



**Cardiff City Supporters' Trust Board Meeting
Tuesday December 3rd 2013 at 7pm. Venue – Llandaff Institute**

Present:

Tim Hartley (TH - Chair), Brian Mertens (BM), David Craig (DC), Geraint Jones (GeJ), Jonathan Day (JD), Keith Morgan (KM), Nigel Turner (NT), Phillip Nifield (PN), John Isaacson (JI - Notes)

Guest speaker: Tom Gorringe

1. Supporter Liaison

Tom Gorringe was welcomed to the meeting and the Board members stated their roles within the Trust. Tom was invited to say how he sees the Supporter Liaison Officer role. He was at Portsmouth for 4 years, during their difficult times, involved in fan engagement and the commercial side. He has been at the City about a year and a half and has since taken on the SLO role, which the Club sees as important and a way to engage with the fans. The recent meeting the Club Chairman, Mehmet Dalman, and other Club officials, had with Trust and other fans' representatives was seen as a step forward.

Supporter Liaison Volunteers are being recruited to be points of contact around the ground for fans to report any issues, in order to improve the match day experience. There will be SLV pods outside the ground and SLVs from visiting clubs in the away end. Tom will use the Trust as a sounding board and agreed to use the Trust office as an additional feed point on match days for fans' issues.

TH welcomed the steps being taken to improve the fan experience, although this is just part of the SLO role. Tom sees the link through to Mehmet Dalman as a parallel stream. Regarding meetings with the Club, TH said that in the past the Club had never raised any issues at meetings, in spite of always being asked and would like to see this change in the future.

Tom sees Cardiff City as a Community Club. GeJ stressed the point that the Trust is much more than another supporters club. It takes a strategic view and has many contacts outside the Club on local and national aspects.

TH raised the issues of the results of the Club's fan survey never having been released and the fans' forum not taking place. Tom said that a fans' forum is planned on the Ninian Stand development.

TH thanked Tom for his contribution and invited him to stay for the rest of the meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the Board meeting of November 5th were approved as a true record.

3. Action Points

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

- 3.1 **JD** to progress purchase of bobble hats.
- 3.2 **JD** to progress signage for the stadium on match days from the Castle and the Bay with Cardiff Bus.
- 3.3 **KM** to make arrangements to present a cheque to Tŷ Hafan, via Tom Gorringe.
- 3.4 **JD** to obtain a copy of the Club's fan survey from Tom Gorringe.
- 3.5 **JD** to ask Tom Gorringe for any input to the Trust's survey.
- 3.6 **GeJ** to progress the proposed meeting for female members.
- 3.7 **TH** to send out a briefing note on the Cardiff Story's oral history project.
- 3.8 **NT** to update the Business Plan.
- 3.9 **All** to send ideas to JD for the planned survey of members' views.
- 3.10 **PN** to send out social media briefing to members.
- 3.11 **KM** to provide a paper for the next Board meeting on Objective 5.8 in the Business Plan.
- 3.12 **JI** to check availability of Rob Phillips and Jason Perry for the 2014 AGM.
- 3.13 **JD** to contact April McKay to answer her questions for her assignment.
- 3.14 **TH** to talk to Tom Gorringe about getting Malky Mackay and players to meet the fans.
- 3.15 **All** to provide status of APs to JI prior to the next meeting (by December 31st).

