

CF10 ARMS PARK RUGBY TRUST

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD REMOTELY ON

THURSDAY 18 MARCH 2021 COMMENCING AT 7PM

ITEM	
1	<p>Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>Board Chair, David Allen, welcomed members to the fifth AGM. He thanked everyone for attending this unique event, being held remotely for the first time. Sixty-four members had registered while 48 attended (see Appendix 1). The meeting was quorate.</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Norma Mackie (who later joined the meeting) and Martin Hughes.</p> <p>It was noted that the event was being recorded, as previously notified, and screen shots would be taken. Members were advised to turn off their screens if they did not wish to be seen.</p> <p>DA thanked Andrew Collins who had organised the Eventbrite/Zoom meeting and Andy Baker for setting up the election voting process.</p>
2	<p>Progress Report</p> <p>It was noted that a detailed annual report was available in the documents section of the website for the year ending 30 September 2020. (https://cf10rugbytrust.org/sites/default/files/annual_report_2019-20.pdf)</p> <p>Notwithstanding the above, DA highlighted a number of issues which he felt should be brought to members' attention.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• General comments:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- there had been slow, but steady growth in membership- not far short of 10% in the reporting period (continuing a trend).- similarly in terms of the number of proxy shares held in Cardiff Blues Limited.- online museum has gone from strength to strength and now includes nearly 1600 objects, a phenomenal achievement.- any club would be proud of such achievements <p>As has been the case in previous years, over the last 12 months, a huge amount of time had been spent networking and promoting the critical contribution that supporters make to the club– this activity is largely unseen, takes up massive amount of board members' time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relationship with the club has been very much a game of two halves - March-August CF10 could not broker a meeting for love nor money, though there were some really important matters to discuss.• When, eventually, a meeting was held it was with 5 CBL board members (plus MB) to four from CF10. It proved to be extremely challenging and difficult.• This turned out to be something of a watershed and since then frequent meetings have been held averaging more than one meeting per month. Thanks especially to Richard Holland, Mike Brown and Andrew Williams.• Also Chris Norman of CRFC has been a frequent contact.• The communications team on Twitter have generated a huge amount of quality

content despite it being a rather fallow period for rugby. DA also especially thanked Dan Pearce for his match previews, reports and programme notes. The Board have also produced regular quarterly Newsletters. Hopefully members feel that the Board are trying to stay in touch and keep people informed.

