CF10 RUGBY TRUST

MINUTES OF THE NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM

ON TUESDAY 25 MARCH 2025 COMMENCING AT 7PM

Item	
1	<u>Welcome</u>
	Chair Lynn Glaister welcomed members to the 2025 AGM and thanked everyone for attending. There were 20 members at the AGM and the meeting was quorate.
2	Progress Report
	The Annual Report is now on our website: <u>AGM annual report 2023 2024</u> . The website also contains all other documentation related to the AGM.
	Lynn highlighted some of the key points from the annual report, which covers the period from 1 st October 2023 to 30 September 2024.
	 The club have agreed the post of Supporter-Advisor is a positive addition so will continue to hold the post. CF10 were asked to assist with the review of the process which was carried out. Note – in December 2024 David was re-appointed as Supporter Advisor and will serve for another 3 years. A two-term limit has been agreed so we will be looking for someone to replace David at the end of his current term.
	- CF10 continue to have regular meetings with Richard Holland and encourages questions from Members, leading to wide-ranging discussions.
	- Helford Capitol completed the takeover of the major shareholding of Cardiff Rugby.
	 Heritage – the creation of a new management structure has embedded the work firmly within the Club. There will be a British Lions exhibition during the summer and then the build-up to the 150th, with the planning of displays and the publication of a commemorative book.
	- Social Media. Steve has been at the helm, leading a group of people who run our accounts on X and BlueSky.
	 Cardiff Rugby on the pitch – not a great deal of success but a great deal of passion. We emerged from a very difficult period with a team of youngsters who have played their hearts out and in a style that has won them a lot of fans. The RFC finished 4^{th after} another exciting season. Admittance to these games is a real benefit for Season Ticket holders and we continue to be the only Region that offers this.
	 JSG Cymru started the year with regular meetings with the WRU and Nigel Walker upheld his commitment to hold those meetings. Since he has left, they have been continually postponed. The current informality of the structure of the JSG is seen as something of a weakness in trying to get our point across and there is a move to formalising of this structure. During this period the press were regularly in contact with Lynn for interviews.
	In summary, Lynn said that if we ever doubt that we have made an impact look at the way the

club now fully embrace the heritage, and Matt uses it to inspire the players. We also have a good working relationship with Richard Holland. 3 Annual Accounts 2023/24 Treasurer, Derek Redwood presented the annual accounts for the period to 30 September 2024 which have been sent to the Financial Conduct Authority. The income for the year was £6. We continue to draw on reserves to sponsor a player for the RFC. This year we are sponsoring Benji Williams. Donations are always welcome. Bank details (Nat West) A/C name CF10 Rugby Ltd Sort code 52 21 06 A/C no. 20226144 The accounts have been published on the website. Lynn thanked Derek for his continued management of our finances. 4 Elections Lynn confirmed that Sarah Kirk was the only person to apply for the vacant role on the CF10 Board, so she has been elected. Lynn welcomed Sarah, who was co-opted to the Board last year and will be a great asset going forward. 5 Member's questions and discussion Lynn introduced the Q&A section. We will cover the current situation and also welcome questions that members would like us to raise with the WRU via the JSG, or to Cardiff Rugby and Richard Holland. David is also happy to answer questions about the work of the Board. David summarised the key concerns of the Cardiff Board. The club has mainly been concerned with signing off the strategy and the difficulties caused by the delays in getting the agreement over the line. The aim of the CR Board is to do the best for the club within the restraints imposed by the current situation. There is a general feeling on the Board that we are overperforming in the URC considering the problems being faced and the lack of money available. Questions Helen asked for an update regarding timescales for finalising the Strategy. David confirmed that we are very close, but we have heard that before. Helen then followed up to ask if the WRU have an implementation plan. Concern was expressed that this is a strategy in name only because there are no concrete steps to how these high-level aims can be achieved. KPIs have been promised.

Martyn Sloman asked who is driving the strategy discussions. Discussions did stall after Nigel Walker left because he was the main person pulling together the substantive policies. It is probably now Abi Tierney driving it with considerable input from the PRB.

Martyn followed up asking about the way Abi Tierney manages things. Lynn said that the

The agreed strategy will have to go to the WRU Board, which still has strong

representation from the Community game.

general feeling is that Abi is doing better work than is being reported in the media and that she has implemented important changes that have not yet become obvious. Support has been expressed for her on the CR Board, and we do not condone the personal abuse Abi has received through social media, but the WRU's PR has been a disaster, and the frustration of supporters is understandable. There is a lack of willingness to take the tough decisions. They claim to be data driven but what criteria do they have for deciding when we have reached a point where those radical decisions can no longer be avoided?

- David said there is still a lot we can do to try and ensure a positive outcome and that CR's relationship with the WRU is surprisingly good. Being the capital city club next to the Principality Stadium has advantages and being able to host matches such as the U20's game and having the Guiness Fanzone is a help for our finances.
- Marc Harries asked if there have been any moves to develop better relationships with the universities. Lynn said CF10 have had many discussions with Richard Holland about the player pathways and sponsorship to encourage players to return to Wales. David said there have been some new appointments to focus on the Pathway development and it is proving successful. Sam Warburton has been a key person in improving relationships with educational establishments including the Universities. Matt is very supportive of this approach. "We should be second only to Leinster" in how our pathways work within our region. We have to be pragmatic because we can't compete with England in terms of the educational experience, but we can focus on bringing them back to Wales after their education is completed.
- Helen asked about player retention for next season and attracting new players. Lynn said we regularly raise this with the club, but the information is sensitive due to contract negotiations. We understand the club have retained everyone they targeted to retain for next season. They do want to bolster up the pack with experienced overseas players to help guide our youngsters. The Head of Recruitment, Matt and Sam are the key people involved in these negotiations and the Board doesn't get involved. Matt has a very clear idea of the direction he wants us to go in. He is a great man manager and does seem to be very committed to Cardiff.

Other points raised:

- Cardiff Rugby have appointed a commercial director to replace Rhys Blumberg Jack Butler (son of Eddie). We are already seeing benefits in attracting new relatiosnhips.
- Cardiff would like to run a women's team based out of CAP. Nadine Griffiths has represented this viewpoint to the WRU on behalf of the club.

<u>6</u> <u>Concluding remarks</u>

In conclusion, Lynn thanked members for their continuing support. CF10 has been around for a few years now, and we have made a difference. We need to keep exploring new ways to continue to make that difference. We are a member driven organisation and we will keep asking our members for feedback and continue to ensure member's questions are raised at every level.

The next meeting with Richard Holland is in May so please email CF10 with any questions.