

# SWANSEA CITY SUPPORTERS TRUST

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**Minutes of the Board Meeting held on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2013 at the Liberty Stadium, Swansea commencing at 5.35pm.**

**Present:**

Jim White, Huw Cooze, Alan Lewis, Viv Brooks, Cath Dyer, Ron Knuszka, Ian James, Stuart McDonald, Viv Williams, David Little, Kevin Mahoney, Nigel Hamer.(Secretary).

**Apologies:**

Will Morris, Phil Sumbler, Craig Mapstone.

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2013. had previously been circulated and approved.

**Supporter Director Report:**

**HC** submitted a report on his visit to a *Supporters Liaison Officer* conference at the Amex Stadium Brighton promoted by the Premier League on the 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> April. His full report has been submitted to the Football Club Board and Stadium Management Company.

The *Landore* project should be complete during April with the first team currently using the grass pitches and the 3G pitch using Stadium changing room facilities.

The site at *Fairwood* which is a long term project has had the ground drainage completed.

Commercial. Our new *Kit supplier* will be Adidas. Our current shirt sponsors *32Red* will end their relationship this season, the Club are currently reviewing a possible six alternative shirt sponsors. *Shop and Internet sales* have increased considerably from last season. The Club Shop will be extended, hopefully during the Summer, or, early Autumn.

The *Management* are constantly reviewing the current playing staff and potential additions in readiness for next season.

The *Club's Interim Financial* results for the six months to November 2012 announced today showed Turnover excluding player sales had increased by 11.5% to £28.5 million. The profit before interest and tax was £20.4 million which did include player transfers of £14.8 million. The net profit for this period was £15.9 million.

**Treasurers Report:**

**SMcD** reported that the Sub-Group on membership arrangements for next season would meet before the next Board meeting in May. Our Sponsorship fee of £400 had been paid for the Lifetime Achievement Award at the forthcoming Awards Dinner on the 16<sup>th</sup> May. Another outstanding bill was our share of the rental for the Trust Pod.

**TBM 077/06 Fans Forum:**

**JW** had previously asked **HC** to enquire whether the Club Management would consider a Fans Forum to be held on the eve of the Chelsea fixture on the 26<sup>th</sup> April. **HC** reported that the Manager did not believe it to be practical on this occasion and to leave until next season.

**TBM 082/06 Swansea City 2002 Limited:**

**HC** confirmed the Club announcement of the Shareholders Dividend which had been announced today our Interim Dividend share would be £199,999. It was agreed that we would contact Swansea Building Society to obtain rates for a 90 Day Savings Account. The Trust Board had published a statement confirming our agreement to the payment of an Interim Dividend to original shareholders.

**TBM 086/07 Community Group:**

No report.

**TBM 125/08 Centenary 2012:**

**HC** had previously reported that the second of the Centenary books was well advanced. The content of the second book had a different content to the first book. **HC** reported that we had broken even on book sales against book costs. It was agreed that permission be given for **HC** to continue with the production of the second book. The original book remains on sale in the Club Shop and Online.

### **TBM 127/08 Disability Issues:**

**IJ** reported that the Football Club Disability Policy and Club Charter still needs amending to reflect current changes.. **IJ** is arranging to meet with Club Management and SSMC Management to discuss the changes. **IJ** also confirmed that the first DSA committee meeting will take place at the Liberty Stadium on the 15<sup>th</sup> April 2013..

### **TBM 142/11 Wall Of Fame:**

**PS** to liaise and confirm names with **NH** of the twenty names for the Wall Of Fame to be announced at the Annual Awards Dinner on the 16<sup>th</sup> May.

### **TBM 150/12 Premier League Supporters Trust Group.**

**JW** reported that the third Premier League Supporters Trust meeting held in Birmingham had been successful where he made a presentation of our rise as a Supporters Trust. Apart from the presentation the event discussed away supporter ticketing prices which had been first discussed by the Football Supporters Federation (FSF) now looking to be endorsed by Supporters Direct. Our view on this was that we felt sure that our Club would be looking for lower prices for all fans.

**JW** reported that Supporters Direct had asked us to undertake a presentation of our Trust in Amsterdam between the 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> July. Two BM's were invited, Supporters Direct would cover the costs of one. Agreed that **JW** represent the Trust, **HC** would possibly be available as the Club could be in Holland on their pre-season tour.

