

CF10 RUGBY TRUST

FIFTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HELD VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE ON

TUESDAY 24 MAY 2022 COMMENCING AT 7PM

PRESENT

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

Observers: Viv Jones; Sion Williams

Cardiff Rugby Supporter Advisor: sent apologies

Apologies: George Baldwin; Martin Hughes; Claire O'Shea; Dan Taylor

ITEM

ACTION

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

Lynn introduced the key themes of the meeting – how do we respond to the current crisis at the club and our poor performances at the end of the season?

Apologies were noted.

- 2 Minutes of the Board meeting held on Tuesday 26 April 2022
AGREED

- 3 Minutes of the AGM held on Thursday 24 March 2022
AGREED

- 4 Matters Arising and Actions

All matters arising were on the agenda.

- 5 Cardiff Rugby

5.1 Meeting with Richard Holland

PRB meeting

Reduction in Regions: RH said that Cardiff hadn't voted for a reduction in the regions and that all 4 clubs are looking for the best financial deal possible. Alun Jones was 99% certain that Cardiff are not at risk and this opinion was backed up by Nigel Walker on Scrum V, who said the WRU were not planning to reduce the number of regions. RH confirmed that decisions at PRB are taken on a

majority vote, but the WRU could effectively have a veto over decisions.

Budget: The new budget should start on 1st July, but they don't currently have details of the figures. RH confirmed that the board are unable to sanction any further expenditure on players until the budget is confirmed.

Other issues discussed.

Lease: RH expressed concern that Cardiff Rugby are already 6 months into the 3-year lease and this lack of permanency is perceived as weakening their position on the PRB. He asked for our support in future lease negotiations.

Fixture times: Lynn raised the issue of inconsistent fixture times, short notice for away fixtures and poor kick-off times. This year our season will start a week early and finish 2 weeks early because of the world cup. This will also mean that we are unlikely to have internationals for more matches as had been promised.

Supporter engagement: DA asked for support in ensuring that other Supporter groups attend the meetings he has set up so that he can best represent all supporters.

Future meetings: Lynn has asked that we have a more regular change of people attending the meeting with RH to better represent new ideas. Dates of future meetings will be circulated so that people can volunteer to attend if available.

5.2 How should CF10 respond to the current situation at Cardiff Rugby?

Post-Treviso raises issues for us in terms of our response to the terrible performances at the end of the season and the general direction of travel of the club.

A number of key points were raised:

- The Q&A was good but there is a need for a proper future planning with realistic outcomes. We don't want another 'Cardiff Blues way' but something to give the Supporters hope that we have a clear plan and are not just stumbling from crisis to crisis.
- There needs to be a greater level of honesty from the Board, coaches, and players. There is a strong feeling among supporters that we are owed an apology and that there must be greater accountability. We are not calling for heads to roll but someone must hold their hand up and not keep making the same old excuses.
- We need to keep pushing them on the growing gap between the supporter base and the club.
- Is there something the Trust can do to instil pride in playing for Cardiff? The rebrand has to be more than a change of shirt; it's an understanding about the history of the club and what it means to play for Cardiff. The season ticket video is excellent, but that attitude is not reflected on the pitch.
- Can we make something about being a fan in the dark days? It's a lifeline to some people. More than just the performance on the pitch - emphasise what it is to be a supporter through thick and thin.
- At the Q&A Dai said that youngsters weren't ready, and Friday proved that. Senior players need to be able to support the development of the youngsters and lead by example.
- There are still serious concerns about the WRU and the management of

the game in Wales. Separating the pro and community game is critical to the future development of rugby in Wales.

- There seems to be discord between Dai and the players and he has distanced himself from them. It is hard to understand his long-term plan and people will ask if he is the right man for the job unless he starts to communicate more honestly.
- There was a general feeling that although our main concern has to be the survival of Cardiff, we do not want to see a cut from 4 to 3 regions and feel that will be detrimental to the game in Wales. It is important to arrange another meeting of the JSG and to encourage co-operation between supporters not infighting.

Andrew C made a powerful argument that the softly-softly approach doesn't reflect the anger of our members. Our job is to convey that displeasure. Silence from the club, and a failure to acknowledge how bad things are, is going to kill the support. With the current cost of living crisis what is there to encourage us to renew? We play in a poor league, with erratic kick-off times and a bad standard of refereeing. Supporters need more than the prospect of the same old players failing to perform on the pitch. If the club do not own up to how bad things are and show how they are going to put things right, then people will not renew. At some point we need to stop making excuses and start taking responsibility for our poor performance. This is the culmination of years and years of poor performances and management, not a recent dip in form.

Actions:

- Keep pushing Cardiff on the need for a long-term plan
- Keep demanding honesty and accountability
- Continue to raise concerns about the poor management of the WRU and the structure of the game in Wales
- Reflect our views in a series of planned blogs during the closed season
- Push for more regular KO times. This is a campaign we are unlikely to win but a point that needs to continue to be made.

6 CAC

6.1 CAP Lease and Redevelopment

No news to report other than the Cardiff Athletic Club Property Company are scheduled to present to the CAC Management Committee 10 June and subsequently to CR.

7 Working Groups

7.1 CRFC Heritage Committee

Key focus of the group at present:

- converting the collection into a Museum Trust
- we have the go ahead for a commemorative book for the 150th

7.2 Community Development

A meeting has been arranged with Nadine and David to look at possible ideas for community projects. The Blues Brothers are in a state of flux with the resignation of their chair so may not be able to contribute as previously hoped.

7.3 Communications

Twitter is going well, and we seem to have the tone and balance right following the terrible performance against Treviso. Paul McDonald is now joining the rota.

It would be good to have ideas for a series of blogs to come out over the closed season. Some ideas have been suggested:

Lynn – the death of the away supporter

Simon J – more to being a supporter than the match

Steve – summary of the past season, calmer follow-up to the last blog

Andy Baker suggested that we need a regular web-based newsletter to keep members informed - chatty in tone, less formal and more timely than the minutes.

- 8 Finance Report
£50 donation. Sporting Heritage membership paid for.
It was reported that funds stood at £1,370.11 (Bank £1,312.37 and Paypal £57.74).

- 9 Governance Action Plan March 2022

3.1 – bank mandates need to be updated. Derek has sent signed paperwork back to the bank and this should then be passed on to the Secretary for his signature.

- 10 Other Identified Business

No other business

- 11 Date and time of next meeting
Tuesday 28 June 2022 commencing at 7pm