



**Cardiff City Supporters' Trust Board Meeting  
Thursday April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2012 at 6.30pm. Venue - Deri Inn**

**Present:**

Tim Hartley (TH - Chair), Tracey Marsh (TM), Brian Mertens (BM), David Craig (DC), Gareth Jones (GaJ), Geraint Jones (GeJ), Keith Morgan (KM), Nigel Turner (NT), Phillip Nifield (PN), John Isaacson (JI - Notes)

**1. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the Board meeting of March 8<sup>th</sup> were approved as a true record.

**2. Action Points**

APs from the previous meeting were reviewed and discharged, except where included/updated below. New actions arising are also included here.

2.1 **TH** to check Supporters Direct (SD) position re proposed network of Premiership & Championship Trusts at SD Council meeting on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

2.2 **DC** to 'phone Phil Dwyer to thank him for the book signings and the money raised as a result.

2.3 **TH & KM** to liaise on organising the community 5-a-side tournament – date t.b.c.

2.4 **JI** to add item on June agenda to address way forward to review and update Policies.

2.5 **JI** to circulate the set of Policies pulled together by GeJ.

2.6 **GeJ** to compare our existing Rules and the new SD Model Rules; to highlight the changes and make recommendations to the Board (by April 9<sup>th</sup>).

2.7 **TH** to firm up the notes of the meeting with the club and redistribute.

2.8 **TH** to make suggestions to SD re their funding situation, as agreed.

2.9 **All** to consider priorities for the next year.

2.10 **TM** to provide the updated database for the election mail out / notice of AGM (April 13<sup>th</sup>).

2.11 **BM** to make the necessary preparations for the use of Freepost if an election is triggered (April 13<sup>th</sup>).

2.12 **TH** to book a place at Grangetown Festival.

2.13 **TH** to find the golden boot.

2.14 **TM** to check what player awards CCSC is planning.

2.15 **All** to submit ideas for player awards to TM.

**All Group Leaders** to provide reports at least 8 days in advance of Board meetings to JI.

**JI** to circulate Group reports with the agenda and previous minutes.

**3. Matters Arising**

**3.1** The Club has agreed that we could sell goods in the Trust office, although we would need to show them beforehand what we intend to sell.

**3.2** BM had contacted Supporters Direct regarding other Championship Club Trusts. SD had reported that Fulham Trust wanted to set up a network of Trusts for the Premiership, which may be appropriate for many

Championship clubs. The Board had concerns that such a network should not undermine or bypass the SD network of members.

**Agreed:** This matter should be raised at the next SD Council meeting on April 25<sup>th</sup> before any action is taken or agreements made.

**3.3** GeJ has pulled all the Policies together. Although some had been adopted in principle, it was **agreed** that they need to be reviewed and updated before being put on the Trust website. The Terms of Reference for each working group would also need to be reviewed.

**3.4** GeJ has highlighted the changes in the 2011 Supporters' Direct Model Rules.

**Agreed:** Include as item on AGM agenda (Geraint to talk to it).

**Agreed:** To not adopt withdrawable (community) shares at present.

**3.5** NT reported that Anne Pound would be available to act as guest scrutiniser for the election vote count.

**3.6** The club confirmed that the Fred Keenor statue would be covered under its insurance and that it would look into the possibility of lighting.

#### **4. Meeting with the Club**

There was some discussion about the notes of the meeting with the club on March 21<sup>st</sup> and the need to take a firm stance when needed on behalf of the members (who are paying customers of the club).

**Agreed:** To include all the issues raised regarding cup final ticketing; and the reasons stated why the Trust had not taken a table at the pre cup final dinner.

#### **5. Correspondence**

An email had been received from SD with an update on the Football Governance Inquiry.

#### **6. Chair's Update - TH**

**5.1** TH had hosted more than 20 members of the 2 Cardiff synagogues on the day of the Burnley game.

**5.2** TH outlined information received from SD regarding their funding situation.

**Agreed:** TH to suggest the following to SD: membership fee based on turnover of Trusts; charge for training events, which are currently free; approach FAW and Football League for funding; determine more creative ways of managing Trusts' reserves.

**Agreed:** Provide a £100 donation to SD, which would include compensation for training being provided to Board members.

#### **7. Finance Report - KM**

**7.1** A meeting will be held next week (w/c April 9<sup>th</sup>) with Watts Gregory for presentation of the 2011 accounts.

