

# **CF10 RUGBY TRUST**

## **Sixty-third meeting of The Board of Directors held via Zoom on Thursday 19 January 2023 commencing at 7pm**

### **AGENDA**

#### PRESENT

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

Observers: Viv Jones

Apologies: Sion Williams, Claire O'Shea, David Allen, Andrew Collins

#### ITEM

- 1 Chair's introductory remarks and apologies for absence

Lynn introduced the key themes - the ongoing campaign against WRU governance, and the co-operation with other supporter groups to bring greater pressure to bear.

Apologies were noted.

- 2 Minutes of the Board meeting held on Thursday 15 December 2022

Minutes were agreed.

- 3 Matters Arising and Actions

All matters arising were on the agenda.

- 4 WRU Agreement

The agreement still hasn't been signed. Their stated deadline was the end of January.

Lynn reported back on the protests at the derby matches. We had some good coverage on both TV and radio, with interviews and pieces on the BBC Wales website, the BBC Wales news and Wales Online. Joint Supporter 'Save Our Game' Banners were printed and displayed at the grounds, and joint photo opportunities organised with other supporter organisations.

Cardiff Rugby have been happy to support us and have published quite strong pieces by Steve in the programme. Our work has not gone unnoticed and is broadly supported by the Cardiff Board. However, they feel they must remain cautious whilst the agreement remains unsigned. Whilst understanding this, CF10 feel that it can't just be the

supporters speaking out and at some point, the Clubs need to start raising their voices as well.

#### 4.1 Joint Supporters' Group

The JSG have worked well together over the last month and utilised some useful links with the media. There has been considerable consensus between the supporter organisations and a willingness to work together toward the same core goals.

The JSG wrote an open letter to the WRU, requiring a response by 17 January. No response was forthcoming, so the discontent and disappointment of the JSG was expressed via Twitter.

Shortly after the Tweet went out Malcolm Wall (WRU Board and PRB Chair) sent a short letter stating that he would now be the contact to the JSG.

JSG intend to write back to say that they are happy to correspond with Malcolm Wall going forward, but also to express disappointment with a lack of any kind of response from Steve Phillips, or any kind of official handover to Malcolm Wall.

This open letter to the WRU is being drafted with a much tougher stance, calling for the Senedd to hold an enquiry into Welsh Rugby and outlining all the serious concerns about the governance at the WRU.

JSG will meet again on Monday after the programme about the sexual harassment and bullying allegations at WRU has aired on the BBC. This may have an impact on both the open letter and the stance taken by both sides.

#### 4.2 Welsh Rugby Players Association (WRPA)

We have a new contact at WRPA - Phil Davies - and both sides are working to develop a good relationship. We have stated that where appropriate we are happy to be a conduit for things that the players are not able to say in public.

It was revealed that there are currently at least 12 types of player contract and the WRPA are working to agree a standard contract across Wales and the clubs. T&Cs need to be agreed but players will be advised not to sign a contract that has less favourable conditions than their current agreements. This means that not only is there the matter of agreeing the financial deal, the standardisation of contracts will also be critical going forward.

#### 4.3 What next?

There was agreement that our campaigns are having an impact and are chipping away at the WRU. This combined with the forthcoming programme about the sex discrimination cases must have the WRU running scared. How can we continue to keep the pressure on the WRU and give the Save Our Game campaign more prominence?

Various ideas were discussed:

- Setting up a petition asking for a formal review of WRU governance. It will be very difficult to get Welsh Govt to review the WRU, but a petition might be a way in, or a way to give the campaign more prominence. A Petition would at least let us set the terms of what we actually want them to look into.
- We need to explore other ways to connect with the Welsh Govt Culture committee, chaired by Delyth Jewell.
- Can we do different things with the banners?
- Can we influence the influencers – stop people like Tom Shanklin making bland statements about the general good state of Welsh rugby.
- Could we get on some rugby podcasts?

**Action** - Steve to approach the Rugby Paper with a proposal for a piece about why the supporters are unhappy with the WRU.

**Action** - if people are around, please help to put the banner out again for the next match in mid-February.

## 5 External Communications

### 5.1 Cardiff Rugby

A meeting has been set up for the 26 January – Andy, Lynn and Derek will attend. At present these meetings have become a one item agenda focussed on the financial agreement. It was agreed that it is important to try to start discussions about other important issues.

### 5.2 Board pre-meet with David Allen

Lynn has raised a number of issues with David on behalf of CF10 and he will take these to the next Board meeting:

- The online programme is too big to download easily and we fear that this is limiting its audience. Could the file size be addressed to make it more user friendly?
- It would be good to remind the Board about the promise to create a women's kit for next season. We need to ensure it is confirmed with Macron in time for next season.
- The Club advertised a trip to Brive for the next match but there was very limited promotion and not many supporters saw it. This is a great idea but they need better publicity and promotion.
- David will also raise the issue of communication. Q&A had been promised for the 25<sup>th</sup> but this doesn't look likely to happen and it is now too late to build an audience.

## 6 AGM 2023

The room has been booked for 16 March. However, it now seems unlikely that James Stafford will be able to attend in person due to family commitments.

It was suggested that without the talk from James it makes more sense to revert to an online AGM. This will probably attract more people, and

it may be possible for James to give a remote presentation.

This suggestion was agreed.

**Action** - Andy will check the figures required to make us quorate for the election of officers.

## 7 Working Groups

### 7.1 Heritage

Our piece on 'Can we have our ball back' generated a fair bit of interest and got picked up by the Daily Mail.

The Museum articles created for the matchday programmes will be added to the Museum website. [**Action:** Simon B]

Steve mentioned that Ken Poole had asked him to write an article on Cardiff Rugby players who played baseball. Steve has asked anyone with any information to get in touch.

The next Heritage meeting will be held on Thursday 26 January and will focus on presenting the plans to create a CIC to Cardiff Athletic Club.

### 7.2 Communications

Comms is ticking along well. JSG praised the blogs we had got published in the matchday programme.

Lynn thanked the Comms team for all the output over the last month.

### 7.3 Sustainability

No further progress at present.

## 8 Finance

£1135.98 in funds, and one new member.

The Accounts are still not back (sent out in October). They need to be finalised in advance of the AGM. Derek will send a further reminder.

We have spent £248 on banners this month and have had payments of £50 back from CRY16 and the Ospreys but not yet from Dragons or Cardiff SC.

**Action** - Andy to follow up the payments for the banners.

## 9 Action Plan

Andy has started using a project management package called Trello to pull together all the necessary action points. He will export from that for every Board meeting.

Andy suggested that there should be at least one other person with access, preferably the Chair. Simon B also has access and can act as additional back-up for the account.

10 Other Identified Business

No further identified business.

11 Date, time and format of next meeting

7pm 16 February 2023 - in person at the Arms Park.