



100

Arbediad campus

Teimlwyd bod pob argyfwng yn waeth na'r un blaenorol, ond daeth awr dduaf y Swans yn 2001 gyda'r clwb yn cyhoeddi colledion hanner blwyddyn o £800,000 ym mis Ionawr. Dyma Tony Petty yn prynu'r clwb a'r ddyled am £1, ond arweiniodd rheoli gwan at brotestio gan y cefnogwyr yng nghanol y dref. Wedi methu talu chwaraewyr, gwerthwyd y clwb i gonsortium dan arweiniad y cyn chwaraewr Mel Nurse.

Dyma pryd y sefydlwyd Ymddiriedolaeth Cefnogwyr Dinas Abertawe i sicrhau bod gan y cefnogwyr ffyddlon lais yn nyfodol y clwb. Chwaraeodd yr Ymddiriedolaeth rôl allweddol yn y frwydr yn erbyn Petty. Dyma nhw'n buddsoddi swm sylweddol yn y clwb "newydd", ac mae ganddynt sedd ar y Bwrdd.

Eiddo'r Ymddiriedolaeth Gefnogwyr yw 20% o'r cyfranddaliadau, ac mae'n fodel perchnogaeth cefnogwyr gaiff ei edmygu gan nifer o glybiau.

Roedd un rhwystr arall i'w basio fodd bynnag. Ym mis Mai 2003, â rhannau o'r Vetch wedi'u cau i gefnogwyr, tyrodd 10,000 i wyllo'r tîm yn curo Hull City a chadw'r clwb yn y Drydedd Adran. Gyda'r dorf yn rhuo eu cefnogaeth enillodd Abertawe o 4-2, gyda'r bachgen lleol James Thomas yn sgorio tair.

A dramatic save

Every difficult time was felt to be the worst yet, but the true crisis for the Swans came in 2001. In January the club announced a half-year loss of £800,000. Tony Petty took over the club and the debt for £1, but very poor management saw protests against him by fans in the city centre. After failing to pay the players, he sold the club to a consortium led by ex-player Mel Nurse.

At this time, the Swansea City Supporters Trust was set up. They wanted to ensure that the loyal fans had a say in the club's future. The Trust was instrumental in winning the battle with Petty. They invested a considerable sum in the "new" club, and are represented on the Board. The Supporters Trust owns 20% of the shares, and provides a supporter-ownership model admired by many other clubs.

The risk of disaster had not quite passed. In May 2003 nearly 10,000 fans packed the reduced-capacity Vetch Field to roar the team on to a win against Hull City. Losing that game would have meant relegation from the Football League. The passion of the fans spurred the team on, inspiring a hat-trick by local boy James Thomas and a 4-2 victory.

