

## CF10 ARMS PARK RUGBY TRUST

### MINUTES OF THIRTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HELD

#### VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE ON

#### THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2020 COMMENCING AT 7PM

#### PRESENT

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

Observers: Andy Baker; Gareth Brown; Simon Jones; Sion Williams;

Apologies: Martin Hughes

ITEM		ACTION
1	Chair's introductory remarks and apologies for absence DA welcomed Observers back to the Board meeting. It had been February when the whole group had last met and meetings since then had been restricted to elected Board members to make them more manageable as a result of the pandemic. It was the perfect time for the group to be re-established as the focus of the meeting would be CF10's strategy going forward and succession planning. Apologies were noted.	
2	Minutes of the Board meeting held on Thursday 26 August 2020 AGREED	
3	Matters Arising and Actions There were no matters arising that were not on the agenda and all actions had been discharged.	
4	Joint Supporters Group Meeting with WRU Crys16 had produced a comprehensive set of minutes from the meeting. These have been distributed to members. HJ summarised some of the important issues to emerge from the meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The WRU Executive were very open and sought to answer all the questions put to them.</li><li>• They were happy to speculate and to give personal views.</li><li>• They sought to engage and ask questions of supporter representatives.</li><li>• The requirement for the Regions to pay back the loan is due to clauses in the Professional Rugby Agreement (PRA) which states that surplus from the professional game will be the responsibility of Professional Rugby Board (PRB) to distribute. But when there is no surplus the risk falls on the Regions. Basically a 'risk and reward' strategy.</li></ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was put to Interim CEO, Steve Phillips, that the WRU had two responsibilities. The first was to protect rugby and its component parts. The risk of the loan was falling on the Regions. Secondly, to protect the company; WRU Ltd. Its debt was increasing from £35million to £55million. This required a balance but it appeared that the second aim was being given exclusive attention. SP said that if he didn't protect the company there wouldn't be a sport. A risk averse strategy was being adopted.</li> <li>• The WRU Executive believed that the separation of the professional and community games was essential and they would continue to recommend this structure to the Board when a new chair was appointed. A decision on this issue would ultimately be a matter for the Board of the WRU.</li> </ul>	
5	<p>Cardiff Blues</p> <p>DA summarised recent events which had led to a meeting with CBL board members.</p> <p>Following that meeting, CBL non-executive director, Andrew Williams, had requested a meeting with the Chair and Secretary. He stressed that he was an independent member of the Board. His advice was that CF10 should be patient as CBL was slowly improving its governance. Rather than seeking a seat on the Board it might be better initially to be involved in a sub-group of the Board established to consider supporters views.</p> <p>DA and HJ took the opportunity to emphasise the CBL Board's poor track record on communicating with supporters and its lack of openness.</p> <p>The meeting had been very positive and two further meetings were planned before the end of the calendar year.</p> <p>A meeting had also been held that morning with Richard Holland, at his request. SC summarised the discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The pitch had been damaged and needed repair following the dismantling of the Dragon Heart Hospital.</li> <li>• Financially, CBL was in a very difficult position. It had been expecting funding of £6.4m from the WRU but it was getting a loan of £5m, which it was having to repay at £1.25m per annum over 5 years. If the WRU was unable to have crowds for the 6 Nations matches then Welsh rugby would face enormous difficulties.</li> <li>• The CBL Board was due to meet for a strategy day but the meeting had been postponed due to personal challenges of some members. The discussion was meant to include strategy, branding and supporter representation. RH intimated a possible outcome could have been supporter representation through a sub-board.</li> <li>• Pro13 fixtures (Friday, Sunday and Monday) have been determined for the COVID19 period only to suit TV. Four new South African teams are set to join the league in 2021/22.</li> <li>• There were many questions from supporters about the Priority Membership scheme when it was launched and these could have been avoided with more consultation on the proposal. CF10 emphasised that 'we are here to help'.</li> <li>• It was important that CBL ensured during this difficult period it was open in its communication with supporters so that a vacuum wasn't created leading to apathy from supporters.</li> </ul>	