- DA highlighted a couple of major issues/concerns at present. The club's financial challenges are discussed in the Annual Report. There has been a perfect financial storm, not only the problem of no spectator income at matches but also:
 - change of personnel at WRU (we now have 'union of clubs' rhetoric)
 - WRU loan which initially was a lifesaver but is now a noose around the neck of the each pro club.
 - WRU failing to appreciate that the RFU were not negotiating on its behalf for rescue funding with Westminster Government (though £13.5m has come from Welsh Government since to pro rugby).
 - WRU effectively not paying the pro teams for the use of their prime assets, the players, for team Wales
 - WRU treatment of CVC monies as capital receipts (and therefore not falling within the purview of PRB for distribution).
 - How these issues play out in next year or two will be critical to the professional game in Wales. They clearly represent a massive challenge.
- Ground – there was no positive news to report on the redevelopment of the Arms Park, but are hopeful that may well change in the coming year.
- On the rebranding:
 - CF10 has pushed for a re-consideration of the name since inception
 - For a long time, it felt like the door was firmly closed
 - The club's change of heart is probably down to some of the new people who have joined the CBL board
 - CF10 is surprised and obviously delighted and has been discussing the change actively with the club since around last September
 - A paper had previously been prepared on how the ground could better reflect our history
 - Also had input into the Walk of Fame at the ground and given editorial advice on the launch video
- On behalf of members, the Board have contributed to shaping the thinking around the decision to become Cardiff Rugby.
- One disappointing element is that we would have liked to have achieved supporter representation on the CBL board - but that is not too far off. Governance changes are a process not event; CF10 just needs to keep pressing for supporter representation.
- Reflecting more generally as it was his final night in the chair, DA said:
- After almost 6 years, he couldn't be prouder of what CF10 has achieved. From a standing start where we were struggling to get any recognition from the club we have achieved massively. We've created a supporter body whose value is increasingly recognised by the powers that be and has at times been an important influence on thinking at the club and will continue to be so in future.
- Achievement is down to two things. First of all, the remarkable support and backing that received from members - easily the biggest supporter group at CAP- and this carries weight. Second, the ability to recruit, retain and grow an extremely skilled, dedicated and hard-working board.
- He said that he had given thanks individually and collectively to the board members and observers, so wouldn't repeat those as it would take too long. At the end of the day, everything has been a team effort.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He said he would like to make one exception, Neil Harries – secretary for the working party – Neil was his absolute wingman in the early days & is not terribly well at present but deserves special thanks.
3	<p>Mission Statement</p> <p>The Board had proposed a revision to the Mission Statement. This was primarily to refresh the document rather than to make any fundamental changes. Members had been asked to indicate their support or otherwise for the changes on the ballot form. The results were as follows: Revised mission statement - 59 for, 1 abstention, none against; 98.3% support.</p>
4	<p>Change of Name</p> <p>With Cardiff Blues having decided to change its name to Cardiff Rugby from 1 August 2021, the Board had proposed that the official registered name of the organisation should be changed from 'Cardiff Blues Rugby Supporters Society Ltd' to 'CF10 Rugby Limited'. Members had been asked to indicate their support or otherwise for the changes on the ballot form. The results were as follows: Name change - 59 for, 1 against; 98.3% support.</p>
5	<p>Annual Account 2019/20</p> <p>The accounts were available for scrutiny on the website. Treasurer, Derek Redwood noted that CF10 was basically not about money. We were funded by generous donations from a small group of founders 5/6 years ago and are still living on that capital. Subscriptions have been set at a nominal level to attract interest. Our income for the year to 30 September 2020 was a very modest £104. Expenditure was £359 to give a deficit of £255. Our assets include a number of shares in Cardiff Blues. We had cash reserves of £1,372. Thanks go to DHB Accountants for carrying out the independent review.</p> <p>A member asked whether it was possible to make a donation. DR said that anyone could do so as follows: NatWest account; A/C name CF10 Arms Park Rugby Trust; Sort Code 52-21-06; Account No. 20226144.</p>
6	<p>Election of Chair and Board Members</p> <p>A vacancy for a Chair and two board members had occurred as part of the election cycle. There had been one nomination for the role of Chair, Lynn Glaister and two nominations for board membership from Simon Jones and Steve Coombs.</p> <p>Under the Standing Orders Election Policy: "If there are as many or fewer candidates than there are places, an affirmative ballot shall be held at the AGM. Each successfully nominated candidate will be put before the meeting for the approval of members. Any candidate not receiving the support of more than half of those present in person shall be deemed to have not been elected."</p> <p>Given the difficulty of undertaking the above virtually, electronic voting had taken place between 7-16 March. Confirmation results were as follows: Lynn Glaister for Chair - 59 for, 1 against; 98.3% support. Simon Jones for Board - 59 for, 1 against; 98.3% support. Steve Coombs for Board - 60 for, none against; 100% support. Consequently, the above were elected.</p>
7	<p>Statement From The New Chair – Lynn Glaister</p> <p>Thank you for electing me as only the second chair of CF10; it is a great honour and I will do my best to repay the faith shown in me. After watching games on TV for nearly a year, the</p>

	<p>thing the game needs to be make it come alive is supporters. Rugby cannot just become a TV spectacular; it is vital that when the pandemic comes under control that we have live rugby to go back to and I am committed to helping ensure that happens.</p> <p>We believe that the game in general and our club in particular should embrace the idea of more supporter involvement and whilst some welcome advances have been made we will continue to pursue the goal of supporter representation. The financing of the game is at a dangerous point and the WRU needs to ensure that the pro clubs have the funding they need and are not starved out of existence. This is a crucial time for rugby and the thing I am sure we all want is for the game and club we love to survive this difficult period. We will speak up on this and many other issues raised by you.</p> <p>But for now I wanted to ensure we don't miss out on the opportunity to recognise what the retiring chair David Allen has achieved as the first chair of CF10:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * He is part of the group who conceived the idea of having a supporters trust * Worked to set it up on proper principles with a constitution * Worked tirelessly for Cardiff Blues to become Cardiff Rugby and to get them to recognise and embrace our great heritage * And whilst it is always dangerous to credit one person he was instrumental and worked determinedly with Cardiff RFC's heritage group to ensure the Cardiff Rugby Museum became a reality online. * After initial reluctance from Cardiff Blues he has ensured regular communication to ensure the CF10 members' voices are heard. * Kept the board members focused during meetings. * He has written a book to raise funds for Cardiff Rugby Community Foundation about the architecture of Cardiff Arms Park. * To name but a few achievements. <p>Most of all even though most of us did not know him when we set up CF10 together he has become our friend and his wisdom will be missed on the board. Of course as is true with all members of CF10 he is very welcome to come to the board meetings as an observer with full speaking rights.</p> <p>So for now David thank you for everything you have done on behalf of CF10.</p>
8	<p>Q&A</p> <p>There were 5 questions submitted by email prior to the meeting. These are set out in Appendix 2 along with responses from David Allen and Lynn Glaister.</p>
9	<p>Concluding Remarks</p> <p>Before closing CF10 Secretary, Huw Jones, thanked DA on behalf of the Board. He said: I've worked with many Chairs over the last 30 years including Dick Jeeps at (GB) Sports Council and Gareth Davies at Sports Council for Wales. Although David Allen doesn't compare at all with those two in terms of his passing ability, he has been an outstanding chair and one of the best I have had the privilege to work with.</p> <p>He's been challenging to the point of being a pain in the butt but also very supportive and complimentary. He's been a true Leader.</p> <p>Without his initial vision for the Trust in its early days and the drive he has brought to it, we wouldn't be where we are today:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A properly constituted community society - Establishment of the Cardiff Rugby Museum - A rebranded Cardiff Rugby club - An organisation which has significant influence on CBL, whether that means the appointment of a Supporter Director in the coming months is still to be seen. <p>David has worked tirelessly for the Trust and deserves huge credit for delivering all these</p>

