



Cardiff City Supporters' Trust Board Meeting
Tuesday September 4th 2012 at 6.30pm. Venue - Pantmawr Inn

Present:

Tim Hartley (TH - Chair), Brian Mertens (BM), David Craig (DC), Jonathan Day (JD), Keith Morgan (KM), Nigel Turner (NT), Phillip Nifield (PN), John Isaacson (JI - Notes), Vince Alm (VA) for item 1 only

Apologies: Geraint Jones (GeJ)

Welcome: Vince Alm was welcomed and introduced to the meeting.

1. Liaison with Supporters Club

VA provided an overview of Supporters Club (SC) activities.

- Their survey of members had given them a mandate to lobby on the change from blue to red (the outcome was a clear reluctant acceptance), whereas the Trust's mandate was on consultation with fans and seeking more information from the club. We will keep each other informed on our respective mandates.
- VA confirmed that the number one issue for the SC remains the situation regarding the club's debt. He recognised that the Trust has more experience and expertise in this area and was happy for us to continue to play the leading role on behalf of supporters.
- SC is retaining its existing colours and will be sponsoring away shirts.
- SC is meeting with the club tomorrow.
- VA understands there may be some possible movement on the club badge.
- VA believes that, given the reduction in some sections of the media, it is more important for Trusts to hold clubs to account.
- VA is heavily involved in the Football Supporters Federation, safe standing, ticketing & fair pricing for away games, and policing & stewarding. The police in some instances have used Section 27 (intended for anti-social behaviour) to send fans back to their home city before a game by coach and train, even when some had driven there. Section 14 (guilty by association) has also been invoked on occasion.
Agreed: Any examples from Trust members of "over-policing" to be passed to VA for co-ordination.
- SC consistently contacts other clubs and their associated police force in advance of away games.
- SC membership is 900+. The membership form is now a loose leaf insert instead of part of their magazine. There is a solid core of around 800 travelling fans, but with a significant churn.
- SC will be pushing sales of the Our Ninian Park book.
- VA agreed to sell copies of the Fred Keenor memorial programme through the SC.
- SC is looking to do some charity events, which could be done jointly.

- VA will support what the Trust is doing to progress the memorial garden, agrees it needs demarcating and offered to contact local builders to request doing any agreed work at cost.
- VA was thanked for his contribution and left the meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the Board meeting of August 7th were approved as a true record, with the following changes:

Venue was Pantmawr Inn;
AP2.19 was down to DC.

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 **KM** to produce a Trust budget for 2012.
- 3.2 **GeJ** to invite Alex Bird to give a 10-minute talk on the Co-operative movement at a future Board meeting
- 3.3 **All** to consider suitable candidates for co-option to the board.
- 3.4 **TH/JD** to investigate holding a members' meeting in Maesteg.
- 3.5 **TH** to request the results of the club's survey sent to season ticket holders.
- 3.6 **GeJ** to send the completed FSA return to all board members.
- 3.7 **GeJ** to advise KM of Cobbetts' response re CCFC General Meeting.
- 3.8 **JD** to chase up Fitzalan school about the memorial garden.
- 3.9 **JD** to chase up Wayne Nash about cycle racks.
- 3.10 **JD** to write a note for distribution about the discount for Trust members offered by DW Sports.
- 3.11 **TH** to publish his submission to the Select Committee for the Department of Culture, Media and Sport about the football authorities' response to the proposals for football reform. (Secretary's note: this has to wait for formal approval prior to publication.)
- 3.12 **All** to consider how we might encourage membership renewals and advise JI.
- 3.13 **DC** to check with Fred Keenor's family about possible relocation of his headstone to the memorial garden. (Secretary's note: in hand. DC has spoken with Graham Keenor.)
- 3.14 **DC** to ask the club to order the FK programme on our behalf (to save the cost of the VAT) and to sell the programme in the club shop. (Secretary's note: DC meeting with Wayne Nash September 11th.)
- 3.15 **BM** to get another key for the office cabinet.
- 3.16 **JD** to forward email from Leeds United regarding Blackpool away matches to VA.
- 3.17 **JD** to check within the council about the possibility of paying for the FK unveiling hospitality.
- 3.18 **DC** to try other sources for paying for the FK unveiling hospitality.
- 3.19 **KM** to distribute the alphabetic list of Trust members.
- 3.20 **JD** to forward his response to armchairterrace.com to TH.
- 3.21 **TH** to circulate link to the USA website for which he provided information.
- 3.22 **TH** to send details of Championship Trusts meeting to KM.

- 3.23 **JI** to check with Sally Fowler what communities she recommends we approach for offering free match day tickets.
- 3.24 **TH** to talk to Tony Jefferies about his Trust membership offer.
- 3.25 **JI** to inform the membership group of Tony Jefferies' offer.
- 3.26 **JI** to inform the membership group of the date for starting to sell the FK commemorative brochure.
- 3.27 **BM** to enlist Trust office helpers for selling the FK commemorative brochure.
- 3.28 **JI** to discuss possible events with the membership group.
- 3.29 **All** to review the draft Business Plan and submit comments by Wednesday September 26th.
- 3.30 **JI** to inform the membership group of Aberdare Rugby Club's offer to host an event, with a quiz to start.
- 3.31 **NT** to suggest a date for an ex-Board meeting to review progress against the 2012/13 Business Plan, to be combined with a social, in the first half of December.
- 3.32 **BM** to check availability of Llandaff Institute in the first half of December.

