

SWANSEA CITY SUPPORTERS TRUST BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the Board Meeting held on Monday, 11th January 2016 at the Liberty Stadium, Swansea commencing at 5.30pm.

Present:

Jim White, Huw Cooze, Barbara Cook, Stuart Macdonald, Duncan Thomas, Alan Lewis, Viv Brooks, Andy Godden, Will Morris, Ron Knuszka, Viv Williams, Cath Dyer, Ian Howells, Ian James, Nigel Hamer (Secretary).

Apologies:

Phil Sumbler, Dai Little.

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 7th December, 2015 were approved.

Supporter Director Report:

HC submitted bullet points of his involvements over the past month:

Updated the Board on the current Managerial set up and updates on player movement both in and out, a lengthy discussion followed.

Attended a Christmas Day visit to the Childrens Ward at Morriston Hospital with Lee Trundle, the children enjoyed seeing Trunds more than Santa !!!

Arranged a Help For Heroes fund raising evening in Morriston on the 5th February. Lee Trundle will draw the raffle. The Club have donated a signed shirt and ball.

Planning for Stage 2 of the New Jersey visit which he will attend with two Academy Coaches from February 18th-22nd. There is a coaching educational seminar for up to 60 coaches from the New Jersey district.

Liaising with North Shore United for their visit in March, there will be 75 in the party.

Liaised with Matthew Daniel, Operations Manager at the Stadium relating to a complaint received about the path at the North east corner of the Stadium.

In addition to representing the Supporters Trust, he has also represented the Club recently in roles such as Supporters Liaison Officer, Community Trust, Safety Advisory Group, Equality, Diversity and Unconscious Bias Group, Visit Football and a link for Disability matters and global fan base building, all of which are intrinsically linked to the Supporter Director role.

Arranged a meeting with Club Chairman Huw Jenkins to meet Trust Board members at Landore Academy at 4.30pm on Friday, 15h January.

Treasurers Report:

SMac reported very little change from our last Board Meeting on the 7th December. There were no large outstanding bills for payment, receipts were due for book sales and e-newsletter advertising. Agreed to discount the three books we have available and offer them at all 3 for £20.

TBM 127/08 Disability Issues:

IJ confirmed that the *Disabled Policy* has now been released. Thanks to *Huw Cooze, Cath Dyer, Lucy Norman* and *Tony Avo* for their support last calendar year.

TBM 172/14 Membership

AL had circulated a brief update from the membership sub-group on future membership policy. Agreed that our annual Newsletter will only be sent out to standard members in August. Agreed that another reminder to Standard members who have not rejoined. Another e-mail to be sent out to our e-members. It was agreed that we would undertake our campaign for memberships beginning in June. It was also agreed that we would send out a new Survey to our Standard Members highlighting what they would like us to do with our financial resources. Current Standard Membership is 1208.

TBM 178/15 Annual Award Dinner 2016.

HC had arranged for the Sub-Group to meet with *Daniel Draisey* of *Compass Catering* on the 19th January.

TBM 179/15 International Honours Board.

NH is due to liaise with VW to discuss format of the Honours Board before obtaining quotes..

TBM 186/15 Swans Trust Website Stats.

DT had submitted a report of the *Website* and *Social Media* stats for *December 2015*. The stats indicate the top 5 pages were the *Trust statement on Garry Monk's departure* with 1,734 hits, *Home Page* with 868 hits and 17.52%, *Join the Trust* with 389 hits and 7.85%, *Trust AGM Minutes and Accounts* with 387 hits and 7.81%, finally the *Monthly Minutes* with 219 hits and 4.42%.

Social Media presence figures – 4,647 members in our *Facebook group*, 1,223 Likes on the *Facebook Page*, with 5,248 *Twitter followers*.

TBM 188/15 Football Club Financial Information

The Finance sub-group continue to review the *Club Management Accounts* for the previous month and provided assurance to the *Trust Board* that they were comfortable with the information provided. It was agreed that the sub-group would request the Club Board to provide multiple worse case scenarios/options in the event of relegation to the *Championship*

It was agreed that we would notify the *Club Board* that we disagree with a *Dividend* payment to *Shareholders* should we be notified that a dividend would be payable for the next *Financial Year End*.

TBM 189/15 Fans Forums.

A *London Fans Forum* should take place on or around the 6th/7th *May* with the away fixture against *West Ham United* that weekend.

TBM 190/15 Premier League Trusts & Supporters Direct Meeting.

DL had informed us that the final report of the *Football Supporter Ownership and Engagement Expert Working Group* is due to be released on the 19th *January* with a press release at *AFC Wimbledon*..

DL will attend the next *Premier League Trust* meeting in *London* on the 28th *January*.

TBM 191/15 Codes of Conduct for Officers & Trust Board Members

NH and DL continue to review and report back to the *Trust Board* meeting in *February*.

TBM 192/15 Strategy Sub-Group

WM, RK, AG, BC and PS formed the sub-group to develop a three year strategic plan for the *Trust* which will review what our aims are and how we look to operate and manage ourselves. Their report is expected at the *February 2016 Board Meeting*.

TBM 194/15 Landore Social Club.

NH to draw up a *Rota of Board Members* to be present at the *Club pre-match*.

TBM 195/15 Supporters Direct.& Swansea City Supporters Trust.

PS had submitted his report from the *Supporters Direct Scotland Summit* held in *Glasgow* on the 10th *January*. PS undertook a 45 minute *Power Point* presentation followed by a Q&A session. *Supporters Trusts* from *Dunfermline, Hearts, St. Mirren, Rangers, Motherwell* and *Celtic* were present. The *German representative of Supporters Direct Europe* also made a presentation. We have been asked by the *Motherwell Supporters Trust* to deliver the same *PowerPoint* presentation to their *Trust Board*, also *Sean Hamil* from *Birkbeck, University of London* has asked us to make a presentation with them. The *Hearts Supporters Trust* would like to speak with us to look at ways that we have worked both as a *Club* and a *Trust*. Finally, *Hilary Clifford*, acting *CEO of Supporters Direct* wants to discuss with us the question of getting more people involved.

A.O.B.

DT suggested that we revive *Swanstrust TV* which we could use for interviews on *Youtube*

AL suggested that we congratulate *Leon Britton* on his 500th *Club* appearance on our website.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Next Board Meeting *Monday 8th February, 2016* at 5.30pm at the *Liberty Stadium*.