**7.2** KM had still not had a response from the club re transfer of shares to the Trust.

**Agreed:** KM to liaise with the donor to transfer the shares.

**7.3** JI raised the timing of meetings with respect to submission of monthly accounts to the Board prior to meetings.

**Agreed:** KM to provide accounts to end of last complete month prior to the date required for submission to Board, e.g. accounts to end of March will be sent out prior to May Board meeting.

## **8. Subgroup Reports**

Updates and key points provided to the Board prior to the meeting are below.

### **8.1. Membership Report - TM**

**8.1.1** Current membership is 724, which includes 105 outstanding standing orders.

**8.1.2** Standing orders are being checked.

**8.1.3** The cut-off date for members eligible to vote on the Board elections will be April 9<sup>th</sup>.

**8.1.4** The membership literature was reviewed at the last membership meeting. The changes to the joining leaflet have been sent to Lyndon Rhodes, requesting him to redesign it, with the inclusion of the standing order (annual) form and markers for photos.

**8.1.5** For any under 16s, a Date of Birth is required, and any person under 16 can only be a member if residing at the same address as an adult member. TM raised the question as to whether we still needed a 16/18 age split. This may be addressed if the new SD rules are adopted.

**8.1.6** TM has asked the club how we could set up a video stream for Trust events at any venue.

### **8.2 Communications Report - PN**

**8.2.1** All in hand.

**8.2.2** There was a 2 page spread in the Echo on "Our Ninian Park" by Mark Watkins.

### **8.3 Fred Keenor Report - DC**

**8.3.1** £4,237 is the final figure for the amount raised from the Wembley buses.

**8.3.2** DC has signed off the grant letter from the Welsh Government.

**8.3.3** All invoices have been submitted to Cardiff Council to facilitate the release of the £15k pledged.

**8.3.4** DC has been to see progress on the statue. The press and photo call will be held within the next month. The sculptor is working on an anti-theft device for the statue.

**8.3.5** DC will check the possibility of a contribution from the English FA.

## **9. Progress against Key Priorities**

Covered by the Annual Report for the AGM.

## **10. AGM Update**

**10.1** TH has updated the Annual Report, from comments received.

**10.2** The Board is mindful of the number of members required to ensure the AGM is quorate.

**10.3 Agreed:** To raise the question at the AGM with members on how to spend available Trust funds; and priorities for the forthcoming year.

## **11. Board Elections**

Paul Evans is collecting nomination returns from the post box. The Board is seeking suitable candidates, in order to trigger an election. If a count is needed, Karen Wolfendale and Paul Evans will be available as tellers, and Anne Pound as guest scrutiniser.

## **12. AOB**

**12.1** Dave Sugarman has made some observations and recommendations to the Board regarding the Trust office and meetings with the club.

**Agreed:** To ensure the necessary steps are taken to improve the effectiveness of the Trust office and to take full advantage of meetings with club officials on behalf of the membership.

**12.2** BM and JI attended the SD South West Regional meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> March, hosted by Newport County Football and Rugby Trusts. Other Trusts represented were Exeter City, Merthyr Town, Plymouth Argyle and Swansea City. The meeting was chaired by James Mathie of SD.

**12.2.1** The guest speaker was Huw Cooze, who has been Supporter Director on Swansea's Board of Directors since 2006. Huw gave the background of how the fans were involved in raising money for a place on the Club Board after the club was asset stripped and nearly went out of the Football League. Although there was initially some suspicion about having a fans' representative on the Board, the Supporter Director is now fully integrated in the club's decision making.

**12.2.2** James Mathie highlighted the main changes to the new set of Model Rules, which Trusts may wish to adopt: the separation of some of the policies; and the inclusion of a different type of shares.

**12.2.3** An update on the Football Governance Review was provided. The joint response from the football authorities to the recommendations of the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee Inquiry into Football Governance is disappointing in many areas. However, the response does contain some possible opportunities that if realised would benefit all Supporters' Trusts in the English football league system. We will need to continue lobbying on this issue, to ensure the government meets its pledge on football governance reform.

## **13. Dates of future meetings**

All meetings to start at 6.30pm in the upstairs bar of the Deri Inn. Dates to the end of the season are as follows:

Tuesday May 1<sup>st</sup>

(Secretary's note: the room has been booked with the Deri for the above date.)

**End of meeting**