

CF10 RUGBY TRUST

Sixty-ninth meeting of The Board of Directors

held via Zoom

on Tuesday 18 July 2023 commencing at 7pm

PRESENT

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

Observers: David Allen

Apologies: Claire O'Shea, Simon Jones, Viv Jones

ITEM

1. Chair's welcome and apologies for absence

Lynn introduced the key themes – continuing lack of news from Cardiff Rugby and change of leadership at WRU.

Apologies were noted.

2. Minutes of the Board meeting held on Thursday 15 June 2023

The minutes were agreed as a true record. They will now be uploaded onto the website.

3. Matters Arising and Actions

All action points are covered on the agenda.

4. External Comms

- a. Meeting with Cardiff Rugby

Lynn met with Richard Holland on the 13th.

- The coaching situation is nearing resolution. There was some discussion of signings, but nothing can be formally announced until the coaching situation is resolved. Lynn feels they are doing all they can within the current constraints.
- Cardiff RFC is safe and there are no plans to split away like Llanelli, but they will be subject to the same cuts as the senior team.
- Due to budget restrictions staffing levels at the club have been reduced including comms. Andrew C raised the issue of ways we can support the comms team and let supporters know how hard the club are currently working.
- Lynn asked what was happening about the shares but was told due to Peter Thomas's death things have changed so will not be going ahead at moment.
- No charter flights will be available for fans to travel to away matches – the club is booking onto scheduled flights because the fixtures have been announced in good time leading to a considerable reduction in travel costs to the club.
- Summerfest will take place on Saturday 16th September.

- They are creating a world cup Fanzone in CAP for 18+ supporters who will be able to get a drink and a street food meal for £15. Lynn raised the idea of making use of the facilities and the marquee for away fixtures. The club are aware that this is not a family friendly benefit, and this will be reviewed for events such as Summerfest.
- David had a pre-meet with the Supporters groups before the last Board meeting and he has drawn up a communications matrix to improve the quality of the communications with supporters going forward.

b. Activity with Joint Supporters Group

Lynn has drawn up a draft letter for the JSG to use with regard to the recent issue of fixtures arranged by the WRU.

c. Update on contact with WRU

The next meeting between the JSG and the WRU is set for the 9th August. Lynn will send further information when the meeting is confirmed and there will be an opportunity for another person to accompany Lynn to the meeting. BBC Wales are keen to follow up on the next JSG meeting and who attends from the WRU.

Key developments:

- A new independent chair has been appointed. Richard Collier-Keywood is a barrister and the former global vice-chair of PricewaterhouseCooper.
- Alison Thorne joins the Board as an Independent non-executive Director. She is Chair of National Dance Company Wales and was formerly Chair of Barcud Housing Association, a Board Member of Sport Wales and Governor of Cardiff Met University.
- It has become obvious that regime change is not happening quickly despite all the changes of personnel. It is important not to let our foot off the gas and keep the pressure on for change.
- Questions are being raised about the huge amounts of money being spent on the Wales training camp for the World Cup when the overall game in Wales is in such a desperate financial situation.
- The Group discussed how we should react to the current behaviour of the WRU. We need to work with the JSG but there may be times when we need to take a firmer stance. It is a fine balance between standing up for Cardiff Rugby and being seen as Cardiff constantly moaning and being negative. This balance will become ever more tricky as we move into the World Cup when support for Wales will be high.
- It was suggested that we send a polite letter to WRU to ask some basic questions about strategy and what their plans are going forward.

Action: Lynn to draft a letter and send around to the Group for review.

5. Working Groups

5.1 Heritage

David, Simon, and Sal took along a number of objects from the 1905 game (both from Cardiff's collection and the WRU). We do not know if our piece will make the cut for the final programme edit but it was well received and good publicity for Cardiff Rugby Museum. By coincidence a woman had brought along one of the 1905 players medals, so we were able to do a joint piece.

5.2 Communications

There is still very little that we can say at the moment with the continuing lack of communication coming from the Club. Steve put out a piece on the WRUs continuing lack of support for regional rugby with the scheduling of the proposed Barbarians match and the plan to host a game between Bristol and Gloucester at the stadium, both clashing with Welsh derbies. Lynn also spoke on the radio about this.

6. Finance

Our current balance is unchanged and stands at £1135.98

7. Other Identified Business

- No identified business outside of the agenda

8. Date, time and format of next meeting:

Meetings will now move to a regular Tuesday slot.

Action: Lynn will update the scheduled meeting invites to change the date of all future meetings to Tuesday.

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 15th August.**