



## **Wrexham Supporters Society Limited (the Wrexham Supporters Trust)**

### **Annual General Meeting 2015**

**June 25<sup>th</sup> 2015 at the Centenary Club Wrexham**

#### **Present:**

Society members and the following Board members:

John Mills (Vice Chairman), Keith Roberts (Treasurer), Alan Fox (Secretary), Spencer Harris, Anita Robinson, Mark Williams, Gavin Jones, Robin Wiggs,

#### **Introduction**

Vice Chairman John Mills, in the absence of chair Pete Jones, opened the Meeting and introduced the Agenda. Minutes from the WST AGM 2014, and financial statements were distributed and made available to all attendees.

#### **Approval of Minutes of AGM 2014**

The minutes of the AGM held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2014 were submitted. Proposed by Les Jones and seconded by Jim Wells, it was resolved unanimously that these be agreed as a correct record of the proceedings.

#### **Chairman's Report**

John Mills summarised Pete Jones' report of the last 12 months. Headlines included that the Club was operating at a profit, which is an amazing transition since taking over the club in 2011 when the Club was making an operating loss of £750k a year.

Last season we celebrated our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and we did have some highlights that included the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration match with Grimsby Town which generated a fantastic turn out of over 8,000 fans to join in with the celebrations; we reached the third round of the FA Cup and a trip to Premier League Stoke City's Britannia Stadium that saw almost 5,000 Wrexham fans witness a battling performance that certainly gave the 'Potters' a fright; and finally, a trip to Wembley in our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary season, and our third trip to Wembley in two years.

Supporters have invested over £700,000 in three years and remain crucial to the future of the football club. The benefits of being a Club owner are growing, but most importantly you can have a say on how our club is run by voting on critical issues; put yourself forward for the board; receive invitations to both the Club and Trust AGM's and other members meetings; being entered in a draw to be a director for the day and have ticket priority for away matches after season ticket holders, whilst supplies last, plus discounts with local companies.

Pete was thankful to all y fellow board members who have worked tirelessly the past year to the benefit of Wrexham Football Club, and thanked Tom Frost for his brief foray on the Board with the membership group, and to Jenny Cantwell who is stepping down after her three year stint.

The Strategic aims and objectives that we presented at last years Trust AGM have all been taken on board and are now being undertaken as we move forward. Our fundraising group led by Geoff Scott and Jenny Cantwell have organised a number of events the past year, and this has seen a slight increase on what was raised through fundraising last year. Our Community group led by Anita Robinson, Tom Stanford and co-opted board member Stuart Roberts have also made significant strides with a fantastic Christmas party for the Junior Dragons, working with our charitable partners the Caia Park Partnership, Shooting Star, Dynamic and the Alzheimer Society, as well as organising the grave stone for our former player and World War One hero Bert Foster who played in the club's first ever Football League match. The Community group continue with our own radio show 'Dragonheart' on the Calon FM community radio station, which we are indebted to Kinglsey Evans for his professional presenting of the show every Friday during the football season.

Our membership group have had a fantastic year. Led by Dave Jones and Richard Ulrich their target of increasing membership by 10% was blitzed with the membership increasing by 1,307 new members on last year to 3,947 by the end of December 2014 to make us have the largest membership of a fans owned club, and paying annual membership fees of a total of £75,078, which is a significant element of the total profit achieved by the Trust of £86,173 in the year.

Pete thanked Robin Wiggs, who was co-opted on to the Board to help with our media and publicity which is an important cog in our wheel.

He also thanked the Trust's Football Club board members, Mark Williams, Gavin Jones, Spencer Harris and John Mills, along with our non-executive board members Barry Horne, Alan Watkin and Don Bircham for the work and professionalism that they have all brought to the Football Club..

On the mention of finances he thanked the Trust's Treasurer Keith Roberts for his work over the year and in preparing the financial report for the Annual General Meeting. And Alan Fox, the Trust's independent secretary whose work and knowledge has kept us all in line over the past year, and thankful to him for taking the time to represent us at the Governments Supporters Ownership and Engagement Expert Group meetings in London.

