



Cardiff City Supporters' Trust Board Meeting
Tuesday February 4th 2014 at 7pm. Venue – Llandaff Institute

Present:

Tim Hartley (TH - Chair), Brian Mertens (BM), David Craig (DC), Nigel Turner (NT), Phillip Nifield (PN), John Isaacson (JI - Notes)

Guest speaker: Vince Alm

Apologies: Geraint Jones (GeJ), Jonathan Day (JD), Keith Morgan (KM), Jeffrey Mansfield

1. Supporters' Club & Football Supporters' Federation

Vince Alm was welcomed to the meeting.

He stated that he felt the Supporters' Club was making little progress in developing their relationship with the club despite their best efforts.

CCSC had made a contribution towards the Club's lawnmower garage.

Vince is organising the Player of the Year Awards evening, although the date is yet to be finalised with the club. He will reserve a table for the Trust.

There have been some issues at the last three away games (all in the Greater Manchester area) which are being dealt with.

FSF is campaigning on safe standing and ticket pricing; and is asking for feedback on how the first season of having Supporter Liaison Officers is perceived. A survey tool is being used to gather fans' feedback on their away experience.

Agreed: CCSC and the Trust will put a joint report together for the end of season on the SLO role.

Vince was thanked for his contribution.

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the Board meeting of January 7th 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 signage for the stadium on match days from the Castle and the Bay with Cardiff Bus.

3.2 **JD** to obtain a copy of the Club's fan survey from Tom Gorringe (awaiting reply).

3.3 **JD** to send the Trust's survey to Tom Gorringe and ask for any input.

3.4 **GeJ** to progress his proposal for recruiting and involving more female members; to meet with Tom Gorringe to discuss; and to investigate costs and timescales.

3.5 **KM** to provide a paper for the next Board meeting on Objective 5.8 in the Business Plan (awaiting bank statements).

3.6 **JI** to confirm availability of Rob Phillips and Jason Perry for the 2014 AGM (awaiting reply).

3.7 **KM** to resend his email regarding Ole Gunnar Solskjær and Supporters' Trusts.

- 3.8 **GeJ** to check when Norman Watson will be in Cardiff (delayed due to ill health).
- 3.9 **GeJ** to check if Richard Jones is interested in helping with Trust activities.
- 3.10 **GeJ** to arrange an email to members seeking candidates to stand for election
- 3.11 **PN** to put a call to members on the web site for candidates to stand for election.
- 3.12 **JD/NT/PN/JI** to advise GeJ if they plan to stand for election.
- 3.13 **DC** to invite Richard Moremon (Tŷ Hafan Head of Strategic Relationships) to a future meeting.
- 3.14 **Jl** to check with Ali Mahoney on provision of a cup and medals for the Unity Cup.
- 3.15 **All** to send ideas to DC for the proposed meeting with the Council Sports Development Manager.
- 3.16 **DC** to check if Craig Bellamy could do a Q&A session as the focus of a members' event.
- 3.17 **GeJ** to arrange a meeting with Wayne Nash to discuss his proposal for developing the memorial garden.
- 3.18 **All** to provide status of APs to JI prior to the next meeting (by February 25th).

4. Matters Arising

- 4.1 JD has almost completed the fans' survey.
- 4.2 DC and KM have presented a cheque for £500 to Tŷ Hafan from the proceeds of T-shirt sales. They were taken on a tour of the care facilities and the staff asked for their thanks to be conveyed to all concerned. Bobble hats and cagoules went on sale at the Trust office on February 1st. All profits will go to Tŷ Hafan.
- 4.3 TH and DC attended a meeting on the Cardiff Story Oral History project today. There had been a good response from members to become Oral History volunteers.
- 4.4 The skittles evening with Merthyr Town had been postponed.
- 4.5 KM has sent our accounts to Supporters Direct and JI has completed their survey for 2013.
- 4.6 The Chasetown FC Supporters Club visit to the West Ham game went well and thanks received.
- 4.7 DC has contacted Ashley Drake of the Co-op and will hold an initial meeting before inviting him to a future board meeting.
- 4.8 TH and PN will work on the sample newsletter produced by GeJ, with the aim of producing the first edition for the Fulham game.
- 4.9 JI outlined the European City of Sport 2014 Unity Cup, being organised by Ali Mahoney of the Cardiff Dragons. The event will be held at Pontcanna playing fields, with football on Friday 13th and Saturday 14th June, and is fully supported by Sport Cardiff, Sport Wales and the Welsh Football Trust.
- Agreed:** Provide a cup and medals for one of the four competitions.
- 4.10 JI raised applications from charities to the Club's Thanks a Million programme with respect to the Club encouraging a nomination from the Trust.
- Agreed:** Any nomination from the Trust should come via charities contacting us as a result of the information sent to members.

