

SWANSEA CITY SUPPORTERS TRUST BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the Board Meeting held on Monday, 5th October 2015 at the Liberty Stadium, Swansea commencing at 5.30pm.

Present:

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

Apologies:

Phil Sumbler, Cath Dyer.

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 7th September, 2015 were approved.

Supporter Director Report:

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

- *Gave us the latest about potential Player movement in January, he did stress that thoughts change daily and it was more speculative than fact.*
- *South Stand Fans Zone is being used by many children with face painting, play stations and virtual penalty shoot outs just some of the activities available. There is a reflex game where the kids can enter a competition with a Leader board, Lukasz Fabianski had a go when it was being installed and is currently sitting top pf the Leader board.*
- *The PA system, after more complaints at the recent Fans Forum, was brought up again. SSMC are now seeking quotations of cost before making a final decision.*
- *An external large screen will be fitted where the current static board is above the Ticket Office, it is felt that more information can be relayed via this screen and it is expected to be installed by December.*
- *As reported elsewhere, the Club Board are still working through Landlord's consent which must be agreed before anything can happen regarding expansion, it is a delicate situation and difficult to comment further.*
- *The Indoor Barn at Landore is being swiftly erected and should be ready for use in early 2016, the classrooms and offices are being added as a third tier to the main building and will be ready also early in 2016. Comprehensive audits will then take place and with good fortune we should be accredited with Category One status.*
- *Work at Fairwood is ongoing, the extended main building will house offices, a gymnasium, a hydro pool and extra changing facilities and should be watertight any time soon, fit out will then take place and it should all be completed for use early Spring 2016. The existing part of the building is fully operational and a modern stand alone barn conversion which currently houses the gymnasium will become a Media Centre.*
- *A full and comprehensive report including a business plan has been submitted to the Club Board following my recent visit to New Jersey, USA which was at the request of the Club Board*
- *A two day seminar for Supporters Liaison Officers and Disability Access Officers has been arranged in Swansea next week, this is a bit of a coup for us as these events tend to be held in London, Manchester, or, Liverpool. They have chosen our venue as we have received very good press in recent years in regards to our Disabled provisions for Supporters. A lot of hard work has gone on behind the scenes and it would be fair to thank Catherine Thomas and Lucy Norman at the Club for making it all come together.*
- *I am attending, on behalf of the Club the Stadium Business Design and Development summit in London where a visit to the Olympic Park and back stage at the O2 is part of the summit. It is a two day event and Andrew Davies, Stadium Manager will accompany me.*
- *Other meetings attended are as a Trustee of the Community Trust, the monthly Club Board meeting, a season ticket price sub-group as well as the Safety Advisory Group meeting.*
- *Reminders – Ceredigion Fans Forum has been arranged at Lampeter RFC clubhouse from 7pm, Thursday 22nd October, the Pembroke Fans Forum has been arranged at Hook Sports & Social Club from 7pm ON Thursday 26th November. The London Fans Forum has yet to be arranged.*

Treasurers Report:

SMac reported an outstanding Sponsorship payment due to *Bravehearts*. It is hoped that a date to present a cheque prior to the next Board meeting.

SMac presented an Income and Expenditure budget report based on some conservative income and realistic expenditure plans, which shows a healthy surplus for 2015-16 which is important for good business operations and which will also allow it to support community initiatives such as support for sponsorship of the *Swansea Junior League* and *Swansea Schools Football Association* as in previous seasons. **SMac** and **NH** had met with *Santander Bank* today to discuss term rates with them. We already have the maximum amount allowed under the *Financial Services Compensation Scheme* with *Santander*, *Swansea Building Society* and *Monmouthshire Building Society*.

TBM 127/08 Disability Issues:

CD had submitted a report of the event organised by the *Swans Disabled Association* held at the *Liberty Stadium* with *Alan Curtis*, initially he gave a talk on his career. A Q&A took place afterwards. There were 34 *DSA* members present at the event.

