

SWANSEA CITY SUPPORTERS SOCIETY LIMITED

MINUTES OF THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE LIBERTY STADIUM, SWANSEA ON MONDAY 26th SEPTEMBER 2011.

Chairman Phil Sumbler welcomed Members to the Eleventh Annual General Meeting.

There was a quorum present allowing the AGM to continue. For the record 23 present.

The Minutes of the Tenth Annual General Meeting were read out by the Secretary, the Minutes approved as read proposed by Ron Knuszka, seconded by Nigel Drean. There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

Chairmans Report:

Chairman Phil Sumbler in presenting our 11th AGM commented on passing our 10th anniversary since our formation that has seen not just the Supporters Trust but the Club grow out of all recognition. It would be fair to say that in the summer of 2001 if anyone had said Premier League in ten years they would have been carted away in straight jackets ! The Play Off Final at Wembley in May, a tremendous sense of pride as a fan in what we achieved as a Club and what part we as a Trust played.

Since that day it has been manic at times with the media attention due to our shareholding in the Club, the first Supporters Trust with a shareholding amongst Premier League clubs, interest from other Clubs – Sunderland, Newcastle and Arsenal all handing out massive compliments. It is now safe to say that we are one of the largest Supporters Trusts in the UK with a 19.9% shareholding in a Premier League Club, an estimated value of our shareholding ? anything between £2 and £4 million perhaps.

A big thank you to the volunteers back in July who had spent four days stuffing and sending out 13,000 Newsletters containing pin badges, raffle tickets, donation forms etc., When the Trust Board made the decision to offer free membership for our 10th Anniversary we estimated 8,000 now it is double that figure, this also includes our existing members who are not season ticket holders. Offsetting free membership we do receive one off donations, regular monthly donations and raffle ticket income which was double from 2010.

My personal thanks to Huw Cooze our Supporter Director for his massive commitment to the day to day running of the Club having an input into major Club issues such as season ticket pricing, ticket allocations etc., all of this with running his own business. Never an easy job and not always popular answers. Huw's work is not always appreciated by the fans, but, his involvement is a big part of the Club and will continue to be so.

My thanks to the Officers of the Trust Board, Stuart McDonald as Treasurer, Nigel Hamer as Secretary, Jim White Vice Chairman and Alan Lewis for his Media work.

To the Community Sub Group of Ron Knuszka, Viv Brooks and Gareth James for their social events, the successful Ten Pin Bowling Night, the annual raffle.

The Fans Forums – at the Liberty Stadium, the new London Fans Forum. We will be looking at Carmarthen Town, Port Talbot and Aberdare for future Fans Forums.

The remaining Trust Board members for their work and dedication throughout the year with a warm welcome to new Board Members, Cath Dyer, Viv Williams, John Heycock and Luke Morgan.

The Trust are heavily involved in the Centenary Year 2012 with plans for a set of books in conjunction with Swansea University which will produce an historical archive of the football club.

The Annual Awards Dinner run in conjunction with the Executive Fundraising Committee and our own Huw Cooze and Alan Lewis with 500 supporting and celebrating our Club and its achievements.

The Wall of Fame – commemorating 100 people, 10 per annum over 10 years which we anticipate being situated adjacent to the Ticket Office underneath the Robbie James bust.

Treasurers Report:

The Audited Accounts for the Year End 31st May 2011 were presented by the Treasurer, Stuart McDonald. Turnover for the year was £19,574 up from £17,281 for the year end 31st May 2010 with the Gross Profit £17,435 against £15,876 for 2010. Membership Subscriptions decreased from £8,939 in 2010 to £6,906. After administrative costs of £5,376 our net profit was £12,059 against £11,218 for 2010. Our Shareholding in Swansea City Football 2002 Limited remained at £199,999. Shareholders Funds for 2011 were £215,940 against £204,198 for 2010.

The full Audited Accounts can be found on our website www.swanstrust.co.uk

The Chairman wished to record his thanks to Stuart McDonald for making the Auditor's job easier by his preparation of the accounts, also our thanks to the Auditors, W.R.King & Co. for the Independent Examination of the accounts of the Society.

Appointment of Auditors:

The Treasurer proposed the re-appointment of the Auditors, W.R. King & Co., who had agreed to continue in office. Re-appointment agreed.

Election to the Trust Board:

In accordance with Rule 61 of the Constitution, the following Members retire by rotation but are eligible for re-election:

There were five 'vacancies', we had received five nominations, therefore there was no election. The following Members were therefore elected unopposed and will serve for a term of two years.

Huw Cooze, Stuart McDonald, Will Morris, Phil Sumbler and Jim White..

Open Question & Answer Session:

Mike Winter remarked on the envelopes used to send out season tickets and away matchday tickets, that they were too conspicuous as to their contents. **Huw Cooze** confirmed that if lost in transit the ticket value was refundable.

Another query raised by **Mary Sowden** that 4 boxes of season tickets in the ticket office had not been distributed, **Huw Cooze** suggested that the applicants may have defaulted payment.

John Heycock asked if the early bird scheme would be introduced for season ticket sales in March 2012. **Huw Cooze** replied the Club would review this scheme in the new year.

John Heycock asked if the ticket office accepted credit cards online, there is a cash option, no cheques are accepted, the ticket office will hold tickets for 48 hours. Ticket Office now has more time to deal one on one with supporters. A Savings Scheme was also suggested as being practical.

Mary Sowden asked if a Loyalty Scheme would be introduced next season for regular season ticket holders, the Trust Board had suggested setting up such a scheme three years ago, the Club had declined entertaining such a scheme. **Mary Sowden** had been told by a senior Club Board Director that past loyalty doesn't count any more. It was agreed that this comment was rather disturbing.

Edward Melen had a few observations – the Jack Army membership scheme, the £1.50 charge should be advertised as such, the £10 joining fee became £11.50. Upgrading a season ticket from Junior to Adult, charged full price, again this could have been advertised suggesting that it was illegal that not advertised. Suggested that the difference between Junior and Adult should be payable not the full adult price meaning that the Club were gaining. The booking fee charge of £1.50 per ticket transaction, buying four tickets costs an extra £6 as each transaction is dealt with separately. **Phil Sumbler** agreed that this needed to be looked into.

Edward Melen also thanked the Trust Board for their involvement in sorting out the Pinch point at the South/East exit from the Stadium.

Tony Davies commented on the searching of supporters at the turnstiles which appeared excessive, suggesting that maybe it was because we were in the Premier League. Also no foodstuff is allowed into the Stadium.

David Corcoran commented on the refreshment costs this season, that we should protest about the excessive increases. Maybe its because we are in the Premier League !. **Huw Cooze** replied that the Catering Company were responsible for the pricing of refreshments.

Huw Cooze suggested that many of the issues raised this evening can be dealt with on the FAQ section on the Club website which had been instigated by the Trust.

John Heycock raised the issue of Supporter flags at matches which had been disallowed by matchday Stewards who had informed fans that it was a Stadium Management decision. **Huw Cooze** confirmed that it was the Stadium Managers decision to ban the flags. It was noted that away fans were displaying their flags with no attempts to prevent their display **David Corcoran** suggested that we take this matter further. Ron Knuszka offered to attend an HSE discussion with SSMC. The issue was a fire hazard, flags should be treated, SSMC were in discussions with Mr. Flag to offer supporters the facility to have their flags treated with a fire retardant. The flare set off at the pre-season friendly with Celtic had created the Stadium Managers concerns on this flag issue. It had also been suggested that there was sufficient atmosphere in the Stadium without flags, the drum was also an issue to be resolved.

There were no further questions the meeting closed at 9.05pm