4. Matters Arising

None.

5. Correspondence

- 5.1** An email was received from Mark Jordan of the Leeds United Trust, and a Blackpool resident, about problems with stewarding and the state of the away stand at Bloomfield Road.
- 5.2** JD had received an email from the editor of armchairterrace.com regarding the recent changes at Cardiff City, to which JD had responded.

6. Feedback from meetings with the club & AGM

- 6.1** TH, KM and DC had a robust meeting with the club yesterday. TH has sent the notes to the club and will circulate them tomorrow.
- 6.2** KM met with Doug Lee, Cardiff City Finance Director, on August 13th. The notes of the meeting have been posted on the web site. No issues needed to be raised at the AGM, as they had already been raised with Doug Lee and the responses published prior to the AGM.

7. Chair's Update - TH

- 7.1** TH had responded to several media requests, including one from Germany and one from the US.
- 7.2** Supporters Direct has organised a meeting for Championship Trusts on Thursday October 11th in Birmingham. TH is not free that day, but KM will attend if he can.
- 7.3** The club has confirmed that it will offer free tickets for some community groups, which would not normally attend matches.
- 7.4** Tony Jefferies has offered to provide free Trust membership to his travellers who attend 5 or 6 away games on his buses.
- Agreed:** To accept this offer in principle, at the normal membership fee.

8. Finance Report - KM

8.1 There were no questions on the accounts submitted by KM for the period from 1 Jan to 24 July 2012.

8.2 The Trust made a small profit of £1254 for the period, notwithstanding the following:

- we paid £1000 towards the Memorial Garden;
- last year we didn't allow for enough accountants fees, so £660 of this period's cost relates to last year;
- the first half of the year includes the AGM costs, board election costs and the costs of a membership ballot on the club's kit change.

8.3 In the balance sheet we have cash at bank of £18470 across 3 accounts. Of this £4842 relates to the "Reserve Fund" we agreed to set aside from one-half of all membership fees over the basic of £12 a year.

9. Group Reports

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

9.1 Fred Keenor – PN for DC

9.1.1 Details on the timing of events for the unveiling on November 10th are under consideration with the club. The commemorative brochure will go on sale from this date. These will be sold in the Trust office, in the Club shop, by the Supporters Club and "on the street".

9.1.2 A timetable for preparing the foundations, the building of the plinth on site, the attachment of the granite cladding and the plaques, and the placing of the statue has been agreed by the club, the builders and the sculptor.

9.1.3 The council would not agree to pay for the FK unveiling hospitality. The club will be providing match day tickets to guests.

9.1.4 The speakers at the unveiling will be Alan Whitely, Neil Kinnock and DC.

9.2 Membership - JI

9.2.1 As at the end of August, there were 660 active members (down from 677 at the end of July). There were 4 resignations in the last week of August due to the re-branding, but there were 16 new members/renewals in August.

9.2.2 The new membership leaflet design is largely agreed, except for the inclusion of the standing order form. The next membership group meeting is scheduled for Wednesday September 19th, where this will be addressed.

10. Progress against Key Priorities (not reported elsewhere)

10.1 Bubble trips. Leeds is the only match currently with travel restrictions. It will be a voucher exchange.

10.2 Fans' consultation. The first fans' forum will be on Sunday October 7th at Chapter.

10.3 Links with Trusts. Prior to the match on August 17th, there was a meeting with Robert Pepper of Huddersfield Town Supporters' Trust, who was interested in safe standing.

10.3 Members' events. January would be a good time to capture the February spike in membership renewals. It was noted that promotion to the Championship was 10 years ago, and having an event with the AGM had

already been agreed as being useful. TH has agreed to organise a quiz for Friday October 5th, to be held at the Mackintosh Tennis Club.

10.4 It was noted that there was not much activity on the Trust message board.

Agreed: Provide a headline and link to the Trust site for news items posted on the site.

11. Draft Business Plan

NT presented the draft Business Plan, which had had contributions from GeJ and JI. He had organised it around the Trust's Aims and Objectives, as stated in the constitution, with actions needed to achieve these. It was noted that the Aims and Objectives on the web site are not fully consistent with those in the constitution. The plan will be reviewed at the next meeting, with comments provided in advance.

Agreed: Financial information to be incorporated as an appendix, provided by KM.

Agreed: Priorities for the season to be published on the Trust site.

12. AOB

12.1 Aberdare Rugby Club has offered to host an event, with a quiz to start. NT could provide the quiz. Possible date would be late October / early November.

12.2 The House of Sport has requested help in providing kit for under 12s goalkeeping coaching.

Agreed: To consider any individual approach on its merits.

12.3 Dai Poland has asked if we could organise kit to be taken abroad for kids.

Agreed: To ask members to take any unwanted kit to the Trust office.

13. Dates of future meetings

All meetings to start at 6.30pm. (Secretary's note: the upstairs function room at the Pantmawr Inn has been booked for all agreed dates.) Dates to the end of the year are as follows:

- Wednesday October 3rd
- Wednesday November 7th
- Tuesday December 4th

End of meeting