

SWANSEA CITY SUPPORTERS TRUST BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the Board Meeting held on Monday 6th August, 2018 at the Liberty Stadium, Swansea, commencing at 5.30pm.

Present:

Stuart McDonald (*SMcD*) Sian Davies (*SD*), Andrew Cude (*AC*), Viv Brooks (*VB*), Cath Dyer (*CD*), Tim Bull (*TB*), Barbara Cook (*BC*), Phil Sumbler (*PS*), Rupert Thomas (*RP*), Nigel Hamer (*NH*) (Secretary).

By Conference Call:

Andrew McGlashan (*AMcG*).

Apologies:

Andy Godden (*AG*).

Stuart MacDonald as the senior Board Member chaired the meeting until the election of Chairman of the Trust Board.

Confirmation of elected Board Members:

Phil Sumbler, Andrew McGlashan, Tim Bull, Rupert Thomas, Viv Brooks were elected to serve for a period of two years from 1st August 2018.

Andrew Cude and *Barbara Cook* were elected to serve for a period of one year from the 1st August, 2018.

Nominations had been received for the posts of *Chairman, Vice Chairman, Associate Director* and *Secretary*.

Chairman – *Phil Sumbler, Rupert Thomas*

Vice Chairman – *Andy Godden, Rupert Thomas,*

Associate Director – *Tim Bull, Cath Dyer.*

Presentations for the *Chairman* post were made by *Phil Sumbler* and *Rupert Thomas*.

A closed vote was held by the elected members with *Phil Sumbler* being elected for a period of two years.

Andy Godden and *Rupert Thomas* had made presentations online for the role of *Vice Chair*. The vote was postponed at the meeting, subsequent to the meeting a closed vote was held by the elected *Board Members* by e-mail with *Andy Godden* being elected for a period of two years.

Presentations for the role of *Associate Director* were made by *Tim Bull* and *Cath Dyer*. After a closed vote, *Cath Dyer* was appointed as *Associate Director* to serve for a period of one year.

Secretary – there had been one nomination for the post of *Secretary* which was for a period of two years by current *Secretary, Nigel Hamer*. However, *Nigel* suggested this would be his last year as *Secretary* and would stand down at the end of the Trust year in July 2019.. *Chairman, Phil Sumbler* suggested that maybe we should consider opening the post up to Trust members to apply for the *Secretary* position. It was agreed that the role would be advertised in order to shadow the current *Secretary* from January 2019 onwards. *Nigel Hamer* agreed to provide the *Trust Board* with a breakdown of his role as *Secretary*.

The *Trust Board* confirmed the re-appointment of *Dave Dalton* and *Roger Goodwin* as *Co-opted* members to serve for a period of one year.

Confirmation of *Affiliate* roles – *David Little* as *Legal Affiliate* and *Lisa Clement* as *Finance Affiliate*, both posts are non voting roles.

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 5th July, 2018 had previously been approved.

Trust Shareholding

The Board were presented with *Briefing Papers* of the Meeting held at the *Grand Hotel, Swansea* on the 9th July, 2018. **AMcG** updated the Board on the latest position. (**SMcD** was not present for the briefing).

Supporter Director Report:

SMcD reported that he continues to work closely with our *Chief Operating Officer, Chris Pearlman* and amongst the initiatives that have been recently discussed, and have been, or, will be implemented are:

- *The holding of a Stadium Open Day.*
- *The benefits of engaging with the Supporters through more Fans Forums and also via the Fan Focus Groups being set up.*
- *To encourage Community Groups to visit and experience first hand the facilities at both the Stadium and Fairwood Training facility, in the form of organised tours.*
- *The introduction of the new three match ticket packages has been with our input and consultation..*

It is also pleasing to report the level of co-operation and engagement that we are receiving from the *Football Club* as our *Schools Initiative* project gathers momentum

Further to my report last month that there would need to be a significant cut in the Player costs for season 2018/19, with us suffering an approximate £65million reduction in revenues, I have been stressing to the Club the need to issue an explanatory statement to fans regarding the full financial implications of our relegation from the *Premier League*, and the impact on this season's trading, as it is an area where, lacking any official Club statement, supporter's are relying on speculation and rumour.

I attended the quarterly meeting of the *Safety Advisory Group (SAG)*, which comprises representatives from the *City Council, the Police, Fire Service, St. Johns Ambulance, Stadium Management* and the *Ospreys*. Also in attendance at these quarterly meetings is the representative from the *Sports Grounds Safety Authority* and his area of operation is eleven grounds in *South Wales* and *South West England*. Matters discussed are the management performance and operation of the *Stadium*, incident and safety issues etc.,. It is fair to say that the feedback from these external agencies is of a consistently high level of performance and safety at the *Liberty Stadium*.