4. Matters Arising

- 4.1 The advert for the secretarial roles has already resulted in two expressions of interest.
- 4.2 JD has ordered bobble hat samples (expected next week) and will check the quality.
- 4.3 JD has contacted Cardiff Bus about signage for the stadium on match days from the Castle and the Bay.
- 4.4 TH, DC and KM had attended the meeting with Mehmet Dalman. The specifics could not be communicated until we receive the minutes as there is a confidentiality agreement until then. KM said they found the meeting very encouraging and Mehmet was open and honest with them. He understood the difference between the Supporters Club and the Trust. Provided these meetings continue as said, they will strengthen the links between supporters and the Club. There will be an agreement made on protocol for future meetings. Tom said that Mehmet had found the meeting useful and added that the Club Board meets 4 times a year as a minimum.
- 4.5 GeJ agreed to facilitate the proposed meeting for female members and Tom Gorringe will support him in this. It was suggested that it would be useful to get Sian Branson involved.
- 4.6 Malky Mackay unveiled the Fred Keenor plaque on November 12th at Stacey Primary School. DC has written to Malky Mackay on behalf of the Trust thanking him for his contribution and has thanked Wayne Nash for the part he played in making the event a success and for bringing the Championship Winner's Trophy to show to the children.

4.7 TH and BM attended the Premier League Trusts meeting, the notes of which have been sent out to members. There are 13 Trusts in the Premiership, 8 of which were represented. Kevin Rye of Supporters Direct tabled various issues and all agreed that we should campaign together on the following: safe standing; ticketing for away matches; SLO role; and engaging with younger fans.

4.8 It was not possible to have club logos added to a Grog for the Chasetown organiser for their visit on January 11th. We will therefore have a framed signed shirt in its place. The Trust and Supporters Club are sharing the cost of hospitality for the visitors.

4.9 The Terms of Reference for the Fundraising Group were ratified.

5. Correspondence

None not covered elsewhere.

6. Chair's Update - TH

6.1 Supporters Direct has presented a paper on community shares to a Cross Party group of MPs.

6.2 The Assembly All Party Assembly Group on Mutuals will meet in January and we hope to be able to use this to push the case for SD Cymru, community sports ownership and introduction of the Localism Act to Wales (which will allow people to list sports grounds as Assets of Community Value).

6.3 TH had chaired a meeting of Cwlwm Busnes Caerdydd, a forum for business to discuss the economic benefits of Premiership football in Cardiff.

7. Progress against Business Plan - NT

NT walked the meeting through key questions on progress against the Business Plan.

8. Finance report - KM

KM has completed the membership spreadsheets. Another Paypal transfer had been received: these should now arrive on a quarterly basis. Membership income for the year to November 22nd was £7,723, compared to £8,256 for the same period in 2012. Bank statements for November had not been received in time to produce the updated accounts for this meeting.

9. Membership Report - JI

9.1 The event to celebrate the 20th anniversary of winning the old Third Division title and the Welsh Cup, held on November 21st at the stadium, was deemed a great success. Thanks have been sent to the ex-players, Rob Phillips and other contributors.

9.2 As at the end of November, there were 687 active members, compared to 648 at the end of October. We gained several new members in November as a result of the 92/93 event.

10. AGM and Board Elections

Ji presented the draft AGM & Election Time Line for 2014.

Agreed: Date of AGM to be Thursday May 22nd, to be held at the Llandaff Institute.

Rob Phillips and Jason Perry have both agreed in principle to do a review of the season at next year's AGM after conclusion of official business, depending on their availability.

11. AOB

11.1 A final year student at Cardiff University (April McKay) studying for a degree in Journalism has asked for the Trust to answer two or three questions for her assignment on foreign ownership in football in the UK.

11.2 Bartosz Nowicki has requested the Trust to sell copies of his book on City fans in the Trust office, with part of the selling price going to the Trust.

Agreed: To offer the book for sale in the Trust office, with Trust proceeds going to charity.

11.3 Paul Evans had asked for his thanks to be passed to the Board for supporting sales of his book and for the loan, which he will be able to repay shortly. The book has received an endorsement by Malky Mackay.

11.4 PN will be unable to attend the January Board meeting.

12. Dates of future Board meetings

All meetings to start at 7pm. (Secretary's note: the Llandaff Institute has been booked by BM for all dates.) Dates to June 2014 are as follows:

- Tuesday January 7th
- Tuesday February 4th
- Tuesday March 4th
- Tuesday April 1st
- Tuesday May 6th
- Tuesday June 3rd

End of meeting