

CF10 RUGBY TRUST

Eighty-third meeting of The Board of Directors Tuesday 19 November 2024 commencing at 7pm Via Zoom

PRESENT

Board Directors: Lynn Glaister (chair), Sally Carter (secretary), Simon Baker, Hugh Campbell, Andrew Collins, Sarah Kirk, Derek Redwood, Steve Coombs

Supporter Advisor: David Allen

Apologies: Claire O'Shea, Viv Jones, Karan Chandler

ITEM

1 Chair's introductory remarks

Lynn introduced the key theme of the meeting – the continuing lack of a strategy from the WRU, the poor performance of the team and the feeling that we are back where we were 18 months ago.

2 Minutes of the Board meeting held on Tuesday 8 October 2024

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting and will be uploaded to our website.

In relation to point 4, David noted that although Cardiff Rugby had not initially intended to replace Rhys Blumberg his role has now been taken by Jamie Muir, who was formerly the stadium manager. This has been a positive move and is working out well.

3 Matters Arising and Actions

At the open meeting we put out a call for help to update our website. Aled Fletcher and Liam have both offered to help but neither have a great deal of experience. It was agreed that a more practical option might be to go with a simpler solution and use the same kind of basic package that was used to create the Bleddyn website. Simon raised concerns that the current website is end of life and with no further support, security issues will be an issue. It contains some personal data as part of the commercial functions.

Action: Lynn will chat with Andy Baker about the short and long-term future of the site.

David asked how people felt about the open meeting. Lynn felt it was difficult to get people talking and Sal noted that a lot of people seemed more comfortable writing comments than talking. Is this due to the online format? There was a general feeling that at some point we need to have an in person meeting again but maybe this should be for the Board. The online format is still seen as a better option for the open meetings, encouraging more people to attend, including those at some distance from Cardiff. David was positive about the success of the open meeting and so was Simon and felt it was a good idea to continue the format and hold quarterly open meetings. We also got offers from people to write blogs.

It was agreed that we would hold another open meeting on the 21st January.

A discussion followed about the possibility of a Christmas social event for the Board – maybe meeting for a curry in Cardiff in December.

Action: Lynn to send out a poll with available dates.

4 Cardiff Rugby Matters

David gave an overview of the Cardiff Rugby Board meeting. There have been some positive developments in creating Cardiff's own strategy separate to any outcomes of the WRU's plans.

David had been asked to raise a number of issues by the supporters and gave feedback on the key points:

- There have been some improvements made to the ground but mostly just dealing with critical issues. There is no capacity to do anything beyond that. The lease has still not been signed but this should happen soon.
- If supporters have specific disability concerns they can be raised directly with the club and the response has been good.
- The aim is to sign new players, but this is somewhat contingent on the WRU strategy.
- The relationship between Cardiff Rugby and the Rags is a work in progress but is continuing to evolve in a positive fashion.
- Cardiff Rugby do want an affiliated women's team.
- Matt Sherrat is called Jockey because that was his Dad's nickname!

Lynn spoke with Richard last week to reiterate that the supporter groups were all opposed to the Golden Share – this was useful for him to know before going into a PRB meeting.

5 JSG – feedback from pre-meet

JSG met last night for a pre-meet prior to their meeting with WRU next week. Lynn, David, Hugh and Sarah were all there. An agenda for the meeting was agreed with the key points the JSG want to raise. This will be finalised and sent to the WRU prior to the meeting.

Key areas

- **Strategy**
How will they deliver their pillars and objectives? What will be their success criteria? What is the rationale behind the 'Golden Share'?
- **Performance of the men's team.**
How will the smaller crowds for the Autumn international and the continuing poor performance impact the strategy and the finances?
- **Culture**
The Rafferty report and the recent problems in the women's team, attitude of current coaching staff, calling out players, lack of trust and collaboration with clubs, fitness issues would be solved if there was genuine collaboration. Feedback on internal review on sexism.

All agreed that the key thing is to emphasise that supporters have zero confidence in the WRU. Why would we trust them with more control over our clubs and what are they going to do about this situation? All members of the JSG are as one in relation to the golden share, and the issue of going down to 3 teams is not on the agenda.

The WRU AGM is on Sunday so something may come out of that and may further inform

the discussion.

6 WRU- discussion of current situation and CF10 response

What should the formal CF10 response be to the likely fallout from the South Africa match and the WRU strategy?

We asked if there was any particular stance that we could take that would help Cardiff Rugby? David cautioned against sending any strong statement before the JSG meeting with the WRU on Tuesday. Going forward, the main emphasis should be on the need for a proper strategy that addresses all aspects of the game. Martin Ryan's observation that "We have a financial plan in search of a strategy" is very pertinent.

Steve suggested we should put out a statement supporting 4 teams because Cardiff are seen as the club who might be pushing for a reduction because we are unlikely to be the team that gets axed. There was uncertainty that this was useful but agreement that this message could be wrapped into the broader argument of simplistic solutions for complex problems.

The main thing we can do is encourage people to get out there and support the clubs.

In summary:

- Caution against simplistic solutions.
- Emphasise the need for a proper strategy and then work out the financial implications of that strategy, not the other way around.
- There can be no long-term national success if the clubs aren't successful.

Action: The Board will agree some key statements through WhatsApp for use on social media.

7 Working Groups

6.1 Heritage

The first Cardiff Rugby Museum Management Board meeting was held last week and Sally and Simon attended on behalf of the Steering Group. Both felt that it was a generally positive first meeting and there was broad agreement on the way forward. The agreed action points will be reported back to the Steering Group at the December meeting, and we will monitor progress.

David also reported back on the book. A number of chapters are now with the publisher. This has been a great deal of work for both David and Simon but it is going well.

6.2 Communications

We have created a Bluesky account which seems to be going well. A lot of people are moving over from X so it is good to have this additional option. There is likely to be a great deal of discussion and fallout from the SA game so we will need to coordinate our response as discussed in point 6 above.

8 Finance

Derek has sent around the accounts, and they were formally approved by the Board. Lynn and Sal will need to sign them off.

We had £6 income for the entire year and there have been no changes to the figures since

September. It was noted that signing up online is currently problematic, so this is another reason we need to update the website.

The funds held are £1,012 in total.

9 Other Identified Business

- David is now on the committee of the Blue and Black supporters club and has attended his first meeting.
- Nadine asked for help selling raffle tickets at the Newport game.
- **Supporter Advisor** – Sarah pulled together all the paperwork for the post. As far as we know there has only been one application – David. Are there changes we need to make to the process to ensure that we do get more applications in 3 years' time? David will be happy to help promote the role and encourage other people to apply. There will be a different dynamic when David is not applying himself. Crys 16 elect the representative for Scarlets Board but can CF10 do the same when we are not the only Cardiff supporters group?

10 Date and time of next meeting

- Our December meeting is scheduled for the 17th December but it has been proposed that we have a social meeting in December instead – date, time and curry house tbc
- Next meeting - Tuesday 21st January. This will be another open meeting and will take place online.
- The AGM will take place in March.