IJ reported that there has been a lot of work going on behind the scenes to try and improve the service facilities for Disabled Fans. The *Club*, *SSMC* and the *Swansea City Disabled Supporters Association* are working and communicating together in a way that has real benefit. *Level Playing Field* had forwarded an e-mail to myself and *Lucy Norman* at the *Club* from an *Everton Supporter* at the recent fixture with *Everton* on the 19th September. The e-mail was extremely complimentary of the whole match day experience and facilities at the *Liberty Stadium*, a final comment from the *Everton* fans e-mail – a lot of *Clubs* could learn from *Swansea City* and their inclusive match day experience for *Disabled Supporters*. The *Swansea City Disabled Supporters Association* now has its own Official website at <http://www.swansdsa.co.uk>

TBM 172/14 Membership

AL reported that our Social media presence continues to grow. There are now 4,234 members in our *Facebook Group*, 1,155 Likes on the *Facebook Page* with 5,144 *Twitter* followers. Paid membership numbers are approaching 1,000.

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 awaiting comments from the *Ospreys Supporters Club* from their meeting on the 5th October before progressing with obtaining quotes for the Honours Board.

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.. A further Fans Forum will be held in Haverfordwest on the 26th November, early reports suggest 180 will be present at this event.

TBM 183/15 Travel Plan.

RK to provide a Travel Plan as promoted by Swansea University.

TBM 184/15 Region Twinning.

Nothing further to report.

TBM185/15 Wall Of Fame

NH reported on another successful unveiling of the 20 additional *Wall Of Fame* recipients prior to the fixture against *Everton* on the 19th September. **PS** welcomed family and players, *Kevin Johns* also spoke at the event. Club Directors *John van Zweden* and *Supporter Director Huw Cooze* undertook the unveiling.

Family Members represented the following recipients:

Alex Ferguson, Harry Hanford, Syd Lawrence, Tommy Olsen, Trevor Ford, Tom Kiley, Mike Johnson, Brian Purcell. In attendance were, Leighton Phillips, Des Palmer, John Mahoney, Jimmy Rimmer Unable

to attend were Alan Williams, Dai Davies, Brayley Reynolds, Dave Stewart. We were unable to trace relatives of – Jimmy Collins, Ray Daniel, Frank Burns and Reg Weston.

TBM 186/15 Swans Trust Website Stats.

DT had submitted a report of Fans Websites which direct visitors to the Trust website. During the first 9 months of 2015, SCFC2 had directed 5,130 visitors to the Trust website, Planet Swans 4,212, The Swansea Way 495 and the official Swans site accounted for 379 re-directs. In terms of social media traffic to the Trust website, Facebook accounted for 64% and Twitter 36%. During September the Trust website had visitors from 152 different countries.

TBM 187/15 Co-opted Board Membership

There had been a delay in arranging meetings with the four applicants for the Co-opted position who had made contact by the cut-off date of the 21st September. Contact will be made with these applicants in the next few weeks.

TBM 1888/15 Football Club Financial Information

Our Finance sub-group have reviewed the *Club Management Accounts* for the previous month and provided assurance to the *Trust Board* that they were comfortable with the information provided.

TBM 189/15 Fans Forums.

The early season *Fans Forum* held in the *Gower Suite* on the 10th September was well attended with over 160 in attendance.

The *Club* were represented by *Chairman Huw Jenkins, Vice Chairman Leigh Dineen, Manager Garry Monk, Leon Britton, Lee Trundle* and *Supporter Director Huw Cooze*.

TBM 190/15 Premier League Trusts & Supporters Direct Meeting.

The next meeting takes place at *Supporter Direct* offices on the 10th October. The meeting commences at 10.30-13.00, a Networking lunch with *Championship Trusts* between 13.00-14.00. DL has agreed to attend on our behalf.

TBM 191/15 Codes of Conduct for Officers & Trust Board Members

NH and DL to review and report back to the Trust Board meeting before the AGM in November.

A.O.B.

A sub-group set up to take forward a three year strategic plan for the Trust which will review what our aims are and how we look to operate and manage ourselves.

Stewarding entering the *Car Park* with cars backing up onto the main road into the Stadium. HC to contact SSMC.

JW had entered into discussions with the *Landore Social Club* as a venue for *Supporter Groups* to meet with the *Trust* prior to home fixtures which we would use until the end of the season.

AGM – Date to be confirmed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Next Board Meeting Monday 9th November, 2015 at 5.00pm at the Liberty Stadium.