All volunteers are very much an asset to a fans owned football club. Make no mistake that volunteers save Wrexham Football Club thousands of pounds a year - savings that can be put to improving the first team squad. Paul Smith has been one of those volunteers, and at the recent Player of the Season dinner, he was awarded for his efforts with the Dave Lovett 'Unsung Hero' award for his commitment to the Football Club. For the past few years Paul has been a huge help to our Commercial manager with the setting up of shops in Eagles Meadow; with the fundraising group, and anything else that is thrown at him. We know that Paul is not the only one who does this, and we thank each and every one of you who played however small a part in volunteer work for the Football Club, it's all part of us being a Community Football Club, and is a great way of making new friends.

Finally, Pete confirmed that the Football Club begins the new season with a new name, as we return to Wrexham Association Football Club - Wrexham AFC. This was voted by members at the 2013 AGM.

### **Results of elections to the Trust Board**

Alan Fox introduced Brian Burns, Chester FC Board member who, with Alan and Trust member Tony Williams, had formed the Election Management Group. The results of the election were as follows:

Number of valid votes cast on line- 1052.

Number of valid votes cast via postal voting -161

Overall valid votes cast -1213.

The votes for each candidate were as follows:

Mike Dean 173

Dave Jones 206

Andrew Pierce 153

Stuart Roberts 146

Geoff Scott 208

Paul Smith 100

Robin Wiggs 227

Robin, Geoff, Dave and Mike were duly elected to the Trust Board.

### **Treasurers Report**

Keith Roberts presented the Trust financial report 2014-2015. Copies were available to members.

From December 2012 to December 2014, membership has increased from 2,024 to 3,947 an increase of 1,923 or 95%. During the same period the income from the membership subscriptions has increased from £47,504 to £75,078 an increase of £27,574 or 58% An analysis of the 2014 income shows that 67% of the Trusts income was received via membership subscriptions.

Of the income raised by the Trust; 78% is available to be invested to the benefit of Wrexham AFC 11% was spend on Administrating the membership, postage, printing etc. 10 % was spend on Fundraising.

In 2014, donations were down by £7,697, compared to 2013. Although in terms of income fundraising is down in 2014, in comparison to expenditure incurred on fundraising the surplus has increased from 55% to 64%

Although there have been changes to the level of income and expenditure over the last 3 years, the surplus delivered within each year as continued to increase from £73,988 in 2012 to £87,433 in 2014.

An outcome of the delivering an increased surplus each year, is the percentage of the income received being made available to invest in the best interests of Wrexham AFC, in 2012 63% of the income received was available to invest this has increased to 78% in 2014.

Since 2012 the net assets of the Trust have increased from £652,079 to £864,725 in 2014. Of this increase £284,980 has been invested in Wrexham AFC.

The funding for increase in net assets as been received the delivery of the in year surpluses £172,387 and an increase in Community Share £38,336.

As at 31st December 2014, the Trust had assets of £864,725, predominately invested in Wrexham AFC £709,980 and Cash at Bank and in hand £137,112.

### **Key Messages**

- Membership numbers up by 771 (24%)
- Membership Subscriptions up by £11,625 (18%)
- Total Income down by £6,551 (6%)
- Total Expenditure down by £9,030 (27%)
- Surplus after Tax up £2,479 (3%)
- Community Shares up £6,901 (4%)
- Income for the year £111,619
- Expenditure for the year £24,112
- Surplus after Tax for the year £87,433
- Surplus as a percentage of income 78%

It was resolved unanimously that the Financial Statements be received and adopted.

### **Voting on Resolutions**

Alan Fox introduced the 7 resolutions which were put to the vote and to which were added the results of online voting.

#### **Resolution A**

Proposer: Andy Pierce and Phil Davies

*“This Trust in general meeting assembled resolves to oppose the imposition of so-called "bubble" matches or other travel restrictions on supporters of Wrexham AFC, believing such restrictions do not contribute to the maintenance of public order and represent an unwarranted restriction on the liberty of supporters of Wrexham AFC to peacefully go and do what they please when they please. Further this Trust resolves to instruct the Society Board to lobby the appropriate police and public authorities on this matter, both within Wales and in England, and to co-operate and campaign with other club-based and national supporters' organisations.”*

As per Society Rules, this resolution requires a two thirds majority of those voting to be carried

For = 104

Against = 104

Abstain = 1

This motion was not carried.

