

# SWANSEA CITY SUPPORTERS TRUST

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**Minutes of the Board Meeting held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at the Liberty Stadium, Swansea commencing at 5.35pm.**

### **Present:**

Alan Lewis, Stuart McDonald, Cath Dyer, Viv Williams, Ron Knuszka, Roger Goodwin, Andy Godden, Sian Davies, Viv Brooks, Andrew Cude, Will O'Kelly, Rhys Thomas, Andrew McGlashen, Nigel Hamer (Secretary).

### **Apologies:**

Dave Dalton, Dai Little, Lisa Clement.

Since the last Board Meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> November there had been three resignations from the Trust Board. *Phil Sumbler* as Chairman resigned after eleven years as Chairman, *Matt Griffiths* resigned as a Co-opted Member having been in post since August, and finally *Will Morris* who took over from *Phil Sumbler* as Chairman and who had been a Board Member for twelve years.

As a result of the resignations nominations for four co-opted posts had been advertised, we had received fifteen nominations. A sub-group of *Alan Lewis*, *Sian Davies* and *Roger Goodwin* was set up to undertake interviewing the applicants. Following the interviews the full Trust Board subsequently agreed the co-option of *Andrew Cude*, *Andrew McGlashen*, *Will O'Kelly* and *Rhys Thomas* to the Trust Board. Also confirming *Lisa Clement* as a *Financial Affiliate*.

*Vice Chairman Alan Lewis* welcomed the four newly *Co-opted Members* to their first meeting,

Before continuing the meeting, the appointment of a *Chairman* was required, *Vice Chairman Alan Lewis* was the only nomination received and he accepted the role of *Chairman*. *Alan Lewis* was also confirmed as *Associate Director* replacing *Will Morris* who had recently resigned.

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 were approved.

### **Vice Chairman Report:**

**AL** in accepting the appointment as Chairman highlighted his disappointment at events that led to the need for another *Chairman* to be appointed so quickly. He certainly hadn't anticipated taking on the role, but, in acknowledging the support of the Board said he would do his best to take the *Trust* forward in a positive way.

**AL** thanked *Sian Davies* and *Roger Goodwin* for undertaking the interviews for the co-opted posts. Discussed the setting up of a sub-group to continue dialogue with the majority *Shareholders* which would be – *Dai Little*, *Andrew McGlashen*, *Stuart MacDonald*, *Andy Godden* and *Lisa Clement*., *Alan Lewis* (*Chairman*) and *Nigel Hamer* (*Secretary*) would also be involved as required.

*WhatsApp*, *GoogleGroups* and *Twitter* would be looked after by *Andy Godden*.

*Facebook* by *Rhys Thomas* and *Graham Lucas*.

*Cath Dyer* will continue to handle *Media* matters.

Agreed to finalise draft of *2016 Model Rules* to forward to *Board Members*.

Agreed that we need to have *Pen Pictures* of *Board Members* onto our website. *Head & Shoulders* photos would be acceptable. **AL** would produce a template for *Board Members* to add to their *Pen Pictures*.

### **Supporter Director Report:**

**SMcD** reported that much of this month had been taken up with legal discussion regarding the share purchase/sale deal with our majority American owners, members should be assured that if any of the terms of the final offer differ from the detail as previously provided for the Members Consultation, then we will conduct a further consultation with our Members.

*Club Captain Leon Britton* reaches a landmark 15 years at the *Football Club* on the day of the *Manchester City* fixture on the 13<sup>th</sup> December. In commemoration of this special day for a *Swans Legend*, a pitchside presentation will be made to *Leon* by the *Trust Board*.

Regarding the *Club* taking on the Lease of the *Liberty Stadium*, agreement with the *City Council* and the *Ospreys* is now very close to completion; it has been ratified by the full *Council* and is now close to being signed off, subject to minor issues. Securing certainty over long term management of the *Stadium* is seen as vital in plans to develop both the *Club* and the *Stadium*.

