



The 2011 Annual General Meeting of the
Wrexham Football Supporters' Society Limited
Trading as the Wrexham Supporters Trust

At The Centenary Club, Wrexham Football Club

Wednesday, 29th June 2011 commencing 7:30pm

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Minutes from 2010 Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting of the Wrexham Football Supporters Society Limited Trading as Wrexham Supporters Trust

Venue: The Wrexham Lager Club, Union Road, Wrexham

Date and time: Tuesday 8 June 2010

1. Introductions

Lindsay Jones welcomed members to the 2010 AGM.

2. Approval of Minutes from 2009 AGM

Proposed by Brian Cameron

Secoded by Keith Jones

Approved

3. Chairman's Report

At last years AGM the members of the Society passed several resolutions and I will start my updating you with progress against those resolutions.

1. For the Wrexham Supporters Trust to produce a Fans Questionnaire that covers all aspects of Wrexham Football Club and targeted at all supporters.

The survey was carried out in April and we have been absolutely staggered by the level of response. We estimated that we might get back around 150/250 surveys. However we have received in almost 800 responses and we are delighted. We hope to share the results with you in the near future and will be passing the results on to the club. Exercises like this are incredibly valuable to businesses and we are hopeful that some real improvements will come from this exercise. We are keen to repeat the exercise next season, subject to member's approval, and see this as an important part of our support for the club.

2. The Board of the WST will endeavour to work with all current, and potential, stakeholders with the aim of linking phases 2 and 3 of the Racecourse development in an appropriate legal agreement.

The aim of this resolution is to ensure that the football club benefits from the development taking place at the Racecourse. To this end we have changed our approach to lobbying. During last years planning process we were perceived, in some quarters, as being "anti club", a perception driven in no small part by the propaganda campaign conducted by the Wrexham Village. Linking phases 2 and 3 will be crucial to the future prospects of the football club and we have been working quietly to build a consensus that will deliver this. You will not have read about this in the press, however, rest assured, meetings have taken place and will continue to take place as we approach the second phase of the development.

3. Communications Policy

Last year members voted for a very detailed communications policy to be implemented by the WST. I am delighted to report progress in the following areas:

- Our website continues to improve. Members can now access WST information in pretty much every language and the visually impaired can opt to listen to articles online.
- Members can also use the website to vote on issues such as last years AGM or fill in the Big Red Survey. I would like to pay tribute to the work of John Mills in continually developing the website to a world class standard.

- During the year the Society also joined the Twenty-first Century by setting up its own Facebook and Twitter sites. Over 270 members have registered at the Facebook site and we see this as a valuable tool for communicating with our members in the future.
- During the year we also took advantage of a free trial to test the In Touch membership system which has made improvements in the way we manage our membership information and enables us to e mail members with important information. I would urge those of you with internet access to register for these services.
- We continue to run the successful Dragonheart show on Calon FM, the only radio programme dedicated to Wrexham Football Club.

There is still some work to be done in improving our Communications and implementing the rest of the policy. I look forward to reporting further progress next year.

4. Every member is responsible for their own vote which cannot be left to the discretion of the proxy

This was a hugely important resolution which transferred power from the Board of the Society to the membership. In effect this will be the first ever AGM where the Chair, myself, will not have a block vote with which to further the boards agenda. Members will decide policy and that can only be a good thing for the Society.

5. The Trust membership is to allow the Society Board to utilise up to and no more than £15,000 for club related projects to be allocated for the period between the 2009 AGM and 2010 AGM.

During the year under review the Society made the largest ever cash injection into the club at just under £15,000.

The logic behind the resolution was twofold,

1. To build better relations with the club.
2. To raise the Societies profile in the wider community.

With regard to the first aim it is fair to say that our sponsorship package had absolutely no impact whatsoever. From the moment we signed the cheque, until the appointment of Mr Ian Roberts as Chair, we could not get the club to even acknowledge our correspondence. As the largest supporters group and one of the clubs largest sponsors we feel that our support deserved a better response.

In regards the second objective, with our sponsorship project we were able to support local organisations such as;

- Nightingale House
- Hope House
- Royal British Legion
- Air Ambulance
- Hospital Radio
- Wrexham Credit Union amongst others.

I believe that members can take a real pride in the fact that the Society has been able to make such a tangible contribution to the local community. In addition many members were able to enjoy the Exec box experience which I believe was first class.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Haydn Taylor for the hours of work he put into making this project a success.

This year we are asking you to grant the Board the same level of discretion in regards to sponsorship. We may not spend all of it, or even any of it, however it does enable us to take advantage of opportunities that may present themselves over the course of the year.

Moving away from the resolutions I can report that the past year has been challenging for the Society in relation to our fundraising which has been challenging to say the least. Our approach is now very much risk averse and we will only pursue opportunities which do not risk the Societies funds.

Unfortunately we have had to hand back the Junior Dragons to the club. Restrictions and terms in our insurance policy made it not possible for us to continue. Once again I would like to thank Ceris, the Daves, Chris and the team for helping to keep this vital function going during the worst season we have ever seen.

