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Wrexham Supporters Society Limited - Minutes of Trust Board Meeting

Held on: 25 July 2018, commencing at 19.30

Venue: The Centenary Club, the Racecourse Ground, Wrexham

Present: Brian Phillips (BP), Sarah Smith Howard (SSH), Richard Ulrich (RU), Mark Jones (MJ), Mark Williams (MW), Simon Rhodes (SR), Stephen Lloyd (SL), Bryan Still (BS), Gavin Jones (GJ)

Apologies: Spencer Harris (SH), Mike Lewis (ML), John Mills (JM),

Chair: Peter Jones (PJ)

Independent Secretary: Alan Fox (AF)

1. Meeting with the Disabled Supporters Group

The first part of the agenda involved a meeting with members of the DSA. FC Board director Phil Salmon (PS) and Disabled Liaison Officer Kerry Evans (KE) also attended for this item.

The DSA were represented by- Andy Pierce - Co-chairman, Darren Roberts – Treasurer, Dave Mainwaring – Secretary, Nathan Davies - Resolution Co-proposer, Mike Hughes, Peter Tudor and Karl Emberton - Committee members.

Second viewing platform- PS explained the Clubs plan for the second viewing platform i.e. a new covered raised platform viewing area between the University End and the BKoncepts Stand (subject to the necessary consents) and why it was considered the best option by the board(s):

- It allows for both home and, potentially, away supporters to use it;
- It would not require lift equipment;
- It should be able to be delivered more quickly than in other locations;
- There are catering facilities already available in that area, and, with adaptations to the already existing block, disabled toilet facilities;
- It would mean increasing the capacity of the stadium without being required to remove seats;
- Utilising this area would mean that we will be able (subject to health and safety regulation compliance) to keep the away sections in the upper and lower BKoncepts Stand during the construction phase;
- Ultimately, we are working towards a position where we don't have to move our supporters out of the GUS Stand when we have larger away followings and this option helps us with that aim.

There was a lengthy, wide-ranging and frank discussion about the location of the platform including the view of some present that the plan did not promote inclusivity or “being part of the crowd” and gave the impression of being “placed into a corner” whilst others argued that this plan would allow more choice, multiply the available facilities and allow more wheelchair users to attend games in a covered area rather than be subject to waiting their turn on the current rota.

All agreed for the need to work in partnership and, with that aim, it was agreed to set up a Focus Group to deliver the new platform as soon as possible. To consist of Phil Salmon, Kerry Evans, Mike Lewis, Sarah Smith Howard, Phil Bennett (stadium manager) and DSA officials. It was hoped that PS could attend the DSA AGM to be held at 11:00 on 4 August.

Those present also discussed the revised seating arrangements at the front of the MRS. Spaces had been reduced to allow more room for those who did attend (from 45 to 32). MW indicated the club’s intention to make this area ticket only. The meeting discussed why umbrella use was not permitted by the club for wheelchair users in that area which was because of issues with blocking the line of sight of those behind. KE indicated that she has obtained a supply for ponchos and blankets for use during bad weather.

Advertising Rights- the board confirmed their agreement to the DSA having advertising rights regarding the current platform but asked that this should not conflict with existing sponsorships.

Way Forward- it was agreed to work in partnership via the focus group. The board asked that use of official social media channels on these topics be carefully considered to maintain a professional approach. And that access to the ground has to be controlled and agreed with the club in advance for safety and security reasons.

GJ thanked those who had contributed to what was generally considered to be a positive discussion albeit some present were still concerned about the location of the platform.

DSA officials, PS and KE then left the meeting.

ACTION: ML and SSH to assist with the Focus Group led by Phil Salmon.

2. Matters arising and approval of the minutes of 2 July 2018

VOTE: *Proposed by MJ & seconded by MW it was resolved unanimously to approve the minutes, as amended, by those who had been present.*

ACTIONS:

From the 2 July meeting:

What	Who	When	Status
1. To post details of the SD AGM on the Forum	AF	ASAP	Completed

2. Chairs Report

3. Financial Security & Revenue Generation Group

BP had posted a report on the Forum.

Funds held by the Trust on 1 January 2018	£68,701	
Funds held by the Trust on 22 July 2018	£101,904	
Increase in Funds	£33,203	
INCOME - 1/1/18 to 11/7/18		
Members Contributions	£25,883	
Build the Budget	£6,753	
Fundraising	£3,502	
Merchandise	£220	
Miscellaneous	£32	
"Wrexham Games"	£381	£36,770
EXPENDITURE - 1/1/18 to 11/7/18		
Gambling Act	£20	
Financial Conduct Authority	£480	
Royal Mail (including Freepost license)	£390	
Advance Brighter Futures	£155	
FC Teamwear Ltd	£72	
Glyndwr University (Room Hire)	£180	
Podomatic	£68	
IT	£91	
Supporters Direct	£300	
Printing	£1,571	
Miscellaneous	£32	
Paypal fees	£271	
Ebay sales fees	£110	
JustGo Travel (Christmas Draw)	£1,800	£5,540

Net increase in Funds		£31,230

Build the Budget balance at 22/7/18 was £35,752.76

MJ had posted a report on the Forum:

Included in that report was reference to Current projects included a Chase' night, Christmas Raffle, Potential Marquee on the club car park and Programme Fair. The meal with the manger in Ijazz resulted in circa £500 raised.

4. Fans Ownership Group

RU reported that the new membership year began on 1st June and membership currently stands at 2,895. This time last year we had 2,805 members, we are currently 90 members up on that figure which is an increase of 3.21%. 5,250 membership forms have been ordered from the printer and should be with us on or before the Open Day next Monday.

The meeting discussed placing membership forms on seats for the first Saturday home game.

5. Community Report

ML reported in absence. Dbs going well all board members who have not done theirs, they need doing asap. Junior dragon's laser combat went really well, Junior dragons looking at doing a jds away bus to chesterfield. Next Wednesday ML meeting up with people from the autism group to show them around the stadium ready for the upcoming season, Plans well under way with open day next Monday. ML going to fresher's week at Coleg Cambria.

ML raised the question of charity partners for this coming season.

ACTION: ML to contact community shareholders to obtain nominations

6. Football Club Operations

GJ and MW reported that:

- The Portugal trip was a success
- Work had not yet started on the proposed renovations to Bamfords and the Centenary Club- work would commence shortly
- Two loan players would be signing shortly
- Work was progressing on identifying a partner for the educational pathway scheme for 2019/20
- Preparation of the accounts was further advanced than in the past
- The repairs etc to the club house are underway

- The meeting discussed the Danny Ward monies.

7. Any other business

- The Board agreed to assist the DLO with her away travel project up to a maximum of £2,000.

ACTION: SL to inform KE

- The meeting discussed the Open Evening on 30 July – PJ will post on the Forum

SL mentioned concerns about under 16s travelling unaccompanied on away travel buses.

ACTION: SL to raise this on the Forum

- AF will attend the Supporters Direct AGM

The meeting ended at 23:00

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 29 August.

ACTIONS from this meeting:

What	Who	When
1. To establish the viewing platform Focus Group asap	PS – ML and SSH to assist	
2. To contact community shareholders to obtain nominations for charitable partners	ML	ASAP
3. To inform KE about contribution to away travel project	SL	ASAP
4. To raise the issue of under 16s on away travel coaches in the Forum	SL	Asap