

Wrexham Supporters Society Limited - Minutes of Board Meeting

Held on: Monday 11th February 2013, commencing at 19.30

Venue: The Wrexham Lager Club, Union Road, Wrexham

Present: Peter Jones (PJ), John Mills (JM), Alan Fox (AF), Huw Davies (HD), Keith Roberts (KR), Terry Stott (TeS), Anita Robinson (AR), Tom Stanford (TS), Mark Williams (MW), Jenny Cantwell (JC), Marc Jones (MC).

Apologies: Gavin Jones (GJ), Dave Jones (DJ) Spencer Harris (SH),

Chair: Peter Jones

1. Matters arising and approval of minutes of Board meeting of 28th January 2013

Outstanding actions:

- “Loan Notes to be converted into community shares” was ongoing
- Consideration of SMS system was carried over
- The meeting with Paul Fletcher regarding the stadium development was now to be held on 13/2/13. Any proposal to members would have to wait for the outcome of that meeting and Glyndwr’s plans
- AR to further consider the volunteer policy
- MW reported that any name change had to be registered by the 1st April for the following season. Andy Slinger was addressing this topic. PJ preferred that the membership decide any change. Any change would be half way through the 150th anniversary season. Altering the badge could be an option. It was agreed to await for AS to complete his branding project and then seek the views of members
- MW was awaiting a quotation from the insurance company to cover/indemnify Trust Board members

Matters arising:

- The meeting discussed the date of the Society AGM. A provisional date of 27 June 2013 was agreed. The meeting discussed which directors were due for re-election. This would form the basis of a topic for discussion on the Project Board including possible resolutions. AF to consider the position

TeS proposed that the Minutes of the meeting of 28/1/13 be accepted, seconded by HD. Passed unanimously

2. Gifts and Hospitality Register

- This was a complex topic which had been carried over from previous meetings. SH and GJ could not attend tonight but had responded by e mail. AF explained the background including the requirement to implement the terms of the membership and conduct policy. The meeting agreed that the Trust Board members who sat on the Club Board should meet with AF to discuss and agree a draft policy with a view to putting an agreed version to the Trust Board for approval.

3. 150th Anniversary

- PJ confirmed the membership of the organising committee which had met again consisting of DB, SC, Brian Davidson from the WSA, Dixie McNeil, Lee Jones, and reps from Glyndwr University and Wrexham Borough Council as well as Mark Creighton and Malcolm Davies to organise events. They had lots of ideas including a Gala dinner, Golf tournament, the oral history project, Race day etc. and were considering grants for a website. PJ mentioned events organised by other clubs. They meet next on 7/3/13 and there would be no press release until after that date.
- The celebrations would begin in January 2014 probably with a civic reception and continue until the end of the 14-15 season

4. The FA Trophy

- Should the Club win their semifinal there would only be a few weeks to organise things before the Final. Club directors of the finalists would be invited to a meeting at Wembley in the week following the second leg. Volunteers would be needed to assist. Coaches would be needed from different areas. The meeting discussed the opportunity to increase membership.

6. Media sub group

- MJ suggested that we should identify a group of members with writing, filming, editing radio skills to call on when needed. And that we should identify who from the WST Board is willing to do radio and TV interviews.
- MJ asked for clarification of responsibilities for dealing with the press. PJ said he would refer any WST press matters to MJ
- Calon FM were willing to revive Dragonhearts their weekly programme on the Club involving discussions by fans.
- The Evening Leader had agreed to a WST column – 300 words- to be submitted by 2pm on Wednesdays for Friday publication. The meeting agreed that everyone could contribute to this as appropriate. The first one could be an introduction to the Trust and could use material from Briefings.

- MJ mentioned the You Tube channel and the possible streaming of members meetings
- As for the 150th anniversary MJ mentioned the role of Glyndwr in preparing a short film/oral history and involving BBC or ITV to cover events

7. Donation to Supporters Direct

- The meeting discussed the request from SD for a donation in the light of their reduced funding. It was agreed that WST had benefited from considerable input from SD in recent times. *MJ proposed that we donate £2000 seconded by TS and carried unanimously*

8. Director Reports;

8.1 Chair (*PJ*) had nothing to add to his earlier contributions

8.2 Treasurers Report (*MW*)

Keith would be taking over from Mark shortly and the next meeting should include a vote.

