

SWANSEA CITY SUPPORTERS TRUST

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 16 June 2020 - videoconference.

Present	Apologies
Phil Sumbler (<i>PS - Chair</i>)	Lisa Clement (LC)
Andy Godden (<i>AG</i>)	Dai Little (DL)
Stuart McDonald (<i>SMcD</i>)	
Roger Goodwin (<i>RG</i>)	
Cath Dyer (<i>CD</i>)	
Andrew Cude (<i>AC</i>)	
Rupert Thomas (<i>RT</i>)	
Terry Sinnett (<i>TS</i>)	
Dave Dalton (<i>DD</i>)	
Andrew McGlashan (<i>AMcG</i>)	
Mike Bastin (<i>Secretary</i>)	

Shareholding/Legal report

1. AG provided an update on the current legal position of the trust's case against former shareholders. Current indications suggest that the possibility of quickly getting to court is low, though this is the status for nearly all civil disputes at the current time.

Trust election

2. DD set out the proposed timetable and collateral for this year's trust elections, which the Board agreed. PS called on attendees to support through their own/Trust social media.
3. AC confirmed that he would be stepping down from the Board, explaining that professional pressures have resulted in a lack of spare capacity to provide the Trust with the focus needed.

Lifetime achievement award

7. The board discussed the challenges of awarding something at a time when social distancing is still limiting everyday life. PS set out his concerns that doing things now, against the public-health background, means that it will likely get "lost" via a digital announcement. The board discussed the sorts of environments where it would ideally be awarded and agreed to postpone its award until it can be celebrated in a social context that is more fitting.

Membership and fundraising report

8. DD provided a membership report to the board for its consideration ahead of the meeting and sought board views before progressing work further. Discussions turned to the consideration to update the Trust logo to tie in with the Trust's 20th anniversary. PS and RT agreed that while some of our potential younger members might view it as dated, its adoption for the Trust was due to historic reasons that continues to resonate with many of our membership. It was agreed that an alternative design should be commissioned for a modest price and returned to the board for consideration.
9. Trust fees were briefly touched upon, with the Chair thanking DD for his efforts on membership. It was felt that free renewal of membership at a time when fans would be struggling financially should be implemented for the 20/21 season. In terms of member acquisition on match day the group talked through opportunities to perhaps move the Trust

pod to a more prominent position where fans congregate, as opposed to its current positioning on a thoroughfare. SMcD pointed out that this may provide an opportunity for us to work with the club on logistics.

Update from season ticket ideas group

10. PS made clear that the club and Trust have worked closely on proposals for season tickets. The Trust have been heavily involved in proposals and our input had a real influence on the proposals put in place for the end of the current season. The club have listened, collaborated and the work is a real positive in showing the value of the Trust and club boards working together, with the consensus view being that relationships have been strengthened by the exercise.

Supporter Director Update

11. I have had various meetings recently with Club management, all of which centre on the Covid 19 crisis, and the operational fallout from it, which has undoubtedly impacted on the already stretched finances of not only the Swans, but throughout football.
12. The Trust Finance subgroup has also held meetings with Club management and have been kept up to date with developments in both the Premier League and the EFL, which are inextricably tied.
13. The negotiations, developments and inevitable financial cutbacks are seriously affecting all professional football clubs, with severe financial implications, and there are hugely challenging times ahead for all clubs.
14. The hope is that the 2019-20 season will restart on 20th June, with matches being played weekends and midweek, so that the League programme can be completed by 22nd July. The 2020-21 season is then expected to start on 1st September, At this stage, there is no idea when spectators will be allowed access to stadia, with matches being played behind closed doors.
15. I attended the quarterly Safety Advisory Group meeting recently, and the consistency of positive reports regarding the stadium management continues, with all the public services complimenting the management team on their procedures, and how well each of them work with the stadium personnel.
16. With John Perkins of the Sports Ground Safety Authority having now retired, it is noticeable that we have not yet had a visit from his successor, a measure of the confidence that they have in the operation at Swansea. In fact, it goes further than that, as they confirmed that there was no urgency to visit us, as the stadium is seen as a flagship model.
17. The memorial garden, adjacent to Ivor, is now finished, and it is planned to officially open it at the Sheffield Wednesday match, although the plaque in memory of Terry Coles may be unveiled separately - being discussed with the Coles family.

Treasurer Report

18. S McDonald gave an update on the Trust's current financial position, with recent significant outgoings being the annual audit fees, insurance renewal, and a payment for legal fees, with incomings being a regular flow of memberships and donations, merchandise sales and building society interest.

Finance sub-group

19. The Finance Sub-Group have met with Trevor Birch and been given detailed information on the immediate impact, and the likely ongoing impact, of the Covid 19 pandemic on the Club's finances. These are concerning times for all football clubs, and it really does need a concerted effort from the entire football family to navigate a way through this crisis. It is a constantly developing situation, and we are being kept up to date with all developments.