



## **Cardiff City Supporters' Trust Board Meeting Tuesday March 4<sup>th</sup> 2014 at 7pm. Venue – Llandaff Institute**

### **Present:**

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

**Guests:** Daniel Rose (Head of SD England & Wales), Jeff Mansfield (Observer)

**Apologies:** Geraint Jones (GeJ), John Isaacson (JI)

### **1. Supporters Direct (SD) Update**

Daniel Rose (Head of SD England & Wales) was welcomed to the meeting.

He started by explaining that SD was primarily funded through the Premier League. The largest Trust in England & Wales is Manchester United, who has 170,000 members and funding of over £1 million. SD E&W currently has 130 members. Daniel had met with the FAW earlier today to discuss the current issues, but barriers to inclusion of clubs in the Welsh pyramid may remain. Nevertheless he stated his desire to establish a specific SD Wales organisation.

Daniel highlighted that there are many good examples of smaller clubs owned by a Supporters Trust, both in England and Wales. He regards this model of ownership as more attractive to potential investors. However with the very smallest clubs (with less than 500 regular fans) a Trust structure is not necessarily appropriate. Here he recommends the creation of a Community Benefits Society (CBS) where the club can effectively be seen as a community asset, owned by the local community.

He sees SD's main activities over 2014 as being:

- The Parliamentary Select Committee review of 2011 recommended that supporters should have a direct voice in how their clubs are run. Similar promises have also been made by the current Coalition government. Despite this the reality is this is not happening in many clubs. So MPs are currently being lobbied, with the aim of football supporters' involvement being included in every major party manifesto for the next General Election.
- SD is supporting a Private Members Bill sponsored by Damian Collins (MP for Folkestone and Hythe). This Bill aims to reform the governance of football to make it more transparent and accountable and to ensure fair financial dealings between professional football clubs and their supporters.
- Further lobbying is also pushing the Government for changes to the licencing of clubs via the FA.

Daniel was thanked for his update.

## 2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the Board meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> February 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 **GeJ** to progress his proposal for recruiting and involving more female members; to meet with Tom Gorrington to discuss; and to investigate costs and timescales.

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

3.4 **GeJ** to check when Norman Watson will be in Cardiff (delayed due to ill health).

3.5 **GeJ** to check if Richard Jones is interested in helping with Trust activities.

3.6 **JD/NT/PN/JI** to advise GeJ if they plan to stand for election.

- **NT & JI** have done so. **PN & JD** still to do so

3.7 **JI** to check with Ali Mahoney on provision of a cup and medals for the Unity Cup.

- Done and forwarded to Trust Committee. It was agreed that the Trust would sponsor the 11 a side competition, though the cost of doing so was higher than anticipated.

3.8 **All** to send ideas to DC for the proposed meeting with the Council Sports Development Manager.

- **DC** had met Stephen Morris of Cardiff City Council – see below. Item was discharged

3.9 **DC** to check if Craig Bellamy could do a Q&A session as the focus of a members' event.

- **DC** had contacted Craig's father and awaits a response

3.10 **GeJ** to arrange a meeting with Wayne Nash to discuss his proposal for developing the memorial garden.

3.11 **All** to provide status of APs to JI prior to the next meeting

3.12 **NT** would let JI know that sponsorship of the Unity Cup 11 a side tournament was agreed.

3.13 **JI** to let Unity Cup organisers know that we will sponsor the event.

3.14 **JI** to circulate dates of the Unity Cup tournament to the Trust Board.

3.15 **DC** will inform Cardiff City Council of our intended sponsorship so we can gain publicity from it.

3.16 **DC** will produce a short summary of the Stephen Morris meeting and circulate

3.17 **PN** to forward current draft open letter to Daniel Rose

3.18 **TH** will review current open letter before publication

3.19 **TH** will also forward a copy of the letter after publication to Richard Scudamore (CEO of the Premier League)

3.20 **All** Board members to approach friends and family to encourage survey completion

3.21 **JD** to forward interim fans' survey results to Daniel Rose

- 3.22 **TH** to offer CCFC a presentation of the results at the upcoming club meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> March.
- 3.23 **TH** will send the updated version of the proposed newsletter to GEJ.
- 3.24 **TH & KM** will ask Leighton Andrews to arrange for us to meet with Senedd AMs.
- 3.25 **DC** will enquire about potential Cooperative movement funding for the Trust.
- 3.26 **PN** will poll members to invite Clubman of the Year nominations
- 3.27 **TH** will contact GEJ to ask him to send out the AGM notice and nominations asap and at latest by the deadline of 19<sup>th</sup> March.
- 3.28 **DC** will speak to David Collins to ask him to lead Trust involvement in this year's Grangetown Festival.