4.11 What future campaigns we run will depend on the results from the next fans' survey.

5. Correspondence

5.1 Malky Mackay has replied to the Trust, accepting the invitation to become an honorary life member, as thanks for what he achieved for the club. A couple of complaints were received about this, which have been answered.

5.2 TH and Ali Abdi (Citizens UK Wales) have written a joint letter to the Club Chairman to raise the issue of the Living Wage.

5.3 An invitation has been received to attend the unveiling of a small block of rail seating (safe standing) at Ashton Gate. KM may be able to attend.

5.4 The Trust has lobbied the FA in support of opposition to the proposed name change of Hull City.

5.5 DC had written to Councillor Ramesh Patel, who has responsibility for Sport, Leisure & Culture, about Cardiff being the European City of Sport 2014. Cllr Patel has replied with the criteria which had been applied and suggested a meeting with Steve Morris, Sports Development Manager. DC will suggest that Cllr Patel also attends.

6. Chair's Update - TH

6.1 The next Supporters Direct South West Regional Meeting, which TH will be chairing, will be on February 20th at Rodney Parade. DC will attend if free. The next SD/FSF summit is July 25th & 26th at Wembley. NT will attend, with one other.

6.2 TH has written to Tom Gorringe asking for an update on meeting Vincent Tan, an evening with Ole and presentation to the club board.

6.3 In answer to a question from Mick Antoniw, AM, in the Welsh Assembly, John Griffiths (Minister for Culture and Sport) agreed to work with key partners to support community ownership of sport in Wales. He also agreed to meet SD to explore how the Welsh Government could assist in its initiative to set up a Supporters Direct Cymru organisation.

7. Progress against Business Plan - NT

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

Agreed: An update was not required after this review and the plan would stand as is until the next review session in the next meeting.

8. Finance report

Held over, due to KM's absence.

9. Group Reports

9.1. Fundraising - DC

DC reported that the two people who had originally volunteered to help could no longer do so, due to other commitments. He had, however, had three responses to the request sent out to members. Meanwhile, fund raising activities have been taking place to raise funds for Tŷ Hafan.

9.2. Membership Report - JI

9.1.1 As at the end of January, there were 709 active members, compared to 702 at the end of December. This included 13 new members.

9.1.2 The 92/93 event has been reviewed - what went well, what could be improved and what sort of event we should have next time. Some additional media avenues for advertising an event were suggested. It was agreed that most of the anniversaries had been covered and it was time for something different. Maybe a long serving player with former team mates and something/someone more recent could attract more younger members.

9.1.3 Venues for future events were considered. Apart from the cost, the stadium was considered a good venue, especially for ex/players. Rhydefelin could provide the required facilities and attract more members from the valleys. Terry Phillips also suggested Caerphilly Castle - he had already spoken with them about the possibility and received a positive response.

9.1.4 Recruitment of members. Part of the problem is the level of non-renewals. John Sithers has checked when renewals are due and there are 2 peaks during the year - January / February and August / September. He is also now writing letters as a renewal reminder in place of sending emails to check if that has a positive impact. There is no facility to renew on the web site, so JS will address this. There is also an exercise going on to identify lapsed Standing Order payers, as part of checking the validity of membership database entries. It was agreed that the proposed newsletter should help and a message from the manager or a player included. A poster could be designed for distribution as they have been for events - but more widespread and suitable for notice boards (A4). Other avenues for publicity were also suggested.

Agreed: Include a request to update contact details in the AGM pack when it is sent out, and where Trust information is held, for those without email.

10. AGM and Board Elections

The Election Committee, to be led by GeJ, needs to be established this month. JI will check if Jeffrey Mansfield is willing to be on the committee and DC will check with his son.

11. AOB

GeJ had submitted a proposal for developing the memorial garden.

Agreed: This should be progressed with the Club.

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

End of meeting