

# SWANSEA CITY SUPPORTERS TRUST

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**Minutes of the Board Meeting held on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at the Liberty Stadium, Swansea commencing at 5.35pm.**

### **Present:**

Huw Cooze, Viv Brooks, Barbara Cook, Cath Dyer, Ron Knuszka, Viv Williams, Stuart Macdonald, Gwyn Hughes, Andrew Godden, Alan Lewis, Will Morris, Nigel Hamer (Secretary).

### **Apologies:**

Phil Sumbler, Jim White, Duncan Thomas, Ian James, Dai Little.

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, Huw Cooze chaired the meeting.

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> February 2015 were approved.

### **Supporter Director Report:**

**HC** invited the Trust Board to an open discussion on *Capital Projects* and what was needed to progress as a Football Club, discussion included the building of an *Indoor Barn* and Classrooms at *Landore* to take us to *Category 1 Academy* status, finishing off the work at the *Training Complex* at *Fairwood*. The purchase of the *Liberty Stadium* and the expansion of the *Stadium*, provision of funds for future team requirements to enable us to have the best chance of staying in the *Premier League* long term, a lengthy wish list and each wish has its own set of challenges. An hour long discussion took place among Board Members.

The general consensus was the purchase of the *Stadium* and *Stadium Expansion*, the expansion was possibly regarded as the more important to ensure the inclusion of fans of the future. It was imperative that funding of the first team squad was protected.

Attended a *Club Board Meeting* where discussions included:

- *Reduction of walk-up matchday pricing which is ongoing.*
- *Floodlight glare, progress is being made with deflectors being installed by the manufacturers.*
- *LED crowd facing advertisement boards, still an issue and has been raised at source and Cclub Board level, a solution is being trialled.*
- *Discount tickets on most away match tickets, usually a reciprocal deal, or, £10 off the ticket price, where there is no deal (usually the top six teams) we have also included meal deals, or, a free programme where applicable.*
- *Meetings with the Club Chairman to find suitable dates for Swansea Junior and Senior Leagues to play Cup Finals at the Liberty Stadium and Landore with a fall back of Fairwood. There are problems in defining dates due to pitch renovation as soon as the season ends.*
- *Met with the Academy Manager to take a party over to Den Haag at Youth level to participate in a tournament.*
- *Undertook a guided tour for our Disabled Supporters Association group of the Landore Academy, where they also held their meeting.*
- *Received a request from an American University to check if there is any mileage in sending out players who are not going to make the grade with us, the contact confirmed that they would give the young players a good standard of football with a pathway all the way to the MLS, a good education, accommodation, and financial aid. A good opportunity for the right players.*
- *Our association with North Shore United might produce a young player. Three years ago, Luke Prpa was with the Under 14 group that toured Swansea, he stood out as a player with our Club Coaches keeping an interest in him as he has made all of the US National squads of his age groups and at 17 is over for a two week trial at the Academy.*

### **Treasurers Report:**

**SMac** reported an increase in membership subscriptions. We have outstanding payments to *Bravehearts* there are no other outstanding bills. Outstanding amounts are due for book sales in the Club Shop.

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

There was no report. **HC** thanked Board Member *Cath Dyer* for her work with the *Disabled Association*. The next *DSA* meeting will take place on the 15<sup>th</sup> April. This is a members only meeting, but, members can join at the meeting. The film *Jack to A King* will be shown after the meeting.

An article appeared in the *Guardian* newspaper on the 7<sup>th</sup> March – *Disabled Fans short-changed at Premier League grounds despite riches pouring in*. Only two *Premier League Clubs*, *Leicester City* and *Swansea City* meet the minimum number of wheelchair places for the size of their Stadiums as recommended by the Home Office green guide for new grounds, and agreed by the *1998 Football Task Force* to apply to existing grounds also.

### **TBM 169/13 Website Update.**

**DT** submitted a report on website statistics for the month of February. The statistics once again clearly show an increasing number of visitors and visits to the *Trust* website month on month. The same can be said of the *Trust's* presence on social media. This is in part due to a concerted effort by the *Trust* to be more pro-active in its communications with *Trust* members and fans.

Two of the most popular pages on the site in February were the '[Trust Forum Address](#)' and '[Join The Trust](#)' – which accounted for almost 30% of all page views for the month.

### **TBM 172/14 Membership Renewal 2014/15.**

**AL** reported on increased paid up numbers to date the combined membership total is 1,341.

With members continually joining it was suggested and agreed that we consider a 14 month membership. Communication with our membership is vital going forward.

### **TBM 174/14 Expert Working Group.**

**DL** reported by e-mail that both **PS** and himself had attended meetings of the *EWG* over the past four months. An Interim Report has been formulated and should be presented to *Helen Grant MP, Minister of Sport, Tourism and Equalities* on the 24<sup>th</sup> March.

### **TBM 176/14 American Share Purchase.**

The Fans Forum on the above subject presented by **PS** was held in the *Morfa Lounge* at the *Liberty Stadium* on the 9<sup>th</sup> March. An approximate attendance of 180 attended the meeting. An audio recording of the Fans Forum (kindly produced and recorded on the evening by 'The Jack Cast') is available on the *Trust* website - <http://www.swanstrust.co.uk/2015/02/20/trust-forum-address/>

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 7.45pm.

Next Board Meeting Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2015 at 5.30pm, Liberty Stadium.