

SWANSEA CITY SUPPORTERS TRUST

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the Board Meeting held on Monday, 8th May 2017 at the Liberty Stadium, Swansea commencing at 5.30pm.

Present

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

Apologies

Phil Sumbler, Dai Little, Ian James.

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd April, 2017 were approved.

Chairmans Report

Not much to report as very little has happened on the last month.

We had the American owners at a Fans Forum on the 4th April. They answered questions from the floor for around 90 minutes ranging on a host of subjects, but brings to the fore the need to complete the advice process we are seeking asap. The majority owners are aware that we are still pursuing this angle and we have represented to them how key it is to everything being resolved as soon as possible.is.

Supporter Director Report

SMcD that the Club have been working hard on securing improved commercial partnerships for the new Season and there are good opportunities available, unfortunately uncertainty surrounding our Premier League status for 2017-18 makes it very difficult to complete these deals at the current time. The uncertainty surrounding our end of season fate obviously extends to the financials, and all departments are working on two different scenarios for next season's budgets.

There has been a good response to the new Fanzone wand how well it has been received and patronised for the Middlesbrough and Spurs matches – of course the good weather had a major part to play. The continuation and development of it is now in focus with concentration on making it into a permanent feature.

Chief Operating Officer Chris Pearlman has confirmed that there will be no forced moves from the South Stand for season ticket holders for next season.

The Football Club along with all other Premier League clubs has recently had to take part in a Gender Pay Gap exercise – there is a certain inevitability about its findings, and the results for all Premier League Clubs will not make comfortable reading. This is undoubtedly an area that the Football Club will have to address in the near future.

The recent Fans Forum attended by Steve Kaplan and Jason Levien had caused quite a stir, with our American majority owners facing some difficult questions from the audience regarding (particularly) the share sale/purchase, which continued to be played out in the Media over the following days. It was inevitably a testing experience for them, one which will have highlighted to them the passion and emotion of our fanbase.

Treasurers Report

SMcD reported that our Bank and Building Society balances amount to £866,794 a decrease in our overall balances during the month of April of £2,171. This decrease was due to Legal Fees and Directors and Officers Liability Insurance cover, but, a continuing healthy cash situation.

The complete documentation and Policy details for *Directors and Officers liability cover* have now been received.

The transfer of Trust merchandise stock has now been transferred to a Secure Storage Unit in Gorseinon. It was also agreed that we set aside a sum of £1,000 as Sponsor Awards for end of season events.

TBM 127/08 Disability Issues

No report provided.

TBM 172/14 Membership & Media

AL had e-mailed his report, membership is 1838. No progress on membership leaflet to date.

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*, *Social Media* and *Google AdSense* stats for April 2017. The stats indicate the top 5 most visited for the month were:

Statement by the Swansea City Supporters Trust 57.02%, Trust Homepage 11.43%, Player of the Season Awards Dinner announced 4.39%, Audio Recording of Trust Members Forum 3.73%, History of Swansea City 2.93%.

Random Fact of the Month – based on the website stats from the last 31 months, each Visitor spends on average 1 minute 53 seconds on the site before leaving.

Social Media presence figures – 6,238 members in our *Facebook group*, 1,902 Likes on the *Facebook Page*, with 6,744 *Twitter followers*.

TBM 188/15 Football Club Financial Information

The *Finance Sub-group* continues to review the Football Club Management Accounts as they become available and are able to provide assurance to the Trust Board that they are comfortable with the information provided.

TBM 189/15 Fans Forums

A *Fans Forum* was held at the *Liberty Stadium* for *Trust Members* on Tuesday, 4th April where *Owners Steve Kaplan* and *Jason Levien* were in attendance. Mention of the event has been recorded in the *Chairman* and *Supporter Director* reports.

An audio recording of the Fans Forum is available on our website:

<http://www.swanstrust.co.uk/2017/04/07/audio-recording-of-trust-members-forum/>

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. WM to look further into the purchase of a replacement mobile phone.

TBM 196/17 August Newsletter

This item held over to the next meeting.

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 would complete both the 2016 and 2017 Award Recipients after this year's Awards Dinner which is on the 17th May. A photo would be required for the Lifetime Achievement Award recipient for 2017.

TBM 199/17 Schools Initiative

RG reported that WJEC had acknowledged receipt of the *Community Challenge* submission.

TBM 205/17 Premier League Supporters Meeting

DL had forwarded Minutes of the Meeting which took place in London on the 25th April.

Representatives from the *Premier League* including *Richard Scudamore*, *Football Supporters Federation* and *Supporters Direct* along with *Supporter* representation from all 20 *Premier League Clubs*. *David Little* represented *Swans Trust*.

Topics discussed were:

Fixture scheduling, Match Day Travel, Disabled Access, Permitted Standing, Ticketing, Away Ticket Cap, Away Fan Locations, Structured Dialogue, Equality & Diversity.

Minutes from the meeting are available on our website:

<http://www.swanstrust.co.uk/2017/06/15/supporter-representatives-meet-with-premier-league-executives/>

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 7.35pm.

Next Board Meeting Thursday 15th June, 2017 at 5.30pm at the Liberty Stadium