

CF10 ARMS PARK RUGBY TRUST ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

INTRODUCTION This is the seventh annual report of CF10 Arms Park Rugby Trust for the year to 30 September 2023.

It is written about work conducted up to September 2023 and therefore will not cover the change to the shareholders of Cardiff Rugby which will form part of the report to the 2025 AGM although a verbal report will be given at the AGM about that momentous change.

CF10 ARMS PARK RUGBY TRUST THE ORGANISATION The organisation was formally established on 19 May 2016 as 'Cardiff Blues Rugby Supporters Society Limited' but trades under the name CF10 Rugby Ltd. It is a legal entity established under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 as a Community Benefit Society (number 7342), sponsored initially by Supporters Direct. The organisation's name was formally changed to CF10 Rugby Trust following a vote at the 2021 AGM and this came into being in September 2021

CF10's purpose is to be the vehicle through which a healthy, balanced and constructive relationship between the Club and its associate sides, its supporters and the communities it serves is encouraged and developed. The business of the organisation is conducted for the benefit of the community served by the Club and not for the profit of its members. Each member of CF10 holds one share for their period of membership. The Model Rules approved initially by Supporters Direct act as the organisation's constitution along with the Board's Standing Orders.

PREVIOUS AGMs Copies of previous AGM minutes are available in the 'Documents' section on the website (<https://cf10rugbytrust.org/>) along with approved minutes of each Board meeting.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The following individuals were elected by the members at AGMs as Directors of CF10:

- Chair: Lynn Glaister (for 3 years until March 2024)
- Secretary: Andy Baker (for 3 years until March 2025, stood down)
- Treasurer: Derek Redwood (for 3 years until March 2026)
- Board Members:
 - Simon Baker (for 3 years until March 2026)
 - Andrew Bold (for 3 years until March 2023, did not seek re-election)
 - Sally Carter (for 3 years until March 2026)
 - Andrew Collins (for 3 years until March 2026)
 - Steve Coombs (for 3 years until March 2024)
 - Simon Jones (for 3 years until March 2024)
 - Claire O'Shea (for 3 years until March 2026)

The directors are supplemented by a number of invited observers who also attend Board meetings and contribute to the organisation's various working groups. We believe that this model strengthens the Trust by involving and utilising a wide range of skills in its work. In addition, the Board is very aware that its skillset needs to be kept under continuous review and is very open to supplementing it on a regular basis.

In March 2022 Andy Baker stood down as Secretary. One of the founding members of CF10, we are grateful for his contribution over the years. He has continued to assist CF10 board members since his resignation.

CF10 ARMS PARK RUGBY TRUST MISSION STATEMENT

CF10 is a democratic and representative forum open to all supporters of Cardiff rugby. The Board has established a mission statement for its work. This was initially approved at the AGM 2017 and a revised version was approved at the AGM 2021:

- Ensure that the voice of all supporters is central and foremost when major decisions are being made at Cardiff Arms Park and to achieve the greatest possible supporter influence in the running of the club.
- To continue to build the Trust's holding of directly owned and proxy shares thereby creating a significant influence on decision making at AGMs and EGMs of the company.
- Act as a critical friend to Cardiff Blues Ltd. and its associate sides, supporting innovation when appropriate and challenging views and opinions when these conflict with the views of members.
- To ensure that the continuous history of Cardiff rugby is preserved and promoted via:
 - o Cardiff Rugby Museum
 - o Future developments at and of Cardiff Arms Park
 - o the branding and strategy of the professional rugby team, including retaining 'Cardiff' in the team's name.
- To work in partnership with other regional and local supporter groups in order to maximise our influence at the national and local level.

GOVERNANCE Complementing our Standing Orders the Board has established a Director's Handbook, both of which are available online (<https://cf10rugbytrust.org/documents>). We believe strongly in the principles of openness and transparency.

SHARES

The Trust (and therefore each member) owns 200 shares in Cardiff Blues Ltd (CBL). More importantly, members who are shareholders have signed proxy forms to CF10 for over 41,250 shares.

Activities during 1 October 2022– 30 September 2023

Supporter Advisor

David Allen began his supporter adviser term in January 2022. It is a three-year role. We are grateful to David for his continued liaison with CF10 board. He has a standing invitation to attend our board meetings and has attended most.

This role was an important aim of CF10, and the continued contribution David is able to make to all matters at Cardiff Rugby board level has vindicated our belief that the Supporter Advisor role is of benefit to the club and the supporters

Cardiff Rugby

CF10 board members have continued to hold meetings with Cardiff Rugby Chief Executive, Richard Holland, and key members of his team. We have raised many issues with them on behalf of CF10 members, including ground facilities such as catering and bar facilities, merchandise, communication with supporters, player retention and attraction, environmental sustainability, and accessibility issues.

Our meetings continued to be dominated by the central issue of funding.

Cardiff heritage

The heritage collection at CAP continues to grow apace through loans and donations and new displays were mounted in two cabinets in the Trophy Room in the autumn of 2022. The

online museum has also expanded accordingly. Several successful sessions were conducted in association with the Sporting Memories project and involved community groups from Penarth, Pontypridd, and Cardiff. In July 2023 members of the Heritage Group were invited to take part in the BBC's Antique Roadshow (when they took along Gwyn Nicholl's Welsh jersey from the 1905 All Blacks match). A publishing contract has been signed for the 150th anniversary history book and, most importantly, both the Cardiff Rugby Board and Cardiff Athletic Club gave their blessing to the establishment of a new Community Interest Company that will manage the collection going forward.

