

## SWANSEA CITY SUPPORTERS TRUST

### BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021 16h00 BST – STADIUM / MS Teams videoconference.

<b>Present:</b>	
Ceri Stone (CS)	Adam Lewis (AL) - video
Howard Corder (HC) - video	Nick Phillips (NP)
Sian Davies (SD)	Howell Williams (HW)
Chris Golledge (CG) - video	Roger Goodwin - video
Terry Sinnett (TS)	Dave Dalton (DD)
Rupert Thomas (RT) - video	Paul Barrett (PB - Secretary)

#### Supporter's Director update

1. Rhodri Mugford - Secretary of Swansea Schools FA was due to address the TB at 5pm. However, he has reported ill, so this meeting has been deferred until the next BM.
2. TS advised that his planned meeting with Julian Winter is postponed until Julian returns to work.
3. Concern was raised that the Heritage Room located nr Legends Lounge is only accessible for Stadium Tours.
4. NP has offered to represent the Trust at the Remembrance Day service (nr stadium memorial area).
5. The status on players' contracts was raised (inc Grimes, Bidwell and Smith) which expire next summer.

#### Karen Trussler – Chairperson and Safeguarding Officer of Swansea Junior Football League

6. TS introduced Karen to all the BMs. Karen started with the SJFL (a voluntary organisation, whereas the FAW is professional) 30+ years ago and her responsibilities including handling the registrations for 31 Clubs, 185 Teams and 2,400 Players. These diversely cover U8-U14 players, a Girls League, and also an Autistic Team (Rosehill – 44 players). Her husband Don is also involved, as was her son, a former player in the SJFL.
7. KT pointed out that like most others; clubs struggled through the lockdown period, a few clubs folded. The SJFL was the only organisation to run a league during the Covid, to keep the kids playing or training.
8. KT stated that the SJFL had a legal obligation to monitor the clubs. This has been difficult with only 8 or 9 volunteers, and 200+ games to monitor since April.
9. KT stated that the Trust donations (£2000 per season, to date) are ring-fenced to purchase balls, goals or first aid kits for clubs. Last season, each club received 3 match balls and a first aid kit. Other sponsors provide kit etc.
10. KT was asked what events they host; they have a finals day (to which Trust are invited), most recently held in Briton Ferry, where League, Cup and Plate matches are played off. Unfortunately, this finals day has been deferred for the past two seasons. Their season started on 7<sup>th</sup> Sept, and runs until the end of April. Swansea City Council is not currently charging for junior football pitch hire.
11. The SJFL has a website <http://www.swanseajfl.co.uk/>. The Trust has offered to provide links to the SJFL, and maybe arrange better opportunities to link with the club (eg for players to occasionally visit training sessions). The SJFL currently has no direct links or communications with SCFC, or Swansea Schools FA.

#### Membership and Fundraising

12. Sian emphasised the push to recruit junior members to the Trust, with more competitions etc.
13. It is suggested that JW may be able to meet with a small group of junior Trust members during quiet periods (say after school, or on Sundays) every 3 months or so; TS will raise this request at his next meeting with JW.
14. Need to connect with the Foundation for their personnel to join the Trust. It may be easier to recruit after the legal negotiations have been resolved.
15. We will extend the timescale for badges/stickers collection until the end of November. We will then distribute individually in the UK; maybe send a pack to the USA for separate distribution there.
16. We are looking to recruit more overseas members, particularly re-recruiting in the USA.

17. A suggestion was made for the Trust to advertise on the stadium screens, Swans TV and Swans Audio.
18. Bolton Wanderers offer lifetime Trust membership for £100; maybe the Swans Trust can offer something similar.
19. We need ensure WiFi at the POD prior to purchasing a new Zettle card reader.
20. NP advised that he is able to obtain 20% discount at Sports Direct for bulk purchases.
21. The 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Plan needs to be followed up to expedite what we need.

### **PR / Comms Update**

22. The Supporter Director will publish an update later in the month, after he has met with the CEO.

### **Website Update**

23. Following the change in IT / Website support provider, the monthly stats will be deferred until the new website has been constructed, tested and placed online.
24. The Trust has signed a new agreement with Roddy Digital for IT Support and Website maintenance. A few points need to be clarified on securely hosting members' data. The new provider will liaise with AL weekly, with the aim to complete the website build before Christmas, and launch in the New Year.
25. All BMs need to review their personal profiles for posting on the new website.
26. The long term Trust strategy will need to tie in with launch of the new website. This will be discussed at the next BM.

