

Issue 1 , April 2007



The Official newsletter of the Scarlets Supporters' Trust

Hello and welcome!

Welcome to the first edition of CRYS 16: the Scarlets Supporters' Trust's newsletter. We hope this first newsletter will set the scene and answer any queries you have about the Trust and what it's been set up to achieve.

So firstly – what is a Supporters' Trust? In simple terms a Trust is a more formalised Supporters' Club that is bound by the rules and constitution of an Industrial and Provident Society company. It's a membership organisation whereby quarterly meetings will be held allowing members the opportunity to ask the acting Trust Board questions about any related issues and for the Trust Board to tell members what we've been doing on behalf of the Trust.

There are elections too – it's a democratic set-up – so anyone is able to join the Trust Board.

What are we hoping to achieve by setting up a Trust? We want to be a formal and responsible communication channel between the club management and the supporters and we have forged a good working relationship with the club. If you have any suggestions for the club or if there are any questions you'd like to ask – forward them to CRYS 16 and we'll provide feedback via our newsletter and public meetings.

What else do we want to achieve? We're keen to build up our shareholding in Llanelli RFC Ltd. Hundreds of supporters have a small shareholding in the club and the Trust is a great way of combining those shares so that they are more influential and controlled by a formal and democratic supporters' group.

Some Trust members have already donated their shares in Llanelli RFC Ltd to the Trust, so membership of the Trust means you effectively own part of the Scarlets - as our current shareholding in the club both represents and is owned by each of our members.

We hope many more of you that own shares in the club will consider donating some or all of them to the Trust. If you don't want to donate them, you may like to offer them for proxy, so that you will still own your shares but they will be controlled by the Trust. For the growth and credibility of the Trust, a larger shareholding representing a growing number of members is important.

If you would like to discuss share donation or proxy, please contact our Treasurer Meurig Jenkins on enquiry@crys16.co.uk.

We're also fundraising. Each member has paid an amount of money to join. We are also receiving donations from individuals and from businesses and undertaking our own fundraising activities. Our funds will always be used in ways in which we consider to benefit the club and will be done with utmost transparency. If you'd like to make a donation – however small or large – please make a cheque payable to CRYS 16 and post to: CRYS 16, 25 Heol Innes, Llanelli SA15 4LA. Alternatively you could make a transfer to the Trust's bank account with HSBC – account number 51432176, sort code 40-16-13. If you have ideas on how Trust money could be put to use, please drop us a line at enquiry@crys16.co.uk.



How we launched

CRYS 16 was launched in January at the Tetley's Suite in Stradey Park. The launch was the result of months of preparation enabling us to get a mandate from supporters at a Trust open meeting and attend to the administrative, legal and constitutional arrangements involved in setting up a Supporters' Trust.

The launch included words from Trust members and the Trust was welcomed into the Scarlet family by Ray Gravell, Phil Davies and Stuart Gallacher.

We'd like to thank the following companies for their support of the launch night and of the Trust generally: Castell Howell Foods, C.J's Balloons and HSBC Bank.

CRYS 16 has received support from First Minister Rhodri Morgan who commented: 'It is no secret that supporters are the lifeblood of any sporting team and the Scarlets have benefited from a strong, intensely vocal and passionate support over the years. I wish the Trust every success in the future and I look forward to seeing the Scarlets triumph over Munster in the quarter finals and go all the way in the Heineken Cup.'

We hope you enjoyed, Rhodri!

CRYS 16 received support too from the Secretary of State for Wales, Peter Hain, who also wrote to us saying: 'I heartily commend the Supporters Direct initiative, which encourages fans to take an even greater interest and more active role in supporting their clubs. It has already facilitated the creation of over 100 Supporters' Trusts and it is good to hear that the Llanelli Scarlets will be joining that number. Supporters' Trusts, like yours, can help a club achieve more than it can alone, by providing a sense of community spirit, mutual support and social responsibility.'

'As you will of course be aware, I have a keen interest in rugby and my desire is to see Welsh rugby continue to grow and produce great rugby players. Llanelli has a long and proud history of producing such players, with Delme Thomas, Ray Gravell, Phil Bennett, Gareth Jenkins, Ieuan Evans and Scott Quinnell to name but a few. It is therefore fitting that this tradition of producing world-class players continues with Stephen Jones and Dwayne Peel. I am therefore delighted to offer my best wishes for the successful future of the Trust, which will further strengthen bonds between the club and its supporters.'

The choice of name - CRYS 16

For those of you who attended the launch night, the name - CRYS 16 - will have already been explained. CRYS is a Welsh acronym for Regional Scarlets Supporters - Cefnogwyr Rhanbarthol Y Sgarlets. Crys is also the Welsh word for 'shirt' and the name conveys the Trust as the 'extra man', so to speak.

Our first meeting for members

Every quarter CRYS 16 will hold a public meeting so members can come along and find out what we've been up to and ask any questions they may have. It's also an opportunity to make suggestions as to what you think the Trust should be getting involved in - fundraising methods, how we use our funds, events and supporters activities etc. The first meeting is on Wednesday 25 April at the Tetley's Suite at 7.30pm. Please come along if you can.

In the meantime, if you have any queries or suggestions, drop us a line at enquiry@crys16.co.uk or write to CRYS 16 on the Llanelli address given on page 1.

Photo gallery



Jean Evans - the 100th member of CRYS 16!



Group photo - the working group at the launch night



Grav! The first member of CRYS 16



What it's all about - words from the working group



Big Phil speaks!



State of the Nation address from Stuart Gallacher