



Wrexham Supporters Society Limited (the Wrexham Supporters Trust)

Annual General Meeting 2014

June 26th 2014 at the Centenary Club Wrexham

Present:

Society members and the following Board members:

Peter Jones (Chairman), John Mills (Vice Chairman), Keith Roberts (Treasurer), Alan Fox (Secretary), Dave Jones, Spencer Harris, Anita Robinson, Jenny Cantwell, Mark Williams, Gavin Jones, Tom Stanford, Geoff Scott, Robin Wiggs (co-opted 2013-14). Peter Howell (co-opted 2013-2014).

Introduction

Chairman Peter Jones opened the Meeting and introduced the Agenda. Minutes from the WST AGM 2013, and financial statements were distributed and made available to all attendees.

Approval of Minutes of AGM 2013

The minutes of the AGM held on 27th June 2013 were submitted. Proposed by Paul Jones and seconded by Dave Kelsall, it was resolved unanimously that these be agreed as a correct record of the proceedings.

Chairman's Report

Peter Jones summarised his report of the last 12 months. Headlines included various fundraising events including a successful Christmas Raffle, Sky Dive and the Snowdon climb. The Trusts community work continued with the first Autism friendly football match in the UK, the "Bring a tin" match, the expansion of the Disabled Supporters Association, the re-introduction of the weekly radio programme "Dragonheart" on Calon FM (with thanks to Kingsley Evans) and the Junior Dragons.

Special thanks were due to Terry Stott for all his work, and it was noted with regret that he will be standing down from the Trust Board with immediate effect due to relocation.

Efforts to improve the membership processes continued. Community Shares funds had been used for the refurbishment of the Club Shop. Peter paid Special thanks to former Board member Huw Davies for his efforts with the Membership sub-group over many years.

The partnership with Glyndwr continued to work well including the innovative Glyndwr Wrexham Football Academy.

In our 150th Anniversary year some events had already been held with many more planned over the coming months. An extensive recruitment process had seen the appointment of a new management

Team of Kevin Wilkin and Gary Mills, thanks were due to both Andy Morrell and Billy Barr for their stewardship and hard work over the last few seasons.

Thanks were also due to everyone who had contributed to the Trust and Club in a voluntary capacity over the last 12 months – we are in need of more volunteers to achieve maximum effect for the events planned.

Results of elections to the Trust Board

Alan Fox introduced Derrick Moore, the Secretary of AFC Telford Supporters Trust who, with Alan and Trust member Clive Popplewell, had formed the Election Management Group. The results of the election were as follows:

Spencer Harris 301, Peter Jones 286, John Mills 238, Gavin Jones 235, Richard Ulrich 149, Robin Wiggs 131, Peter Howell 120, Stuart Roberts 99

Spencer, Peter Jones, Gavin, John and Richard were duly elected to serve for three years.

Treasurers Report

Keith Roberts presented the Trust financial report 2013-2014. Copies were available to members.

As at 31/12/13 there were 3176 members including 570 Red Dragons. Income stood at £118,000- an increase of £1000 from last year. Expenditure totalled £33,000 -a reduction of £10,000 from last year leaving a Surplus of £85,000 which was an increase of £11,000.

Analysis of income showed that membership subscriptions increased by £16,000 to £63,000, merchandise costs reduced by £20,000 to £3,000, fundraising and donations increased by £7,000 to £49,000. Expenditure analysis showed merchandise reduced by £9,000 to Nil, Fundraising increased by £4,000 to £17K. Administration costs were reduced by £4K to £15K.

Capital and Reserves- there was a total increase in Funds of £118K to £770k. Community Shares increased by £31K to £158K. There was an increase in Reserves due to surplus in income and expenditure of £85K to £608K. There was an increase in Share Capital as a result of the increase in membership by £1K to £3K.

Assets –there was an Increase in Net Assets from £118K to £770K = to Capital & Reserves. There was increase in investment in Wrexham AFC of £130K to £555K. There was a reduction in Cash / Current Assets by £11K to £229K. There was an increase in Creditors (amount owing) by £1K to £15K.

It was resolved unanimously (proposed by Alan Harris, and seconded by Frank Davies) that the Financial Statements be received and adopted.

Reappointment of Auditors

Proposed by the Society Board, it was resolved unanimously that the McClintock Partnership Limited be reappointed as statutory auditors for the Society for the 2014 financial year.

Robin Osterley Chief Executive of Supporters Direct

Peter Jones introduced our guest speaker, Robin Osterley (the recently appointed Chief Executive of Supporters Direct), who addressed the meeting and took questions from members.