### **Social Media**

27. Some work needs to be done at the end of the month on the Nov / Dec prizes, for all 3 SM platforms.
28. Efforts are being made to coordinate closely all Trust information across all 3 SM platforms. We now have c. 500 Instagram followers; the Trust FB site is currently fairly quiet in comparison.

### **Governance**

29. *Governance subgroup would pick up once the legal dispute has subsided.*

### **Finance**

30. HW advised that he's received information on the Trust accounts and bank mandates from SMcD, however, HW needs the access information to Barclays.
31. StuM is updating the year end accounts, and information will need to be sent to the Companies House for declaration purposes.
32. DD has asked Nigel Hamer (former Trust Sec) for visibility on the signed Articles of Association and the original Shareholders Agreement. Nigel has responded and the action is in progress.

### **Inclusivity**

#### DSA

33. The Swans DSA held their monthly coffee morning at Verdi's on Tuesday 26th November. We had over 20 of our members turn up, chat, and have a lovely morning together. We held a small raffle, and congratulations to our winners.
34. The DSA supported World Mental Health Day on Friday October 10th. We realize that this is so important and are proud that we can offer support to any of our members when they need it.
35. The chair and secretary of the DSA held a meeting with Cath Thomas of the club on 21st October, where we discussed up-coming events, and shared ideas. Cath is always happy to support the DSA.
36. The DSA are proud to have been asked to be involved with the SEDI group, Swans Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. Cath Dyer, secretary, attended the first meeting on October 8th, and found it very worthwhile. We look forward to progressing further as a group together.
37. Our DSA is pleased to announce that Mair and Alan Hicks, and Alf and Mo Fullman, all members of our DSA, have recently celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary. Congratulations to both couples on their fantastic achievements – 60 years.

38. The MR X APPEAL, which the DSA have supported for the past 3 years, is going really well. It is great to be able to support such a brilliant scheme – which helps underprivileged children in the Swansea area. We have asked that all the Christmas bags can be handed in to us by Friday 12th November.
39. Following the match against Peterborough on Saturday, one of our members unfortunately had a seizure. He was with his brother at the time. The staff at the club were marvellous with him. Cath, DSA secretary, who has known the member for 8 years, spoke with him, stayed with him a while, and it was great when he was able to communicate again, speaking about family, dogs, and all the help that the DSA support them with.
40. We have received numerous compliments recently about how we include, support and care for our members. This is what the DSA is about – being there and helping as and when we can. We work as a team, and enjoy the company of each other, and are all friends who work hard together.
41. We have been speaking with the club recently about the autism and football inclusion leaflets, including dyslexia forms, and wish to thank Cath Thomas for asking us to look at them. We have given Cath some of our thoughts and look forward to seeing the new forms..

#### Other

42. SD attended a meeting with Catherine Thomas and Cath Dyer on Discrimination / Abuse.
43. White Ribbon Day - International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is soon and the Trust will be involved.

#### **Schools**

44. RG advised that schools have been given the go-ahead to re-start stadium visits, and will aim to mobilise some school students via their head teachers.
45. RG, SD, CS and DD to liaise with Helen Elton (Foundation) to discuss interfaces and synergies.

#### **Supporter Groups**

46. DD advised that he'd been in contact with Mark Padroe (Stateside Jacks), as they've been fairly quiet recently. DD / HC will push again in the New Year.

#### **Trust Charities 2021/22**

47. DD stated that we will need to interface with the-Foundation with regard to charities. The Charities Sub-Group need to re-engage with Helen Elton at the Foundation on charity liaison etc.
48. SD has previously indicated that she would be willing to be appointed as a Trustee to the Foundation, as some of the previous trustees (inc TBMs) have now moved on.
49. DD has now distributed the Foundation PowerPoint presentation that was given by Helen Elton to the BMs last month.
50. NP mentioned that there will be a Christmas Hamper collection and distribution event supported by the Club and the Foundation (Carolyn Harris - the Swansea East MP is also involved) - he suggested that the Trust should be visible in this initiative, and he will coordinate from the Trust's perspective.

#### **Former Players Association (FPA)**

51. NTR – this group now appears to be up and running, with DD as the Trust representative.

#### **AOB**

52. SD and RG to plan to meet with Helen Elton to discuss interfaces and possible synergies with the Trust's / Foundation's activities that have been identified (eg Schools, Welsh Bacc, Stadium Tours), these will need to be followed up with the relevant sub-groups
53. DD suggested that we ask Julian Winter if he will be able to attend the next BM in December.

The meeting closed at 6.45pm.

**The next Trust Board meeting will be in Stadium on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021.**