

SWANSEA CITY SUPPORTERS TRUST

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday 12 August 2019 - Liberty Stadium, Swansea.

Present	Apologies
Phil Sumbler (<i>PS - Chair</i>)	Lisa Clement (<i>LC</i>)
Andy Godden (<i>AG</i>)	Dai Little (<i>DL</i>)
Stuart McDonald (<i>SMcD</i>)	Andrew Cude (<i>AC</i>)
Sian Davies (<i>SD</i>)	
Cath Dyer (<i>CD</i>)	
Tim Bull (<i>TB</i>)	
Andrew McGlashan (<i>AMcG</i>)	
Rupert Thomas (<i>RT</i>)	
Terry Sinnett (<i>TS</i>)	
Mike Bastin (<i>Secretary</i>)	

1. The Chair opened the discussion by welcoming Terry Sinnett as a newly elected board member before seeking to move to confirmation of affiliates.

Admin and logistics

2. Before progressing, offline discussions were raised. This related specifically to approval to spend towards legal proceedings and confirmation of affiliates, both of which required quick decisions from the board. TB expressed his frustration and requested a more formal process be introduced, for example a minimum of 5-days' notice for decisions. He also felt strongly that all significant issues, should be brought to the meeting, discussed and voted on in person.
3. AG pointed out that given the current workload of the Trust, it is often impossible to wait four weeks between meetings before agreement is reached and action taken. MB confirmed that internal minutes could be circulated more quickly, along with action points but emphasised the need to have records and processes proportionate to the task at hand.
4. TB pressed for there to be a weekly update from subgroups, including recommendations, with PS agreeing that something could be introduced if it ensures subgroups have access to quicker decisions. The consensus was that, whatever the format, this approach should be focussed and standardised across the groups. This would encourage their brevity and ensure they meet these aims while not detracting from subgroups' autonomy. PS asked TB and MB to consider. TB confirmed he would draft something by the end of August
5. Members next discussed the timing of meetings, to ensure maximum attendance – it was agreed the current timings provide some certainty for members, but that commitments outside of the Trust meant some flexibility should exist if there is a genuine need to deviate from the current approach. SD asked whether there should be a minimum attendance threshold that members must meet to retain their positions, but it was generally agreed that this risked losing valuable experience/expertise from the board.
6. The discussion turned to practical matters around meeting logistics and AG agreed to investigate buying teleconf. kit to ensure as many people could participate as possible.

Confirmation of members

7. PS tabled the following positions and appointments;

- Supporter Director (SMcD)
- Associate Director (CD)
- Treasurer (SMcD)

All were endorsed by the board.

8. PS raised that VB had submitted his resignation and that his efforts would be missed. PS agreed to speak again with VB to see if there was something the board could do to reverse that decision. The board agreed that if it came to it, VB should not be replaced outside of the election cycle.

9. Discussions then turned to IT, financial and legal affiliate membership. The board agreed those in current roles should continue with their valued support.

Supporter Director update

10. The restructuring of the Club is continuing under Trevor Birch's custodianship, with a changed departmental structure and responsibilities, and a procedure of weekly management meetings now in place.

11. The Club are investigating the possibility of setting up a small remembrance area/garden adjacent to the Ivor statue, which is something we have had several discussions on over the last couple of years.

12. Trevor Birch is very keen to improve and increase engagement with both the totality of the fanbase and the community in general, with an increased focus on our local and Welsh identity, and these are areas where the Club and Trust will hopefully be working in close accord over the coming months.

13. The early indications regarding the playing squad are positive, and there is no doubt, based on the friendlies and first couple of competitive matches, that there is a tremendous team spirit amongst the squad and the football staff.

Governance

14. AG confirmed that this work will continue, and TB will be brought into that, in line with earlier discussions (point 7).

Communications

15. CD asked whether it was possible to make use of the next fans forum stand and programme page for the accessibility subgroup's work. The board agreed and suggested the Accessibility work undertaken should also be fed into the programme ahead of the Preston match on 17 August.

Membership

16. SD voiced concerns around matchday pod staffing due to VB's resignation. TS agreed to support on the day.

17. PS suggested a rota for that task, and for the board to consider, longer term, seeking wider Trust member support to staff the pod.