6	<p>Strategy and Priorities</p> <p>A survey of Board members/observers had been undertaken to assess people's thoughts on how well CF10 was doing against the various aims set out in the Mission Statement. The results were generally positive, with some variations, but there were no major surprises.</p> <p>The discussion focused on whether the goals in the Mission Statement were still relevant, whether our focus should change, and how should we go about it. There was a strong feeling that CF10 needed to think about how it could bring CBL/CAC together by harnessing the power of the frustrated supporter. The lease for CBL and redevelopment of the Arms Park were still priorities. There was also a need to work closely with other supporter groups nationally in order to influence the WRU.</p> <p>Ultimately, CF10 needed to remain the 'independent voice of supporters' It was agreed that the Mission Statement needed some revision to better reflect the current situation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Something about bringing the warring factions at CAP together</li> <li>• Something about collaborative working in Welsh rugby</li> <li>• Something about bringing supporter groups together at CAP</li> <li>• Something about influencing engagement with supporters.</li> </ul> <p>CF10 should not be diverted from existing aims which were broadly correct. It continued to have an important explanatory/educational role through its communication with members and its blogs.</p> <p>DA agreed to draft proposed revisions to the Mission Statement and circulate these for comment. Once agreed by the Board, consultation with members would be required.</p> <p>It was agreed that this issue would remain a standing items for a few meetings building up to the AGM in March.</p>	DA HJ
7	<p>Succession Planning</p> <p>DA had written to members and observers setting out the position that his term of office would finish in March and that he would not be seeking re-election having served for 6 years.</p> <p>It was the Board's responsibility to seek a new Chair not DA's. All members and observers needed to take responsibility for this and it was agreed a special meeting (without DA) would be held on Thursday 8 October starting 7pm to discuss the way forward.</p>	ALL
8	<p>Cardiff RFC</p> <p>There was nothing specific to report.</p>	
9	<p>Working Groups</p> <p>9.1 Heritage</p> <p>There was nothing specific to report.</p> <p>9.1.1 Crowdfunding</p> <p>The aim was to seek funding from CAC for the book on the architectural history of CAP. However, if this was not possible then the option of crowdfunding would be explored.</p> <p>SC discussed two options - crowdfunding.co.uk and Unbound Books - which the Board welcomed. She agreed to provide further details on the options at the next meeting.</p>	SC

	<p>9.2 Communications DA noted that the Board hadn't produced a newsletter since April, although a number of emails had been sent to members about specific issues. He suggested that we should not rush to produce anything until we had more to report regarding a proposed revision of the Mission Statement.</p> <p>9.3 Welsh Language There were no specific issues to report.</p>	
10	<p>Finance Report DR reported that available funds remained unchanged at £1477.93 with Paypal funds having being transferred to the bank account.</p>	
11	<p>Governance Action Plan September 2020 Item 3.2 - AB reported that he didn't know when he would be able to build a new website due to other commitments. Item 4.1 - The 2019/20 accounts and annual report were due from the end of September. Item 4.2 – The Board would need to consider how it was going to host an AGM in March, especially if social distancing regulations were still in place and it needed to be done via Zoom.</p>	<p>DR/HJ  ALL</p>
12	<p>Other Identified Business 12.1 Observers Two people had shown an interest in contributing to the Board. It was agreed that both Claire O'Shea and Keri Lovell would be invited to future meetings. Their background is set out in the attached annex.</p>	HJ
13	<p>Date and time of next meeting Thursday 22 October 2020 commencing at 7pm</p>	

## ANNEX

### Claire O'Shea

Head of Hub Cymru Africa - Hub Cymru Africa is a partnership bringing together the work of the Wales for Africa Health Links Network, the Sub Saharan Advisory Panel, Fair Trade Wales and the Welsh Council for Voluntary Action. Hub Cymru Africa is hosted by the Welsh Centre for International Affairs at the Temple of Peace in Cardiff.

Co-Chair of Wales Overseas Agencies Group - Collection of Wales based international development organisations with a unified voice to drive action on international justice and development.

### Keri Lovell

I am currently Director of Rugby at Old Penarthians RFC and a recently qualified Level 3 coach. I spent some time last season working with the Blues U16s and I am head coach for Vale of Glamorgan Schools at age grade. Passionate about Blues rugby, Welsh Rugby and spent the last two years before my current role as a WRU hub officer creating new player engagement initiatives at grass roots. Also ran my own business for many years before that.