13 Supporters Trust Flag.

CM had checked out sizes of a suitable flag, agreed an 8' x 4' flag be purchased **HC** to provide artwork.

TBM 157/13 ex-Players Association.

KM not present to provide a report.

TBM 158/13 Pinch Point Car Parking.

NH reported that no response had been received from SSMC.

TBM 159/13 SV WALDHOF MANNHEIM LINK

CD had been in e-mail communication. This team were keen to have a Supporter link with us. The City & County Of Swansea are twinned with Mannheim.

AOB.

PS asked us to consider nominations for the Lifetime Achievement Award which the Trust sponsor at the Annual Awards Dinner.

VW was preparing for advertisements for our August Newsletter, enquiring whether we would be considering alternatives to the previous lapel badges and car stickers.

JW informed the meeting that Trust Member David Hansel had recovered our original domain name www.swanstrust.com **JW** had already thanked him for his efforts in not giving up retrieving our original domain name. **PS** suggested that the paperwork for this should be held by the Secretary.

RK suggested that we consider producing a booklet highlighting our story from the outset in July 2001. We always accuse ourselves of not blowing our own trumpet. Agreed that **PS** would put together the story and get in touch with book publishers.

JW suggested another Fans Forum in London this season. The Chelsea fixture is the only fixture remaining in London this season.

JW announced plans to upgrade our Trust website.

Annual Awards Dinner – **NH** reported that the Dinner will take place on Thursday 16th May. **NH, HC** and **CD** are representing the Trust on the joint EFRC and Trust meeting group.

JW proposed that we undertake an updated survey of where the Trust stands in the minds of its membership. **JW** to forward by e-mail a summary of questions for the survey in the next few days.

JW to collate all press cuttings/interviews relating to the Trust over the last few months.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.30pm

Next meeting Monday, 8th April at 5.30pm

Chairman.....*Phil Sumbler.*