#### ***4. Matters Arising***

- 4.1.** TH announced that the Trust would be meeting the CCFC Chairman and other club officials (potentially including Ole Gunnar Solksjaer and Vincent Tan) on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March. After a short debate it was agreed that we would still publish the open letter if Vincent Tan does not meet us by 22<sup>nd</sup> March.
- 4.2.** DC had met Stephen Morris, the Cardiff City Council Sports Development manager. It was a positive meeting. Stephen agreed to forward the Trust a programme of events and asked us to get involved in some capacity. This was agreed in principle. DC pointed out that there is currently no provision for minority groups in the programme so we will consider organising a competition. Further, Stephen also stated that a forum has been formed from all the professional sporting clubs in Cardiff, including Cardiff City FC, the Cardiff Blues, the Cardiff Devils and Glamorgan CCC. Simon Lim and Tom Gorrige attended for CCFC.
- 4.3** JD provided an interim report of the results of the fan survey. Nearly 1,000 people had replied. The results were (from the Club's perspective) less than positive. Some headlines were:
- 77% of respondents had found the past year to be 'disappointing'
  - 86% said that the Trust should continue to oppose the rebrand
  - 67% were happy with the Trust's performance over the year
  - 60% were not happy with the match day experience
  - 25% of respondents are current Trust members
- 4.4** DC reported that he was still awaiting a response from Ty Hafan about the proposed presentation of the cheque. It was agreed that Ty Hafan will be invited to a future Board meeting to receive the donation.
- 4.5** Jeff Mansfield reported he had attended a Cardiff Oral History project meeting today (4<sup>th</sup> March). Trial interviews will start soon.
- 4.6** DC is meeting Ashley Drake of the Cooperative movement on 10<sup>th</sup> March.
- 4.7** The current status of the proposed newsletter was discussed. GEJ has the template; TH has made some amendments to the draft and forwarded to PN.

## **5. Correspondence**

TH reported that Leighton Andrews AM had written to him to let us know that on 4<sup>th</sup> March he raised matters regarding CCFC at the Senedd. KM added that he had met Leighton earlier today and was told that Leighton intends to meet Mehmet Dalman on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March. Leighton would also like to meet the Trust to discuss issues. Jonathan Evans MP is also supportive.

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

**6.1** TH reported that he had written to Jeff Cuthbert, Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty in the Welsh Government, about invoking the law to allow stadiums to be listed as assets of community value. He had also talked with Mark Evans, AM for Merthyr Tydfil.

**6.2** TH also highlighted the recent South West regional meeting which DC had also attended and circulated a note about.

## **7. Progress against Business Plan - NT**

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

Regarding Business Plan objective 1.3, the Clubman of the Year award will be presented by the Trust on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April as part of the Players' evening. We have already booked a table at the event for six people.

It was agreed that the Business Plan will be left as is until the next review.

## **8. Finance report**

KM provided a written summary and stated that income for Jan / Feb 2014 amounted to £1,638, just £176 less than the 2013 equivalent. This was mainly explained by the need to pay outstanding bills from 2013. The Trust remains in a solvent financial position.

## **9. Group Reports**

### **9.1. Fundraising - DC**

DC had provided a written update before the meeting. He added that other members had expressed an interest in getting involved. A meeting will be held on 12<sup>th</sup> March.

### **9.2. Membership Report - JI**

**9.2.1** In his absence, JI had provided a written report. The main current activity is that the Membership group is currently conducting a purge of membership details to clean up the data.

**9.2.2** As at the end of February there were 676 active members compared to 709 at the end of January. There were a variety of reasons for the fall, but no long term decline was evident.

## **10. AGM and Board Elections**

As a matter of urgency it is necessary to send out the AGM notice to all members and to invite nominations to stand for election to the Board.

**11. AOB**

The 2014 Grangetown festival was discussed.

**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 April 1<sup>st</sup>
- Tuesday May 6<sup>th</sup>
- Tuesday June 3<sup>rd</sup>

**End of meeting**