benefits in the last 5 years.

In closing the meeting, DA said that the Board always welcomed the input from members and they could email with questions/suggestions at any time. He also thanked members and the Board for all their support over the last 6 years. He would miss his involvement in CF10 but was proud of its achievements to date.

Appendix 1 - List of Attendees

David Allen	Gareth Brown	Jonathon Bray	Daniel Bishop	
Lynn Glaister	Fred Davies	Jane Setchfield	Heath Marshall	
Andrew Collins	Paul McDonald	Rhodri Poacher	Gwyn Prescott	
Huw Jones	Steven Morgan	Rhys David	Darren Jones	
Sal Carter	Jayne Rowles	Andrew Bold	Theresa Collins	
Derek Redwood	David Rowles	David Stanton	Steve Collins	
Simon Baker	Tudor Curtis-Williams	Ian Davies	Peter Ellison	
Andy Baker	Martyn Sloman	Matthew Farrell	David Francis	
Simon Jones	Kathryn Delderfield	Gareth Jones	Helen Donovan	
Steve Coombs	Graham Stanton	David Davies	Viv Jones	
Claire O'Shea	Simon Barry	Mike Mears	?	
Sion Williams	Simon Kirk	Norma Mackie	?	

TOTAL = 64 members registered; 48 members attended

Appendix 2 – Questions Submitted

David Allen and Lynn Glaister responded to the following questions.

1. Martyn Sloman

The online communications I receive from Cardiff Rugby are very poor. I get an email where the team names are so small I can't read them and a match day programme which is worth less. Could this be communicated back to the Club?

ANS – The club's communication has improved immeasurably over recent months but we are happy to feed back any suggestions. To be fair, most of the club's staff have been on furlough during the pandemic. Recently, CF10 has been asked to assist with player profiles of some of the Cardiff greats. This will be a series which will emerge over the next few months.

2. Robyn Richards

Have the club given any further detail as to how they look to involve CF10 in effectively utilising the club's history to generate further commercial revenue, and how this differs from previous actions?

ANS – Last Autumn, CF10 generated a great deal of suggestions about how the club could raise money. This included share issue, multiple season memberships and life memberships to more modest income raising activity. It was agreed that they would put this on the back-burner until the rebranding had been launched in order to capitalise on greater supporter interest. These ideas will be revisited over the coming months.

3. Gareth Thomas

I was wondering what the Trust's position was regarding the Arms Park. As someone who's supported Cardiff for 48 years, the ground will always be a special place for me. However, remaining at the ground has never been as important to me as the non-negotiable retention of the name 'Cardiff'. In an ideal world, the Arms Park would be re-developed to house a team who should have ambitions of being at Europe's top table. If this isn't possible, would a move of ground be considered? I felt it was a shame that things didn't work out at the Cardiff City Stadium.

ANS – CF10 policy is to see the redevelopment of CAP rather than move away. We have already submitted a paper to Cardiff Athletic Club (CAC) about the importance of making the redeveloped ground accessible to all members of the community taking into account all forms of disability. At the moment, it appears as if both CBL and CAC are both keen to see professional rugby retained at CAP and the ground redeveloped.

4. Jonathon Bray

How far are we away from a Supporter Director on the Cardiff Rugby board?

ANS – The Board of CBL set up a working group including Alun Jones, Andrew Williams and Richard Holland. They are due to report back to the Board and a decision taken but this has been deferred due to the pandemic. We are almost there and are in touching distance but we need to continue to press the Board.

5. Steven Phillips

As per my email to David Allen previously, I'd like to suggest we do more in terms of challenging — and supporting the clubs finances. I see other teams encouraging individual/business sponsoring of players/just giving funding etc. We are a passionate fan base and I'm sure we can provide tangible help financially if we work together

ANS – see response to question 2.

6. Norma Mackie

Sorry I can't be at the AGM but does being now a merged Cardiff Rugby help us to progress with plans to refurbish the ground?

ANS – part of the drive behind rebranding was to re-unite Cardiff rugby and form closer links with CAC.