

SWANSEA CITY SUPPORTERS TRUST

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the Board Meeting held on Monday 3rd September, 2018 at the Liberty Stadium, Swansea, commencing at 5.30pm.

Present:

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

By Conference Call:

Andrew McGlashan (*AMcG*).

Apologies:

Dave Dalton (*DD*), Roger Goodwin (*RG*), David Little (*DL*), Lisa Clement (*LS*), Tim Bull (*TB*).

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 6th August, 2018 had previously been approved.

Chairman:

PS briefed the Board on his address to be made at the *Fans Forum* at *Landore Social Club* on Wednesday, 5th September from 7.30pm.

Trust Shareholding

AMcG updated the Board on the latest position. (**SMcD** was not present for the update).

Supporter Director Report:

SMcD reported that he continues to work closely with our *Chief Operating Officer, Chris Pearlman* and amongst the discussions during the past month of August has been on player incomings and outgoings, and the perceived lack of action by the *Club* in building a squad that will have sufficient depth to cope with the rigours of a *Championship* challenge.

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

I reported last month on the significant cuts that would be required to the player budget in order for the *Club* to meet its financial targets. There has been great concern however, amongst the fan base, that the lack of player recruitment in both the transfer and loan windows has been too severe, and that the playing squad is too thin with a questioning of the extent of the financial cutbacks. To enable the *Trust* to have an understanding of, and be comfortable with, the financial budget for the next two seasons, it had been arranged that a meeting would take place between *Trust* officials and the *Club Chief Operating Officer* and *Chief Financial Officer*. This did not take place as initially arranged, due to the restrictive nature of the *NDA (non disclosure agreement)* that I was faced with signing, and other issues concerning having other *Trust Board* members in attendance and the sharing of information. We are in discussions with the *Club* to resolve these issues and are hopeful that a meeting will take place as initially arranged.

It was pleasing to see that our *American* owners conducted a meeting with *Journalists* from *BBC Wales* and *Wales Online* on the 2nd September to give some insight and rationale regarding their ownership and direction of the *Club*, and we would encourage a continuation and expansion of policy of accessibility and transparency, and regular communication regarding *Club* affairs.

The matchday programme for the game against *Nottingham Forest* on the 15th September will see the re-introduction of a "*Trust Page*", which we hope will become a regular feature, as we look to widen our ways of reaching out to *Supporters*.

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 *Swans Disabled Supporters Association* and members of *Swansea CITY Football Club* hosted the ASD during the *Family Fun Day* on Tuesday 7th August. The area was designated as a quiet area, and included quiet music being played, a bubble tube/lights being shown on the screen as well as the lights being dimmed which made for a relaxed atmosphere. The *ASD Supporters* were also able to enter the *Ground* straight into a reserved number of seats in the Stand away from the main crowds. A *Disability Liaison Officer* was positioned nearby in order to offer assistance at any time. *Mark Phillips, Disability Access Officer* was available at all times, the *ASD Supporters* found it a very worthwhile experience, *Club Ambassador Lee Trundle* was also in attendance.

Following queries with disabled tickets, the *DSA* have resolved their concerns with the *Ticket Office Manager*.

The *Disabled Supporters Association* are holding their first *Social Event* of the new season on Thursday, 13th September at the *Liberty Stadium*.

The *Access Statement* is all up to date, re: the *Club* now being in the *Championship*.

The *Disability Access Officer* is currently reviewing all *Disabled* content on the *Club* website.

TBM 172 /14 Membership, Marketing & Communication.

VB & SD reported that current membership levels are almost twice the number at the same period last year. VB reported that arrangements had been made to carry out the draw for this year's *Raffle* prior to the home fixture against *Nottingham Forest* on *Saturday, 15th September*.

TBM 186/15 Swans Trust Website Stats

There were no stats available for this month due to the election process.

TBM 188/15 Football Club Financial Information

SMcD reported that he was waiting for 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 a 'retrospective' launch of the *Challenge* is being arranged for the 13th September in *Dwr-Y-Felin Comprehensive School, Neath* with representatives of the *Trust*, the *Club* and *WJEC*. present. There were a number of ideas from the pupils in *Dwr-Y-Felin*, a number of which may be of interest to the *Club*. To support *Schools*, a *Teacher's Pack* for the *Challenge* comprising a *lesson plan*, an *information sheet*, a *Powerpoint presentation* and a *Pupil worksheet* has been produced by the *14-19 Manager* for *Neath Port Talbot* and SD. Arrangements are being made for approximately 15 pupils from *Gowerton School, Swansea* to undertake the *Challenge* in *October* and for a small group of about 12 pupils from the newly formed *Merthyr PRU*. The *Club* has been very supportive regarding the use of *Hospitality Boxes* at the *Stadium* to allow us to work with the pupils, and *Stadium Tours*. Work will continue during the new *Academic Year* on rolling out the *Challenge* to more schools across the *Swansea Bay* area.

TBM 209/18 Travel Group.

No report.

TBM 211/18 Governance & Policy Documents:

To be reviewed by the new sub-group of **AC, BC** and **TB**.

A.O.B.

We had previously discussed inviting a *Speaker* attending our monthly *Board Meetings*, with the *October* meeting being the first. *SMacD* to arrange.

Trust Board Sub-Groups:

PS had produced a list of the various sub-groups to operate throughout the *Trust Year*. These are:

Finance: *SMacD, AG, LC. Membership:* *VB, RT, TB, SD, DD. Governance:* *AC, BC, TB.*

Comms/PR: *AG, AC, PS, CD. IT (including Twitter, Facebook, Website):* *DD, SD, AG.*

Shareholding: *PS, AG, AC, RT, DL, LC, AMcG.*

Community (including DSA, Schools Initiative, Fundraising etc.,) *VB, CD, SD, BC, RG, DD*

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 7.40pm.

Next Board Meeting Monday 1st October, 2018 at the Liberty Stadium, Swansea at 5.30pm.