Treasurers Report:

SMcD suggested that there is a need to keep a closer watch on legal expenditure with regular reports so that the *Board* could compare ongoing spend against original budget.

TBM 127/08 Disability Supporters Association

CD reported that the *Club* are holding a '*Family Fun Day*' on Tuesday 7th August and are engaging with local *Disability Groups* who have the opportunity of visiting the *Stadium* where they will be able to see the facilities on offer. The *DSA* were invited to a meeting recently to enquire whether they would be interested in assisting with a "*quiet area*" for *Autistic* people, plus others who need the space, this will be held in the *Cwtch Room* at the *Stadium*. The *Club* has performed well in a '*Visit Football*' report where the accessibility assessment was undertaken during the *Brighton* fixture in *November 2017*. In particular helpful, friendly Stewards, the Here to Help staff, excellent customer service and the cleanliness of the Concourse areas were well received during the assessment.

The *EHRC* state of play 2018 report stated – "we found the Club to have a positive attitude to continuing to improve the facilities for its *Disabled Supporters*. Senior management at the *Club* are keen to make the *Stadium* the best it can for their *Disabled Supporters*."

TBM 172 /14 Membership, Marketing & Communication.

VB reported that Membership packs including Raffle tickets, pin badge and Car Sticker would be received by Members before the first home fixture.

BM 186/15 Swans Trust Website Stats

DD had forward a summary of the *Swans Trust* website and Social media stats for July 2018. The total number of page views in July were 3,095 (compared to June 4,618).

Top 5 pages in July were – *Trust Homepage* – 754 (20.13%), *Join the Trust* - 444 (11.85%), *Trust Board Elections 2018 Ballot Results* – 429 (11.45%) *Trust Board Elections Notice of Ballot* – 396 (10.57%), *Meet the Trust Board* – 211 (5.63%)..

Social Media presence figures – 11,372 on our *Public Facebook Group*, 238 on the *Trust Members Facebook Group*,, 2,443 likes on *Facebook page*, 7,421 *Twitter followers*.

Postings and links to relevant articles and content on the new *Facebook Trust Member's page* continue with last month's topics focussing primarily on the *Trust Board Elections* with a number of candidates

posting up their 250 word manifesto's and answering various questions posted by Trust Members. Total number of members to this page has risen to 238 with a further 11,372 on our public Facebook page.

TBM 188/15 Football Club Financial Information

SMcD reported that he had not received the latest Club Management accounts to the end of July.

TBM 197/17 Riverside Lounge. & Wall of Fame

Arrangements have been made to undertake the supply and fitting of the 20 names for this years *Wall of Fame* recipients. The date of the unveiling to be the home fixture against *Reading* on the 27th October.

TBM 199/17 Schools Initiative.

SD reported that approximately 250 Year 10 pupils from *Dwr-Y-Felin Comprehensive School* in *Neath* successfully completed the *SCST Welsh Baccalaureate Challenge* in July. Along with the *Welsh Baccalaureate Manager* for *NeathPortTalbot*. **SD** spent two days in the *School* talking to pupils about their work and contributing to the assessment of the presentation of the *Challenge*. The *School's Welsh Baccalaureate Co-ordinator* was extremely supportive throughout the whole process and her, and her team, worked exceptionally hard to ensure that the *Challenge* was a resounding success. The ideas that the pupils came up with, and materials they produced, far exceeded expectations – they were outstanding. During the visits the pupils were always very polite and very proud to show their work. They were not at all fazed by strangers wanting to talk to them about their *Challenge* or see their presentations. They were a credit to the school as were the staff who supported them. Pupils from the three most innovative groups were given a tour of the *Liberty Stadium* and vouchers for the *Club Shop*. A retrospective launch of the *Challenge* in the schools is being arranged for September with, hopefully, *Lee Trundle* in attendance. Pupils will display their work and one group will present their idea. This should result in very good publicity for the *Trust*, the *Club* and the *School*.

Approximately 15 pupils from *Gowerton School, Swansea* will undertake the *Challenge* during the new *Academic Year* starting in late *September/October* as will a small group of 12 pupils from the newly formed *Merthyr PRU*.

TBM 209/18 Travel Group.

No report.

TBM 211/18 Governance & Policy Documents:

To be reviewed by a new sub-group.

A.O.B.

NH to forward a list of the various sub-groups which need to be populated for the new Trust Board Year.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Next Board Meeting Monday 3rd September at the Liberty Stadium, Swansea at 5.30pm.