

SWANSEA CITY SUPPORTERS TRUST

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the Board Meeting held on Monday, 6th February 2017 at the Liberty Stadium, Swansea commencing at 5.00pm.

Present:

Phil Sumbler, Will Morris, Stuart McDonald, Alan Lewis, Andy Godden, Barbara Cook, Viv Brooks, Viv Williams, Ron Knuszka, Duncan Thomas, Chris Davies, Roger Goodwin, Nigel Hamer (Secretary).

Apologies:

Ian James, Cath Dyer, Matthew Griffiths, Dai Little.

Chief Operating Officer, Chris Pearlman addressed the Trust Board prior to the meeting outlining his role at the Football Club. The talk lasted for 65 minutes.

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 9th January, 2017 were approved, subject to the addition of the sum total of Legal Fess spent to date.

Chairman Report:

PS in his brief report briefly referred to the following:

- *Swansea City Football 2002 Limited – Board had agreed that we should write to the Owners to allow us a Director on the Board of this Company.*
- *We had received confirmation in a letter dated 2nd February 2017 that a Director post has been granted to the Supporters Trust. It was agreed that our present Supporter Director, Stuart McDonald would take up this position. It is envisaged that there will not be regular meetings or activity of this Board.*
- *Additionally we have been granted an ‘Observers Seat’ on the Board of Swansea City Association Football Club. This will allow us the right to have a 2nd Member attend Club Board meetings purely for observational purposes and will have no rights to vote on any issue, voice opinions, or, questions during Board Meetings. It was agreed that Vice Chairman Will Morris will undertake this role.*

Supporter Director Report:

SMcD reported that he had now settled into a routine of regular weekly meetings with Chris Pearlman and the various Departmental heads at the Club.

- *Kept up to date with the ongoing negotiations regarding potential changes in the Management and control of the liberty Stadium, involving detailed discussions between SCFC, the Ospreys and the City & County of Swansea Council.*
- *Met with club Chairman Huw Jenkins to discuss and arrange two forthcoming Fans Forums involving Football Management and the new Owners. Met with Steve Kaplan and Jason Levien on the 31st January, together with Chris Pearlman, Phil Sumbler and Will Morris which was an informal discussion on deadline day transfer movements, ongoing player recruitment policy and their determination to increase Commercial revenues. Discussed the Director on the Swansea City 2002 Limited Board and a second Director or Observer on the main Club Board.*
- *Undertaken media interviews with MOTD2 prior to the Arsenal home fixture and Evening Post.*

Treasurers Report:

SMcD reported a decrease in our overall balances during the month of January of £1126. *Current Bank and Building Society* balances amount to £870,091. One significant payment in January was £1440 for Legal Fees, unpaid Accountancy Fees of £900 for our Annual Accounts still to be paid.

SMcD asked for consideration to be given to our stocks of Trust Books etc., and storage of same. It was agreed to move the items to a secure Storage Unit with a charge of £75 per month for an 8ft x6ft unit. Unfortunately there is no storage space available to us at the *Stadium*. Volunteers are requested to move the items. A request had been received from the *Welsh Kidney Patients Association* for financial support. It was suggested that a raffle be held at the Fans Forum with the proceeds donated to *WKPA*.

TBM 127/08 Disability Issues:

IJ reported that SFR Sport had filmed a disability feature at the Southampton fixture on the 31st January. The results were appreciated by the film makers, a copy of the film will be forwarded to the DSA Group. Strategy discussions for 2017 and beyond will shortly be taking place at the DSA Meeting on the 7th February.

CD reported that the *DSA Social Event* at the *Stadium* will take place on the 21st February. *Lee Trundle, Angel Rangel* and *Tom Carroll* have agreed to be present.

TBM 172/14 Membership & Media

AL suggested that a *Newsletter* be sent out to our Members by e-mail putting together the various discussions having taken place the past weeks. We have 1798 members.

TBM 179/15 International Honours Board.

The format of the *International Honours Board*, no final decision has been taken.

TBM 186/15 Swans Trust Website Stats

DT had submitted a report of the *Website* and *Social Media* stats for January 2017. The month saw a reduction in visitors to the site, which is probably due to the lack of updates to the site, as well as the improvement in performances/results on the field, improved relations between the club owners and Trust off the field.

The stats indicate the top 5 most visited for the month were:

Appointment of Paul Clement as Head Coach - 30.53%, Home Page - 20.41%, Trust Board and AGM Minutes - 11.90%, History of Swansea City AFC - 5.12%, Trust Annual Accounts - 3.78%.

Social Media presence figures – 6,249 members in our *Facebook group*, 1,835 Likes on the *Facebook Page*, with 6,623 *Twitter followers*.

TBM 188/15 Football Club Financial Information

The *Finance Sub-group* have now received the *management accounts* for November and December 2016, and are comfortable with the financial situation reflected at that time.

TBM 189/15 Fans Forums

PS announced that there would be a *Fans Forum* at the Liberty Stadium on the 22nd February. The event intended to be for Club Management Staff.

An additional Forum involving the American Owners is to be arranged sometime in April.

TBM 194/16 Former Players Association

No further meetings have taken place since the last *Board* meeting.

TBM 195/16 Replacement Mobile Phone:

AG provided **WM** with information of contract phones.

TBM 196/17 August Newsletter:

VW had previously enquired of our intentions of producing our August Newsletter this year, bearing in mind that we had not produced a Newsletter for 2016. Agreed we would need to check on the editing of the next *August Newsletter* as *Visions Creative* had previously undertaken this process.

TBM 197/17 Riverside Lounge:

VB reported that there were no updated photos relating to the *Annual Awards Dinner* for 2016 on the Board in the *Riverside Lounge*. **VW** to arrange updating.

TBM 198/17 Insurance Cover:

SMcD awaiting quotes of suitable *Insurance* cover for *Directors* and *Officers* of the *Board*.

TBM 199/17 Schools Initiative:

RG had forwarded three attachments as an update on the *Schools Initiative*. The intention is to increase the level of participation in the *Supporters Trust*. The purpose of the *Community Challenge* is to develop learner's skills, whilst encouraging learners to identify, develop and participate in opportunities that will benefit the Community. During the *Community Challenge* learners will explicitly develop skills of Planning, Organisation and Personal Effectiveness and apply them in an appropriate manner.

A.O.B.

DT had visited the *National Football Museum* in *Manchester* and was disappointed that there was nothing of any significance relating to *Swansea City Football Club*. **SMcD** suggested that we donate a *Vetch Field Box Set*. All agreed with his suggestion. Arrangements to be made to make the offer to the Museum.

AL reported that we had been approached by an e-mail from *National Sports Museum Online* to agree to the setting up of a page, of which we will be the 'owner' and contact point on its Website which will effectively be a link to the *Swans100 Project* website originally set up to celebrate the *Club Centenary* in 2012 - along with Swansea University. It was generally agreed that we should take this project on board.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 8.00pm.

Next Board Meeting Monday 6th March, 2017 at 5.30pm at the Liberty Stadium.