Our membership has grown from the 2009 year-end figure of 571. I would like to thank Brian Davies for the work he put in during the year in "stalking" lapsed members. This, together with a combination of events, has helped us to increase our membership over the year. The appointment of our new President together with the alarming events on the Flintshire/Cheshire border has acted as a recruiting officer for the Society. When you add to this the perverse and erratic behaviour of the club during the early part of this year it becomes clear that any club at our level needs a strong Supporters Trust to ensure that the voice of the fans is heard.

I believe that your board has conducted itself in a responsible and professional manner during the past year and I am confident that we are well placed to face the challenges of the coming year. The advent of a new Chairman has at last opened the door for discussions between club and fans and we are hopeful that we can build on this over the coming year.

It has been a grim year for our club and surely it cannot get any worse.

Therefore in time honoured football fashion I will close with a flurry of clichés.

Keep the faith, enjoy the game and remember at all times;

C'mon the Town!!

Haydn Taylor thanked The Chairman for his efforts during a difficult year

3. Treasurers Report

Before I take you through the financial statements starting on page 9 it is important to remember that these figures cover the year to December 2009 and not to May 2010. For example, expenditure on the Big Red Survey will not in these accounts.

In summary, income was down by £10,000 on 2008 with the main areas being membership and merchandise.

Interest was up on 2009 but this was due to the fact that we had a 6 month Corporate Bond with the Bank of Scotland for the first seventh months of 2009 paying 5% but since then we are only receiving 2%. I expect this figure in 2010 to be around £6,000.

Membership numbers did drop during 2009 but we have noticed an increase since the latter half of this period. In July 2009, our membership dropped to 523 but has since picked up to the 621 that are members today.

Merchandise income has dropped due to the drop in the number of supporters attending games. In addition, we previously sold matchday tickets on behalf of the club from the Trust Shop and the club took that back in house last year and the number of people passing through the shop also reduced. The loss of the Trust Shop means we are unlikely to spend any further money in this area as we currently do not have a matchday presence and our sales are now restricted to online sales and member's meetings.

A full break down of the income and expenditure items are provided on pages 13-15 of the accounts and, as ever, we have attempted to list these in as much detail as possible but these are some of the highlights:

Half of the fund raising income came from the Year Book, although this year's Christmas draw did see income dropping by more than 50% on 2008.

The main expenditure was the £13,000 sponsorship package with the Club, with the main item of expenditure being the Executive Box at the ground.

Printing, postage and stationary was up by almost £2k on 2008 as we went to producing six newsletters during the period. As an example of costs, each newsletter costs us in the region of £600 to print and post.

The one final item on the income and expenditure account is the Corporation Tax that is payable on the interest we receive.

Now onto the balance sheet on the next page, the first item you notice is trade debtors and these all relate to sponsorship and supply of the Year Book. Today, this currently stands at £300.

A break down of the cash held is provided in note 4 on page 11 and you can see here that we again switched banks during the year to the Scottish Widows from the Bank of Scotland. This account is currently paying 2.0% interest and the 7-day notice element does allow us to move money quickly via direct debit between our Co-Operative Current Account.

The majority of the creditors figure is the loan notes and you can see from note 5 on page 12 that this figure halved during the year, as advised in our January newsletter.

The Loan Note scheme was set up in 2005 and these funds can only be used to purchase equity in Wrexham Football Club. We received requests from members asking for their loan note to be refunded due to the current financial climate and, as the Trust Board took the view that we would be unlikely to use these funds in the foreseeable future, it was unanimously agreed to refund the requests.

That is a walk through of the 2009 accounts and the next step is for us to file these with the Financial Services Authority along with our annual return.

Rolling forward to today from the end of 2009, membership stands at 621 and Trust funds currently stand at a healthy £359,000.

The sponsorship deal we made to the club in 2009 takes our total investment in Wrexham Football Club to over £121,000 in eight years of existence and means we have raised £480,000 in total during the same period, and a big thank you to you all for the support over the last eight years.

Haydn Taylor commented on the yearbook which he stated was an excellent production but from his experience was becoming harder to sell. Mark Williams reported that the latest yearbook had just about broken even.

Haydn Taylor asked if there were plans for a yearbook for 2010. Lindsay Jones reported that the Board had discussed this and agreed to go ahead with the production of the yearbook. It was acknowledged that there was a lot of work to be undertaken over the next few weeks and asked if any members could help with articles/providing advertisements. Haydn Taylor felt the cover price of £10 was too high high.

4. Election of Auditors

To re-elect McLintocks as auditors

Proposed by Haydn Taylor
Seconded by Ann Hett

Vote: For 95, Against 0, Abstains 2

McLintocks were re-elected as auditors

5. Result of Ballot for Election to the Society Board

Lindsay Jones introduced Roger Groves of the Shrewsbury Town Supporters Trust to give the result of the ballot:

As there were insufficient candidates for the number of vacant board places Roger asked for a show of hands from those present (Rule 7.6) accepting that Mark Williams, Richard Owen and Tom Stanford be elected to the Board.