Outline of budget for Wrexham AFC Limited season 2014/15

Mark Williams, Trust Board member and FC Finance Director, provided the meeting with a detailed presentation of the outline budget for the Football Club for the forthcoming season comprising the following sections:

What we have learned since November 2011- Our original budgets were based on owning the ground and having a tenant during the summer months. Costs are certain but income is not. Full time clubs pay wages during the summer. We took over a football club that was not a going concern. Firefighting was our main concern. Our focus is now targeted towards on-field activities.

Introducing the three pillars of Wrexham AFC- We have reviewed all club operations and have categorised them into the following:

- First Team
- Youth Development
- Club Development

The First Team is the primary aim. Youth and Club Development should operate on a break even basis.

Financial budget season 2014/15 – Mark explained the key assumptions regarding income and expenditure.

Income

- We will sell 1,800 season tickets at £175 per head
- 80% of season ticket holders only turn up on average
- We will average 1,800 paying attendees per game at £10.50 per person
- Average attendance would be 1,440 ST + 1,800 = 3,240
- 4 pre-season friendlies and no cup income
- Other income largely remained unchanged but updated to reflect recent performances

Costs

- All operational costs maintained from previous season as these are in line with actual performance
- First team in line with 2013/14 budgets and a WST investment of £50k.

Mark then presented a detailed Analysis of income and expenditure and took questions from the floor. Mark explained that problems experienced in another fans owned club with the club board adopting risky financial decisions could not happen with Wrexham FC as there were restrictions on spending in the Club's Articles to prevent this happening.

Mark also reported that the Scouting system had been enhanced as part of the new Management structure. With regards to the Glyndwr Wrexham Football Academy (GWFA), Mark explained the students' wages were not coming out of the Club budget. All registration of student players were held by the Club exactly the same as if they were part of the main First Team squad.

The meeting thanked Mark for his comprehensive presentation

Voting on Resolutions

Alan Fox introduced the 3 resolutions proposed by the Society Board which were put to the vote and to which were added the results of online voting.

Resolution A

It was resolved by a majority that:

Rule 14 of the Society's Rules is amended from:-

The Society Board shall have the right to offer a class of junior membership with or without payment to minors under the age of 16 but no person under the age of 16 shall be entitled to a share in the Society or be entitled to vote at any general meeting of the Society.

TO

The Society Board shall have the right to offer a class of junior membership with or without payment to minors under the age of 16 but no person under the age of 16 shall be entitled to vote at any general meeting of the Society.

Resolution B

It was resolved by a majority that:

Rule 28.3.4 of the Society's Rules is amended from:-

Society representatives on the Club Board will serve for terms of 2 years, subject to them meeting the requirements of the Society's Board Membership and Conduct Policy. No Society representative on the Club Board may serve more than 3 consecutive terms on the Club Board.

TO

Society representatives on the Club Board will serve for terms of 2 years, subject to them meeting the requirements of the Society's Board Membership and Conduct Policy.

Resolution C

It was resolved by a majority:-

That immediately following the 2014 AGM, the Trust Board be authorised to invest up to a further £150,000 in Wrexham AFC Limited (a 100% subsidiary of Wrexham Supporters Trust) during the period following the 2014 AGM up to the 2015 AGM.

The Trust going forward –an outline of the 2014-2017 Strategic Plan

Robin Wiggs gave an outline of the WST Strategic Plan for the next 3 years, explaining what it is, why we need one, and what is hoped will be achieved by it by 2017. It will be made available for comment on the website.

It sets out our key objectives for the next three years underpinned by annual action plan. We have achieved our primary objective. The focus now is on nurturing the Club and Trust. Every successful organisation plans well.

The Plan will make more use of the recent Branding exercise by Andy Slinger, with the 5 vision drivers to provide a true Business Model; We will hold another Big Red Survey in April 2015. All Board discussions will be based on the Strategic Plan in future, to achieve focus and maximum effect of efforts. Brand re-alignment will lead to Club Membership, rather than WST membership, with a plan to re-organise the Trust Board to deliver objectives effectively and in a timely manner. As a consequence, the Trust Board will now be termed the Governing Body of Wrexham Football Club. The Trust will remain but as owners of the Club the time has come to align the two closer together.

Robin explained the values and characteristics of the Strategic Plan, and the new 4 sub-groups:

- ✓ Fans Ownership
- ✓ Sustainable Finances
- ✓ Community Football Group
- ✓ Football Club Operations

We need greater membership involvement in the subgroups. Our Vision will to strengthen a successful fan owned professional football club at the heart of our communities which unites half a nation.

The Groups will have various objectives all working towards the most important one which was promotion back to the Football League.

Any Other Business

Haydn Taylor suggested that the attendance records of all Trust Board members were made public.

Alan Harris thanked all the Board Members for their hard work and efforts.

The Meeting closed at 10.20pm