### **TBM 151/12 Frame for John Charles Signed Shirt.**

**VW** presented to the meeting two wooden frames which had been donated to the Trust Free of Charge by **3H Joinery**. It was agreed that one frame would be for the Harry Griffithe Welsh international shirt, the second frame for the signed John Charles shirt. **NH** to contact John Davies, Chair of the Vice Presidents suggesting that we loan the framed shirts to hang in the Vice Presidents room at the Stadium. **HC** to arrange brass plates

### **TBM 154/12 Matchday Catering & Riverside Lounge**

**VW** reported on the site visit with **PS** to the Riverside Lounge. **VW** produced some dummy samples of what could be produced for the room. Costings were approximately £1200 for the suggested boards that we place on the South side of the room, one for Lifetime Achievement Awards names and second for Player of the Year Award. Agreed to go ahead with purchasing the Boards. We could also reproduce some enlarged photos of the successful Capital One Cup final day at Wembley, or, other suitable photos.

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

Full report on [www.swanstrust.co.uk](http://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 158/13 Pinch Point Car Parking.**

**NH** reported that a detailed response had been received from SSMC. The initial questions first put forward in December 2012 were:

Traffic congestion of the main highway into the Stadium car park.

*We do not own the road which provides access to the two restaurants and allows an exit route, also it is a dropoff point for fans and a generally for emergency vehicle access.*

Exiting via the North Car Park at the end of matches.

*Under the terms of our General Safety Certificate this is designated a route for emergency vehicles only. The timing of the opening of the North Ramp is dependent on the time that the road closure of the A4067 is finished and there is no danger to pedestrians. We are in the hands of the Police who are responsible for safety on the public highway*

South East Corner Pinchpoint. Inconsiderate parking on the grass verge.

*The land you refer to is privately owned. The Police and local authority enforcement officers are powerless to act on this problem. Crowd access fortunately is not affected.*

### **TBM 159/13 SV WALDHOF MANNHEIM LINK**

**CD** had been in e-mail communication. Agree that we need to contact them to establish exactly what they require of our association.

**TBM 160/13 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD.**

**PS** had provided three names for consideration for this Award at the Annual Awards Dinner. One name was unanimously agreed to be this years recipient.

**TBM 161/13 AUGUST NEWSLETTER.**

**VW** had volunteered to obtain advertisements for this years Newsletter. Monies raised made a large contribution towards printing costs. **HC** mentioned that we could increase the number of pages in the Newsletter if required. Agreed that we would not be producing any additional freebies in this years posting.

**TBM 162/13 BOOKLET ON THE HISTORY OF SWANSTRUST.**

**RK** had suggested that we consider producing a booklet highlighting our story from the outset in July 2001. **PS** had been in touch with book publishers and had received favourable costs which were acceptable to the Board. Agreed to allow **PS** to undertake the collating of information and writing of the story. Hopefully to be completed before the end of the year

**TBM 163/13 TRUST SURVEY**

**JW** produced the results of the recent online survey now online at our website [www.swanstrust.co.uk](http://www.swanstrust.co.uk)

**TBM 164/13 PRESS CUTTINGS.**

**JW** produced a list of press cuttings/interviews relating to the Trust over the last few months, to be posted on to our website [www.swanstrust.co.uk](http://www.swanstrust.co.uk).

**TBM 165/13 SPONSORSHIP OF JUNIOR LEAGUE FOOTBALL**

It had previously been agreed that as a Trust Board we would look at sponsorship of Junior League football in the Swansea City FC catchment area, this would cover Swansea, Neath Port Talbot, Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, Powys, Aberdare/Merthyr. **SMcD** has already spoken to the Swansea Junior League and should have a decision after the Junior League meeting this week. **SMcD** will continue to make contact with the various Junior Leagues.

**A.O.B.**

**Community Trust:**

**HC** and Leigh Dineen have been appointed Trustees.

**Congratulations:**

**NH** had sent a congratulatory e-mail to the Wrexham Supporters Trust on their success on winning the FA Trophy at Wembley Stadium on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.55pm

Next meeting Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> May at 5.30pm

Chairman.....*Jim White.*