Vote: For 20, Against 0, Abstained 3 (The three candidates all abstained)

Lindsay Jones thanked Roger Groves for his support in running the election and welcomed Mark Williams, Richard Owen and Tom Stanford to the Board.

6. Voting on Resolutions Proposed

Resolution A

Proposed by the Society Board

The Trust membership is to allow the Society Board to utilise up to and no more than £15,000 for club related projects to be allocated for the period between the 2010 AGM and 2011 AGM.

The Society Board must give careful consideration to the level of any investment and that the Society Board ensure that it gets best value for money from such an investment.

Supporting information:

- This resolution is a renewal of resolution F from the 2009 AGM.
- The following amounts were spent between the 2009 and 2010 AGM:
 - Executive Box – £9,775
 - Sponsorboard at the Racecourse Ground - £1,035
 - Programme Advert £575
 - Under 12s Shirt Sponsor - £1,000
 - Sponsorboard at Colliers Park - £500
 - Total - £12,885

Lindsay Jones spoke in support of the resolution

Dave Mainwaring asked if it was the intention to renew the Executive Box for the 2010/11 season. Lindsay Jones said this hadn't yet been discussed by the Board or with the Club. Haydn Taylor stated that we should not lose sight of the Trusts target of £500k and with reduced bank interest being earned during the recession the cost of the Box may be too high. He did, however agree that the pitch side and programme advertising were a superb mechanism for advertising the Trust.

Ivor Williams spoke in favour of the resolution highlighting the positive public relations to the Trust by the use of the Executive Box by a number of different local charities.

John Edwards asked what process was used to allocate usage of the Box. Lindsay Jones explained that the Box was used for members/charities/raffles for members over the 23 league games

Vote: For 95, Against 1, Abstain 1

Resolution carried

Resolution B

Proposed by the Society Board

Wrexham Supporters Trust is to produce a second version of the Big Red Survey during the next season to build on the success of the 2010 survey.

Supporting information:

- The Trust will meet the cost of the questionnaire and will use our existing Freepost license to improve responses:
 - 2,000 Big Red Surveys were produced at a cost of £400 and approximately 800 were returned at a cost of £150.
- The Questionnaire will be targeted at all supporters and not just members of the Trust
- The Trust will also offer prizes to encourage supporters to participate in the questionnaire
- All results will be made public
- The Club, the Trust and Supporters Groups will benefit from the responses to help shape future strategy and marketing activities.

Lindsay Jones spoke in support of the resolution

Mark Williams explained that the first survey allowed a snapshot of the current feelings of fans to different aspects of the club. It was essential that a second survey was undertaken as it would measure whether improvements had been made. It would also allow us to “drill down” in areas which were important to the fans. The survey was also a positive public relations exercise for the Trust.

John Edwards asked if the survey was done in conjunction with the club. Mark Williams confirmed that it had and that Mike Turner was very supportive of undertaking it and using it to improve different aspects of the club.

Lindsay Jones confirmed that comments had been received on different aspects of the survey and it may be advisable to include a comments section in future surveys.

Vote: For 95, Against 2, Abstain 0

Resolution carried

7. Any other business

Ivor Williams commented that it was disappointing that former WST Board members no longer gave their support at Trust meetings. Peter Jones responded that he spoke to many of these former members and they were still 100% behind the ideals of the Wrexham Supporters Trust.

Ivor Williams asked why Chester Supporters Trust had a membership of 2000 when Wrexham Supporters Trust membership stood at just over 600. It was explained that as Chester were a club in crisis a lot of people, including Wrexham fans, had got behind their trust.

Haydn Taylor said that with Wrexham Football Club at its lowest ever ebb he was happy with the current membership of the Trust and that the numbers were on the increase. He was worried about the state of the club with significant losses each year.

John Edwards asked if the Trust had been told anything about the profits of the development going to the Football Club. Lindsay Jones responded that there was a document held by the Council which gave an insight into this and that the trust is currently seeking legal guidance on its content.

Winners of the season tickets were:

- Member responding online or by Proxy: Gareth Roberts
- Member attending AGM : Tom Stanford

Meeting closed at 9.45

Result of Ballot for the Elections to the Society Board

Existing Elected Board Members:

- OWEN, Richard
- STANFORD, Thomas
- WILLIAMS, Mark

Candidates for Election to the Board:

- CAMERON, Brian
- DAVIES, Huw
- HARRIS, Spencer
- HEATH, Terry
- JONES, Gavin
- JONES, Peter
- MILLS, John
- WRIGHT, Chris

As only eight nominations were received for the eight available places on the Society Board, the following rule from the Election Policy applies:

- 7.6 If there are less than or equal candidates than there are places, a show of hands will be put before the AGM for the approval of all validly nominated candidates to be elected to the Society Board.