### **Resolution B**

Proposer: Paul Taylor

*“The Society, Wrexham Association Football Club and all Director's that serve on both the board of the Wrexham Supporters Trust and Wrexham Association Football Club shall reject any imposition of transport restrictions on any supporter of Wrexham Association Football Club and any supporter of a football club that travels to play at The Racecourse Ground. Supporters of Wrexham Association Football Club and any football club that travels to play at The Racecourse Ground must be allowed to travel to a football match by independent means. We shall also reject any kick-off time that is before 3.00pm on a Saturday or Sunday unless we would make a financial gain by doing so by appearing on television”.*

For = 61

Against = 139

Abstain = 8

This motion was not carried

### **Resolution C**

Proposer: Paul Taylor

*“Wrexham Supporters Trust and Wrexham Association Football Club accounts shall be provided to the membership no later than seven days prior to an AGM”.*

For = 71

Against = 68

Abstain = 19

### **Resolution D – an alternative resolution to C**

Proposer: The Society Board

*“Wrexham Supporters Trust and Wrexham Association Football Club accounts shall be provided to the membership a maximum of seven days and a minimum of two days prior to the relevant Annual General Meeting of each body.”*

For = 145

Against = 22

Abstain = 8

Resolution D was carried

Resolution C was not carried

### **Resolution E**

Proposer: Paul Taylor

*Any proposed resolution outside of that year's AGM shall be circulated to the membership by whatever means possible in order that the proposed resolution can gain enough signatures to call a Special General Meeting in which the proposed resolution can be voted on.*

For = 54

Against = 136

Abstain = 20

This motion was not carried

### **Resolution F**

Proposer: The Society Board

*"That, immediately following the 2015 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 2015 AGM up to the 2016 AGM".*

For = 220

Against = 3

Abstain = 2

This motion was carried

### **Reappointment of Auditors**

### **Resolution G**

Proposer: The Society Board

*"That McLintocks Partnership Limited are reappointed as statutory auditors of the Society for the 2015 financial year"*

A member asked why the members didn't propose the appointment of auditors rather than the Board. AF said that throughout his time as secretary it had always been a Board resolution but if a member wanted to propose some other firm they could do so by forwarding a resolution in the usual way.

For = 203

Against = 4

Abstain = 5

This motion was carried

## **Outline of budget for Wrexham AFC Limited season 2015/16**

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:

Key Assumptions:

We will sell 1,876 season tickets at £175 per head

- We will average 1771 paying attendees per game at £10.75 per person
- This is made up of 2 premium games of 4,250 paying spectators
- The remaining 21 games average 1,600 per game
- We no longer look at average attendance due to the number of season ticket holders who do not show
- We monitor paying attendees and have systems in place for next season to report on after the final whistle
- We have budgeted for four home friendly matches
- We have budgeted for zero income from cup competitions

We have factored in an increase in retail income but less than what we achieved this year

- The remainder of income is the same with the only difference in Centre for Excellence is due to the Glyndwr Football Academy
- The majority of increases in matchday costs are associated with the two premium games – last season did not factor playing a Derby game
- The increase in first team costs is a combination of factors, including termination of the contract of the former Manager

Mark then presented a detailed Analysis of income and expenditure and took questions from the floor.

The meeting thanked Mark for his comprehensive presentation

## **The Trust going forward –an update of the 2014-2017 Strategic Plan**

Robin Wiggs updated members on the WST Strategic Plan for the next 3 years

The 3 Themes for WST were to be recognised as successful in:

1. Developing Fans Ownership
2. Fostering Financial Security and Sustainability – in our own and the Club's finances
3. Building a Model Community Club

All our work geared around delivering these:

In Year 1 we had Restructured WST

- "W AFC Governing Body" & Sub Groups (Operational Board)
- Developed concept of Club Membership
- More strategic focus & monthly meetings
- 4 New Sub-groups – annual action plan
- Planned for the 150th Anniversary Season

Commenced 4 new sub groups led by a Trust Board member namely:

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

### **Any Other Business**

The meeting raised the question of the creation of WST Assets Limited. Board members explained that the company had been created in case there was ever a future need for the Trust to own property but there were no immediate plans to utilise it and any decision to do so would be put to the membership.

The Meeting closed at 10.10pm