150th Anniversary of Cardiff Rugby

Plans are still ongoing to ensure a special celebration of Cardiff Rugby's 150th anniversary. CF10 are represented on the Heritage committee and ongoing discussions are being held.

Social Media

We have continued to develop a series of blogs on strategic, political and heritage issues. We now have a regular page in the Cardiff Rugby programme and continue to have a strong presence on social media.

Cardiff Rugby on the pitch

The 2022-3 season was exceptionally traumatic (both on and off the pitch) for many reasons. Director of Rugby Dai Young was suspended and ultimately left the club – meaning that we had no DoR/Head coach for several months at the end of the season. The WRU reduced funding to the four pro clubs, which resulted in supporters' protests. A long departure list saw a reduction in the number of experienced players (Dmitri Arhip, Kristian Dacey, Dillion Lewis, Jason Harries, Jarrod Evans, Joe Peard, Lloyd Williams, Max Llewellyn, Harri Millard, Kirby Myhill, Josh Navidi, Rhys Priestland, James Ratti, Rey Lee-Lo, Brad Thyer) – although a few of these later returned to the club.

To add to the turmoil and sadness around the club our president (and chief benefactor) Peter Thomas passed away.

But it was not all doom and gloom; we saw the emergence of younger players, given chance to show their talent they took it with both hands.

On the field we had a 50% playing record – winning 9 of the 18 games played. By finishing top of the Welsh sides, we were awarded a trophy which although rudely called the hubcap, by some did mean we qualified for the Champions Cup in the next season - clinching the trophy with a 38-21 victory over the Ospreys on Judgement Day.

When the players returned to training for the 2023-4 season there was a new Head Coach Matt 'Jockey' Sherratt and 8 players available following the departures, absences for World Cup training camps and a couple of injuries. The players, the coaches, the non-playing staff and the supporters have stuck together, and we look forward to better days.

Cardiff RFC

Whilst the senior team struggled through 2022-3, things with the Rags were far more positive. In addition to the experienced semi-professionals Cardiff saw a number of developing academy players turn in promising performances (Cam Winnett, Mackenzie Martin, Alex Mann, Rhys Barratt, Evan Lloyd and Lucas de la Rua all performed well when

given their opportunity during the season. Sadly, Jacob Beetham was injured at the start of the campaign and would not return to action during 2022-3)

At the end of the season Cardiff sat at the top of the league and a successful cup run ended with the Blue and Blacks lifting the trophy with a 13-10 victory over old rivals Newport at the Principality Stadium in April – the winning try coming from a remarkable piece of finishing from Joe Goodchild.

Success wasn't total, however, as Cardiff lost in the league play-offs against Llandoverly – surely the league champions should be the top of the table side, rather than the winners of a one-off fixture?

One other high point was that flying winger Dewi Cross was the top try scorer in the league. Congratulations to the players and coaches, especially Spot (Steve Law) Gruff Rees (Academy Manager) and Mr 50/22 (Dan Fish) who **finally** retired at the end of the season.

JSG Cymru

We continue to be a member of the Joint Supporters Group Cymru known as JSG Cymru. It is made up of Crys16, Ospreys Supporters trust, Dragons Supporters Club, Cardiff Blues Supporters Club and CF10 Rugby Trust. Our aim is to meet with the WRU and raise matters on behalf of our members.

Save our Game

Supporters from all four Welsh regions united at the New Year derbies to protest to the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) at the state of the game.

The Joint Supporters Group (JSG) represents supporters' organisations for the Cardiff, Dragons, Scarlets and Ospreys teams. We helped coordinate a protest at Cardiff v Ospreys and at Scarlets v Dragons. That included banners on display at Cardiff Arms Park and Parc y Scarlets.

Our chair told media "This is the time when we feel we have to come out again... it's a way of showing that all supporters' groups from all the professional clubs are united in wanting to save our game. "We're in danger of losing some of our best future players as well as others who are important for the game generally." There were 70 or more players across the four regions out of contract at the end of the 2022 season, with a freeze on recruitment and retention whilst the WRU and regions negotiated a new long-term financial deal. CF10 were signatories to an open letter to the WRU asking for a meeting with the Chief Executive. In January, a damning report about misogyny added to the pressure for change at the WRU. . Following media reports about misogyny in the WRU we were signatories to a letter from JSG Cymru calling for the then Chief Executive to resign. Nigel Walker was appointed interim CEO of WRU, and he agreed to meet with JSG Cymru pending the appointment of a permanent CEO and Chair. The Chief Executive and Chair have now changed, meetings are being held with Joint Supporters Group Cymru and we attend those meetings. We are yet to see what changes to strategy will be made and we will continue to represent supporters views as they look to produce a new way forward

CONTACT US If you have any questions regarding this annual report or any queries regarding Cardiff rugby generally, then feel free to get in touch here:

<https://cf10rugbytrust.org/contact-us>