

CF10 RUGBY TRUST

SIXTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HELD VIA ZOOM

THURSDAY 15 DECEMBER 2022 COMMENCING AT 7PM

PRESENT

Board Directors: Lynn Glaister (Chair), Andy Baker (Secretary), Derek Redwood (Treasurer), Sally Carter (Minutes), Steve Coombs, Andrew Bold

Observer: Claire O'Shea

Supporter Director: David Allen

Apologies: Simon Jones, Simon Baker, Andrew Collins, Sion Williams, Viv Jones

ITEM

- 1 Chair's introductory remarks and apologies for absence.

Lynn introduced the key themes and thanked everyone for the enormous amount of work done since the last meeting to highlight the issues with the WRU and the fight for the survival of Cardiff rugby.

Apologies were noted.

- 2 Minutes of the Board meeting held on Thursday 10 November 2022

Minutes were agreed.

- 3 Matters Arising and Actions

All matters arising were on the agenda.

- 4 WRU

Lynn briefed the group on some of the activities that have been going on behind the scenes, and the move toward a more forceful strategy directly challenging the behaviour of the WRU.

For many months we have been asked not to rock the boat as Cardiff Rugby negotiate with the WRU. However, things have still not been resolved and Max Llewellyn leaving was a key turning point for many. It has now been confirmed that 90 players will be out of contract across the 4 clubs.

CF10 Twitter, co-ordinated by Steve, has gone on the attack over the last week and this seems to have caught the mood of the wider supporter base.

Lynn was interviewed by Jason Mohamed on his Radio Wales show and talked about the problems at the heart of Welsh rugby, and the danger of Gatland's appointment becoming a smokescreen. The interview went well and has had positive feedback.

Steve has kept up the 'Steve Phillips out' blitz via Twitter, which has generated a good response. This campaign has been strengthened by Huw's interview with Steffan Thomas on Wales Online followed by the publication of Huw's full blog by CF10. Simon J and Steve also wrote blogs to support the campaign against the WRU. Steve emphasised the fact that although we can be in a bit of a Welsh rugby Twitter bubble, we are also reaching a wider audience, and we have shown that we can make an impact with a relatively small number of voices raised.

Lynn is also exploring her political contacts.

Lynn and Andy asked the rest of the Board if we agreed with the current strategy. There was enthusiastic agreement with this approach, and it was felt that it was gaining momentum in the broader media.

Claire raised the issue about what our response would be if Cardiff Rugby asked us to tone down our current campaign. Andy reassured that we are in close and regular contact with Cardiff Rugby to ensure that our approach will not cause problems for the Club, whilst retaining our independent voice.

David fed back that we have done a brilliant job and we shouldn't stop doing what we are doing. We can talk where others are constrained, and it's important that we keep up the pressure.

Meetings with the JSG and Richard Holland with regard to the WRU campaign are minuted under 5.3 and 5.4.

5 External Communications

5.1 Future Working (Supporter Advisor) – 15th November 2022

Andy went to a meeting that David called between Cardiff Rugby and the Supporter Clubs for Cardiff Rugby and the RFC. Cardiff Rugby is keen to offer support, but the groups seem to have small numbers and are struggling to take advantage of the things on offer. The Club are keen to strengthen their organisation and are making some steps toward it, with adverts currently out for travel arrangements for Boxing Day. This is very much a work in progress.

It was also noted that it is written into the constitution of the first XV supporters club that they are not a political organisation, but it is hard to understand why they can't take a stance in the current crisis.

5.2 Supporter Director Q&A – 24th November 2022

The Q&A went well and there were a wide range of questions from the audience, who seemed engaged and interested. Over 30 people tuned in, and it lasted 1.5 hours with David able to convey a good deal of information.

A further meeting will be arranged next year.

5.3 Richard Holland – 12 December 2022

Andy and Lynn met with Richard Holland before the meeting with the JSG to ensure that any actions we take will not harm the prospects for a deal with the WRU. Richard confirmed that the deal is critical to the survival of the Club, and we have agreed to keep in close contact.

5.4 JSG – 13 December 2022

Lynn and Andy pushed for a meeting with JSG to try and co-ordinate a response to the current crisis. They drove the agenda at the meeting and made sure a joint statement came out of it.

They were pleased by the positive response of the other members of the JSG, who were keen to start a 'Save our Game' campaign, with plans to design banners that can be taken to the New Year's game. The CF10 Board have agreed to meet our share of any costs incurred for the design and production of the banners, and we also have a back-up plan to create our own banners if the joint project runs into problems.

Andy will meet with the JSG again on Tuesday to firm up plans. In the meantime, the JSG have publicly called for a meeting with Ieuan Evans and Nigel Walker, but they have yet to receive a response.

Action: Lynn will send out details of the protest and has asked for help on the day.

6 Working Groups

6.1 Heritage

- Sally reported back on a second successful visit by Sporting Memories and confirmed there are plans to continue this work next year.
- The Heritage Group continues to push for the creation of a CIC to protect the collections but has met opposition to the idea of the transfer of ownership. The Group recognise that it is more important to get this right than to try and rush it through, so they are looking at ways to better promote and explain the plans to Cardiff Athletic Club.
- The Museum now has a slot in the match day programme to highlight an object in the collection and promote the work we do.

6.2 Communications

Comms have been very active since the last meeting and Steve is pleased to have a full range of blogs to show the wide scope of our work.

It was agreed that there is no need to move to Mastodon at present as Twitter continues to be the key platform for Welsh rugby.

6.3 Sustainability

The Sustainability group is in hibernation at the moment, but we need to continue to persuade Cardiff Rugby that many sustainability actions can be cost neutral. Claire has written a blog about sustainability but fears it won't make an impact at the moment. It was agreed that it would be better to push this into the new year.

Andrew raised the issue that there was also supposed to be an Accessibility group. David assured us that this hasn't been forgotten and is something that we can return to after the financial agreement has been signed off.

Action: Claire to pull together a list of the cost neutral possibilities to send to David.

7 Finance (DR)

It was reported that funds are unchanged from the last meeting, where they stood at £1,283.84 (Bank £1,212.37 and Paypal £71.47).

Only expenditure for this month is £40 for Huw's CAC Dinner ticket.

8 Strategic Review

It is still important to review the future direction of the Group but at present we have a very active focus as we fight for the survival of club rugby in Wales. This is something we will need to return to in the future.

9 Action Plan

This has been a very busy month and Andy will return to the restructuring of this document when things quieten down a little.

10 Other Identified Business

10.1 AGM 2023

James Stafford has asked for us to confirm the date of the AGM so he can confirm that he can make it as our guest speaker.

Sally agreed to present a brief summary of the work of the heritage group over the last year.

Action: Steve to contact James and confirm the date of the AGM.

10.2 Christmas Party / Cardiff Rugby Q&A

The club has asked if we can have a presence at the Party. We can send out an email to all our members to let them know and encourage attendance.

Action: ?Andy to send out an email to membership

11 Date, time, and format of next meeting

19th January 2023 at 7pm (Zoom)