

CF10 RUGBY TRUST BOARD MEETING

Seventy-seventh meeting of The Board of Directors

Tuesday 21st May 2024 commencing at 7pm

Via Zoom

PRESENT

Board Directors: Lynn Glaister (Chair), Sally Carter (Minutes), Andrew Collins, Steve Coombs, Hugh Campbell, Derek Redwood, Simon Baker

Observers: Sarah Kirk, Viv Jones, Paul McDonald

Supporter Advisor: David Allen

Apologies: Claire O'Shea, Mart

ITEM

- 1 Chair's introductory remarks and apologies for absence

Lynn introduced the key themes of this meeting – questions for the JSG meeting with the WRU.

- 2 Minutes of the Board meeting held on Tuesday 16 April 2024

The minutes of the last Board meeting in April were approved and will be uploaded to the website.

- 3 Matters Arising and Actions

- Lynn hasn't sent out a newsletter since our last meeting but will aim to do so in the next few weeks. All contributions are welcome.
- Lynn will summarise the supporter survey and send it out as part of the next CF10 newsletter.

All other matters arising will be covered on the agenda.

- 4 Cardiff Rugby Matters

- a. Meeting with Richard Holland (23rd April)

Notes of the meeting were distributed. Andrew and Sarah both joined Lynn for the meeting with Richard.

Key points of discussion:

- Richard confirmed that Helford Capital officially take over from the 1st July. This is why things haven't moved as quickly as anticipated.
- The clubs are still working on the basis of a 4.5m budget, confirmed by Nigel Walker who is once again talking about WRU Strategy. Andrew Williams is now on the WRU Board and is seen as someone who is

- favourable to improved funding for the clubs.
- A Head of Recruitment has been appointed – Darren Allinson.
 - The new Cardiff RFC coach has been announced as Dan Fish. CF10 did ask for an explanation of what had happened at RFC and the departure of Spot, which has caused some ill feeling. Richard said it was related to the RFC becoming much more a part of the development pathway and that this requires the needs of the senior team to be foremost, with a greater degree of integration.
 - The Cardiff RFC fixtures have been announced and details of the structure of the new league. The URC fixture list has also been drawn up, but final details need to be ironed out. (The URC sent out fixtures on 30th May).
 - The women's shirt is going ahead, and they have already seen a sample.
 - CF10 suggested that Summer Fest needs to happen in the summer this year and there was general agreement that this should be the aim.
 - The Cardiff Rugby Board have confirmed that they wish to retain a Supporter Advisor but would like the recruitment process to be run by CF10 and genuinely supporter driven. We need to work out the timeframe for this and when the start date for this process needs to begin.
 - Rhys Blumberg was at the meeting but has since left to join the Dragons. There is no information yet about who will replace him. Rhys sent a much-appreciated thankyou to CF10 and Lynn has put him in touch with the Dragons Supporter reps.

Lynn will be in Australia for much of July so we will need someone else from CF10 to attend the meeting with Richard. It was agreed that another meeting is important, probably scheduled to follow the Board meeting on the 12th June. Sarah, Derek, and Hugh have all put their names forward and requested a later start date to the meeting to allow for work commitments. The basic agenda will be what came out of the Board meeting and how we are going to progress the supporter advisor post.

Action: Lynn will book a meeting with Richard between the 12th and 25th June.

b. Communications with CEO and Chair

Cardiff Rugby agreed a quarterly format for CEO and six monthly for Director back in July 2023, but they have not stuck to this schedule. We have continued to suggest that smaller every day comms would also be good – they produce an internal newsletter that could provide a good template.

David has also committed to produce a newsletter with feedback from the Board meetings.

Cardiff Rugby did state that they intended to hold a Q&A but not until after the Strategy meeting. They want this to be in person.

5 JSG and WRU

The 24th June is to be confirmed as the date for the next meeting. Lynn is in Australia, but Hugh and David will be there. If someone else from CF10

wants to go, please let Lynn know - we could have one extra place.

Issues raised:

- The number of clubs debate has been reopened by Nigel Walker. We have always supported 4 clubs, but this does restrict the available budget. Yet again we are at the end of the season with uncertainty about how the budget can be spent because the structure of the game is still being debated.
- The general feeling at the meeting was that we need to use our collective weight to pressure the WRU. There is no point in fighting among ourselves until we have a clearer idea of future plans. If we finally get to a point where teams are going to be cut (and the PRB certainly feel that 4 teams are not sustainable) then we need to fight for Cardiff, but have we reached that moment yet?
- Removing teams will also cut down on Derby matches in a League that already has so few games for away supporters.

The SWOT analysis was returned to WRU by JSG but there has been no response. They are talking yet again about a high-level strategy, and this is likely to be made public on the 30th June after the JSG meeting. This means we cannot respond for many months. A high-level strategy is of no use unless it is quickly followed by a detailed action plan with defined timescales for change. This will require some tough decisions from the Union but the financial situation for the clubs is too precarious to wait several more years for a detailed strategy.

It was agreed that the key things we want to raise with the WRU are:

- Timescale for a detailed action plan coming out of the high-level strategy.
- Confirmation on the number of clubs they propose to finance.

Action: Lynn will confirm the date of the next meeting and check if a pre-meet has been arranged.

6 Working Groups

6.1 Heritage

The first Board meeting scheduled for the 2nd May but was cancelled due to an inability to resolve some key issues. Problems remain over the make-up of the proposed Board with some stakeholders seeking a representative group rather than the necessary skills-based group. We have been looking at the future of the Museum website and formalising support for that. There is a need for funding to safeguard the website, and we may need help from CF10 in the future.

Everyone is feeling very demoralised by the continued procrastination but, on a more positive note, the Athletic club have provided funds to purchase additional images for the 150th book.

6.2 Communications

Comms continues to go well.

David and Lynn discussed the possibility of having a few more online CF10 / Supporter advisor consultation Q&As. We could replace some Board meetings with Q&As as a way of consulting more broadly with the wider membership. It was agreed we should schedule the first one for September via Zoom initially (maybe in person in future). This is the start of the season which works well. We could have a 30-minute Board meeting following the Q&A just to catch-up on key points.

Steve mentioned that Lynn and David should arrange a more regular slot on Harley's podcast which is increasing in popularity. A more regular slot might attract more questions and help publicise our own Q&A. The podcast is also getting recognition from the Club so this would help with our profile.

Action: Set up a Q&A for September.

Action: Lynn to contact Harley to arrange a podcast date before the September Q&A to help generate publicity

7 Finance

The funds held are £1,162 in total – unchanged over the last 4 months. The Bank balance is £1041, and the Pay Pal account is £121.

8 Commemorative shirt

Andrew raised the idea of CF10 creating a commemorative shirt and possibly using this to raise funds for the Museum website. We could create a shirt based on the famous 'names' shirt from the 1953 NZ game. We could ask people to vote for which names should appear which will also help to generate interest in the 150th and possibly the website.

It was agreed that we should flag this idea with the club – they might not like a rival shirt to their own playing jersey but if we do the leg work, they might support a collaborative project. Maybe a limited edition (limited to 150). Do we make a replica of the original or have modern names voted on? If we promote this properly it should work.

Action: Raise this as a formal proposal to Richard at the next meeting, and Sally and David can raise it at the next 150th planning meeting.

10 Other Identified Business

No further business

11 Date and time of future meetings:

Monday 17th June 2024

July meeting – someone else will have to chair