- WST Funds £191k
- Membership numbers 1,907 after issuing December 2012 renewals
- Investments in Wrexham AFC Limited £485,000
- Total raised since formation £799,000

8.3 Football Club Report (*MW/JM*)

- MW had attended the Conference General Meeting. The resolution on financial governance was withdrawn at the last moment in order to reflect upon the amount of feedback. The Conference was losing sponsors and, although the Club received £40000 from the Conference this year, future payments were now uncertain.
- The Clubs football league application was about to be submitted.

8.4 Fundraising, including merchandise (*AR/PJ*)

- A fundraising meeting was held recently but was not well attended. Plenty of ideas had been suggested but we now needed reliable people to implement them.
- The idea of entering the Monte Carlo or Bust event was discussed but was not thought to be viable.

8.5 Business development report (*GS*)

- GS informed the members about his various meetings with Steven Cook and that he saw his role as supporting Steven.
- Several members were interested in assisting with tele sales and this being progressed.

- A system was required to ensure we didn't lose commercial opportunities.
- GS had visited local supermarkets in search of sponsorship and was hopeful of a positive response especially from Sainsburys.
- He was building a data base of past sponsors

8.6 Membership report (*HD*)

- HD reported that membership stood at 1838 and lots of calls had been made chasing up renewals. Most people were interested in re-joining.
- HD had discussed incentives for continuous membership with SC. To be reviewed at the end of the season.
- The meeting discussed various levels of membership e.g. gold silver bronze etc. with different benefits according to the type of membership.
- The number of o/s renewals was reducing. AF commented on the large number of emails he had seen illustrating HDs work on this.
- HD had met a Mr John Pugh with SC about his oven cleaning business and a donation of 10% of profits to WFC. He had taken out a pitch side advertising board until the end of the season.

8.7 Community Development Report (*JC/TeS/TS*)

- JC had spoken to Alan Watkins about International Fans Day possibly on 2 March. Needed to check that nothing else on that day.
- TeS was meeting the Alzheimer's Society again shortly about Memories FC.
- We were still awaiting a response from Glyndwr about the Memorial Garden project.
- TeS reported that the DSA had 50 members. Messrs' Jones (Joey, Lee and Peter) were honorary members. The DSA had sourced a minibus from Chariots for away games.
- There was not much interest expressed in organising anything for international women's day.
- It was agreed that JC should be a trustee of the Racecourse Community Foundation and sit on the board and it was noticed that there was no mention of WST in their newsletter.

8.8 Support Services Report (*JM/MW/HD*)

- It was agreed to remove this from the agenda as the topics were usually raised elsewhere

8.9 Volunteer Report (AR)

- AR planned to attend the next AVOW meeting and had liaised with them about their 25th anniversary project.

8.10 Secretary's Report (AF)

- AF mentioned an email from a member suggesting that failures to renew could be a result of bullying on RP. AF had replied reiterating our total opposition to any such behaviour and that it was not condoned by the Board. He invited the sender to share the reply with those of his acquaintances who had expressed such a reason for failing to renew. AF had offered to meet them and explain our position.

AOB

- PJ had met with Duncan Rees, Welsh regional organiser of the Co-operative Group. He was hopeful that the Coop would provide some sponsorship e.g. the Open Day. They had requested a speaker for their AGM in October. They may be willing to place our merchandise in their shops and were considering buying a board.

Date of next meeting

- The next Board meeting would be at 1930 on 25th February 2013

There being no other business the meeting closed at 2212.

No	Action	Who
1	To convert loan notes into community shares	DJ
2	To further consider volunteers policy	AR
3	To report back re indemnity insurance for Society Board members	MW
4	To consider position re AGM and post on Project Board	AF
5	To meet and finalise the draft Gifts and hospitality guidance and report back to Board meeting	AF/SC/GJ/JM/MW