

CF10 RUGBY TRUST BOARD MEETING

Seventy-fifth meeting of The Board of Directors

Tuesday 13th February 2024 commencing at 7pm

Via Zoom

PRESENT

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

Observers: Paul McDonald, Viv Jones

Supporter Rep: David Allen

Apologies: Claire O'Shea, Harley Worthy

ITEM

1. Welcome from Chair and apologies.

Lynn welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the key issues since the last meeting.

2. Minutes of last Board Meeting

Minutes of the last two meetings have now been approved and the final versions will be uploaded to the website.

3. Actions and matters arising

David reported that the results of the supporter survey have come through but are a little hard to interpret. David has asked for additional information in order to analyse the results properly.

David also offered his thanks for organising the Q&A.

4. Cardiff Rugby matters

- a. Meeting 6th February

Lynn met briefly with Richard. The key points discussed were:

- **Budget.** The salary budget and purchase of players was discussed, and Richard also confirmed that they are looking to increase the coaching staff.

- **Communication.** The Chief Executive will not engage with the public in the same way as David Buttress does at the Dragons, but the new owners are taking a keen interest in building the team for the future. David has requested that the new owners do a Q&A but this is unlikely to take place before the planned strategy day in May. Club still need to recognise that communication doesn't have to be huge announcements, but it needs to be regular. Mike's social media work is good, but it is the broader strategic news that is missing.
- **Facilities.** They are looking at ways to improve the facilities, but they are hoping that the CAC redevelopment of the Stadium will resolve these issues. This won't happen before the end of the Euros in 2028.
- **Early bird.** Lynn raised Andrew's idea of a super early bird. The Osprey's are going that route, but Richard confirmed that we will have an early bird but not a super early option.
- **Matt Sherratt.** Lynn fed back supporter enthusiasm for the way Matt has got the team playing. He is very much the voice of Cardiff at the moment, and this has been passed onto Matt.

b. EGM

Lynn attended the EGM and David helped to ensure that we were able to vote after some technical difficulties.

c. Supporter Advisor feedback

Fixed terms

Currently there is no restriction to the number of terms the Supporter Advisor can serve. David has suggested that it should be restricted to 2 terms of 3 years.

Whilst the Group was broadly in agreement with this, the point was raised about what we do if no-one comes forward after the 2 terms are completed. Is it better to allow someone to continue to a third term rather than lose the post? A possible solution is that someone has to reapply after serving two terms.

It was agreed that we need to judge the position/role and not the person – we do not want to give carte blanche to someone who may not be as good in the role as David.

It was also agreed that we need to support David going forward into another term and that a handover period to any successor should be built into the procedures, with a period for any successor to shadow the incumbent.

Selection/ Nomination

How do we select the role in the future?

Should the role be selected through the supporter groups, so the candidate is seen as an agreed candidate? It was agreed that this would be the best route, as opposed to just allowing anyone to stand which could lead to the election of someone with no previous experience of working with the supporter organisations. We need to ensure that the

wrong person isn't elected to the Board because they could damage all the good work that has been done to this point.

A discussion was held about the nomination process and it was agreed that the nomination should come through the supporter groups. It was also suggested groups could nominate their own candidates and then the groups select the final nominee from within those nominations.

Future of the role

The intention to retain the post of Supporter Director has been stated at Board but it was felt by this Group that Cardiff Rugby need to amplify the role. This may be something that will come out of the planned restructuring.

Action: CF10 will write a statement confirming that we think the supporter director has been a valuable addition to the Board and we would support the continuation of the role.

5. Responses from members to recent mailing

There has been no correspondence from supporters other than thanks for hosting the Q&A.

6. JSG – meeting with WRU CEO 20th February

If anyone wants to join Lynn at this meeting, please let her know. There will be a pre-meet on Monday so if there are any questions we want to raise feed them through to Lynn before Monday.

The letter the JSG received from the new Chief Exec in response to the JSG's welcome letter wasn't a great first response and this will be raised. Whilst accepting that perhaps the JSG's first comms was a little aggressive, public scrutiny needs to be accepted because they are the governing body, and we have a right to know what they are doing. This needs to be recognised and the lack of trust that has developed with those running the WRU needs to be understood as being behind the motivation for the JSG's letter. It is on them to improve the relationship with us. We are a stakeholder not an annoyance.

Suggested questions to raise:

- How is their internal cost cutting going?
- The letter they sent out before the 6 Nations was poor. There is a need for actions rather than words and this needs to be fed back to them at the meeting.
- What is their process for developing the strategy they are talking about and who is feeding into it?

7. Website

We sent out a request in the newsletter for help to create a new website and we got an email responding to that request with an offer to help. This will be followed up. In the meantime, Andy has agreed to extend the deadline for cut-off and will support the redevelopment.

The idea is to create a much simpler website, which will allow us all to contribute to its content and maintenance.

Action: Lynn to contact the person who has made the offer and ask what the cost will be.

8. Working Groups

a. Heritage

David, Simon and Sally met with Keith and Richard to discuss Plan B – a reworked governance proposal that allows the club to retain ownership of the collection but within a formal heritage structural arrangement.

This was rejected without any kind of discussion. It was suggested that we put forward yet another proposal to CAC in simple bullet points and instead of a formal arrangement heritage could be handled by a sub-group within CAC and we could bid for funds to improve storage.

We felt that this was taking us back to where we started. We decided not to respond immediately at the meeting but to report back to the wider heritage group and decide next steps. Our feeling is that it may be time to walk away because we are getting nowhere.

Derek noted that we should record that CF10 is very proud of the work the Heritage Group has done.

Action: We will report back from our meeting with the Heritage Group and then CF10 can decide on any next steps which we might want to take.

b. Communications

Everything is going well. Further blogs may follow when we know more about new player recruitment and the proposed strategy of the new owners.

9. Finance

There has been a £20 donation since the last meeting taking the current total to £1062.

Derek has resolved the problems with our Pay Pal account.

10. AGM – election of secretary (vacancy) chair (term expires and one board member (term expires) will be needed.

Simon B. enabled us to get the notice out in time.

Simon Jones is stepping down so this will be his last meeting as a board member. Simon said how much he has enjoyed being on the Board but can no longer give the necessary time needed. He is still a great believer in the work we are doing and proud of what we have accomplished, and he will continue to do what he can to help. The Group extended their formal thanks to him for the work he has done.

Lynn will stand for another term as chair. Sal still needs to make a decision about putting herself forward for the role of secretary. Steve's term comes to an end at this AGM, and he confirmed that he will be standing again. Hugh Campell from Cardiff RFC supporters group has agreed to put forward his nomination for the Board.

There were a number of other suggestions for people to approach:

- Andrew suggested Matt Baldwin (ex-Blues Brother) as a possible candidate for the Board and will have a chat with him about it.
- Sarah Cook asked lots of good questions at the Q&A and has previously stated her willingness to help with newsletters. Lynn has approached her about standing for Board and David will email her to follow that up.

Action: Forms need to be in by the 5th March. Simon to send out a reminder before that date.

Action: David to email Sarah Kirk re joining the Board and Andrew to speak with Matt Baldwin.

11. Any other business

CAC (Rugby section) AGM.

A few of us attended the AGM. We raised the issue of any proposed heritage changes needing to have the approval of the whole of CAC membership and not just the Board. This was agreed by Keith Morgan, but he could suggest no formal mechanism of ensuring or recording this other than continuing to raise it at every AGM.

Date and time of next meeting

19th March – this will be the AGM