With the opening of the new *Club Shop* in *Union Street* in the *City Centre*, the shop at *Cwmdru* has now closed, as has the outlet in *Debenhams* in the *Quadrant Centre*

The revenue generating areas of *Marketing*, *Sponsorship*, *Merchandise* and *Media* continue to produce results in a difficult market climate, with all areas performing strongly against targets.

The working group set up by the *Club* to consider the travel issues that surround the match day experience has now held its second meeting. The *Group* comprises various parties who have an interest in the *Liberty Stadium* operations, including a representative from the *Trust Board*, and I hope to be able to provide a report at the next Board Meeting.

I attended the quarterly *SAG (Safety Advisory Group)* meeting at the *Liberty Stadium*. It is pleasing that the *Stadium Management* team receives consistently good reports from the various monitoring bodies, in terms of safety, security etc., and having to cope with the constant changes being made to meet the ever fluctuating safety and security issues affecting all of us.

### **Treasurers Report:**

**SMcD** reported that our total cash balances in our Bank Account and Building Society Accounts was £833,000. There were no outstanding bills due for payment.

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

**CD** reported that *Jan Burgess* has taken on the role of *Chair* of the *DSA* following *Ian James'* resignation from the *DSA Board*.

The *Club* now has a *Changing Places Toilet* as part of its matchday facilities, *MOBILOO* is on site on match days, and is situated in the *South East* corner of the *Stadium* adjacent to the *Jack Zone*. All Supporters who require hoisting or use of the *Changing Table* are advised to bring their own sling attachment. The *DSA* held a very successful social event on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017. We were joined by *Tammy Abraham*, *Emma Beynon* of *Swansea City Ladies*, *Lee Trundle*, *Football Club* and *DSA Ambassador*, with *MC* for the evening – our *DSA President*, *Kevin Johns*. Over 120 of our *DSA* members attended and enjoyed *Christmas Carols*, crackers, a game of 'heads and tails', a *Christmas Buffet*, *Cyril the Swan – Swansea's Number 1 Mascot*, and a visit from *Santa* who handed out a gift for everyone who attended. The *Club* are very supportive of the *DSA* and kindly paid for the refreshments and donated merchandise. We are grateful to official *Club Sponsors LETOU* who also attended the evening and donated a signed shirt towards our raffle.

The *DSA* are pleased to be able to help our *Disabled Supporters* through the medium of *English*, *Welsh*, *Sign Language* and *Makaton* – words and pictures.

The *DSA* website can be accessed via [www.swansdsa.org.uk](http://www.swansdsa.org.uk)

### **TBM 172/14 Membership & Media**

**AL** had e-mailed his report, current membership is 1,133 members. A membership sub-group had met and a report prepared, but, due to more pressing business matters will be held over until the January meeting.

### **TBM 186/15 Swans Trust Website Stats.**

As *Duncan Thomas* was no longer a *Trust Board* member we would have to review the posting of website stats.

### **TBM 188/15 Football Club Financial Information**

**SMcD** reported that the *Club Balance sheet* was in a fairly healthy position.

### **TBM 189/15 Fans Forums.**

A *Forum* will be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> December at the *Landore Club* from 7.30pm.

### **TBM 197/17 Riverside Lounge. & Wall of Fame**

**VW** enquired whether we were going to continue with adding a further 20 names to the *Wall of Fame*. Agreed that we would add a further 20 names, **SMcD** and **NH** have a list of the additional names.

### **TBM 199/17 Schools Initiative.**

**SD** reported that the *Enterprise Challenge* submitted to the *Welsh Joint Education Committee (WJEC)* for the *KS4 Welsh Baccalaureate*, has been successful and is now available on the *WJEC* website for

schools to use. Meetings will be held in the New Year, with contacts in *NeathPortTalbot* and *Swansea Schools*, with a view to piloting the *Challenge* in a small number of schools between February and the Summer. A meeting has also been held with the *Swansea City Community Trust* to explore the possibility of joint working.

**TBM 208/17 Annual Awards Dinner**

No report.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 8.26pm.

**Next Board Meeting Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 at 5.30pm at the Liberty Stadium.**