

CF10 RUGBY TRUST BOARD MEETING

Seventy-eighth meeting of The Board of Directors

Monday 17th June 2024 commencing at 7pm

Via Zoom

PRESENT

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

Observers:

Supporter Advisor: David Allen

Apologies: Sarah Kirk, Claire O'Shea

ITEM

- 1 Chair's introductory remarks and apologies for absence

Lynn introduced the key themes of this meeting – feedback from the Cardiff Board meeting.

- 2 Minutes of the Board meeting held on Tuesday 21 May 2024

The minutes of the last Board meeting in May were approved and will be uploaded to the website. David asked for a slight rewording of the Heritage section, and this was agreed.

- 3 Matters Arising and Actions

- Date of meeting with Richard.
- Lynn to confirm date of next JSG/WRU meeting and check if pre-meet arranged
- Lynn to contact Harley to arrange a podcast date before Sept Q&A. Agreed a date of 11th September – will advertise CF10 Q&A.

Sal will arrange a date for the meeting with Richard – Sarah, Hugh and Derek have all agreed to attend and David will also be there.

David raised the issue of the supporter survey and our response to it. Lynn recognised that we are very overdue for a newsletter and apologised – she will address this on her return from Australia.

All other matters arising will be covered on the agenda.

- 4 Cardiff Rugby Matters

a. Cardiff Board meeting

Richard and David had agreed a summary of the content of the Board meeting that can be shared with CF10. Much of the Board's discussion was confidential and cannot be discussed at this time.

Summary

The overall mood of the meeting was determined, though there was some frustration about the lack of progress in key areas. There was also a general feeling that, considering the season we have had, the commercial performance has been tremendous and we have had 4 sell outs. This shows the potential of generating revenue and we can imagine what could be achieved if we grow a winning team.

Key points

- There was no presentation from Matt because the team are on their summer break.
- Many of the issues discussed were to do with finance. Helford Capital had to take over sooner than anticipated due to the position of the Thomas family. New financial arrangements will gradually be put in place over coming weeks.
- We were warned that even with new finance in place there will still be no dramatic changes. The aim is to stabilise the business rather than massively increase the player budget though there are more signings to come.
- It could take 2 years to develop a more competitive squad and although there might be a slight uplift to the 4.5 m budget it will not be a huge increase.
- The next season is likely to be another tough year, but the aim is to convert some of the losing BPs into wins rather than setting an unrealistic aim of winning competitions.
- Richard is now our rep on PRB rather than Alun. The future of the Pro game is taking an enormous amount of PRB time. The options have narrowed down but they will all be really challenging and difficult to achieve.
- The WRU Strategy was due this month, but this is now unlikely to happen. They are still looking at producing a high-level strategy. A strategy group is now meeting every Friday and there is genuine scrutiny of all aspects of the running of the professional game in Wales.
- This delay has a knock-on effect for Cardiff's own strategy – it's hard to map anything out if we don't have a WRU framework.

A number of questions were asked and David answered those he was able to within the bounds of the confidentiality of the meeting.

Q. How will we replace Rhys Blumberg's network of sponsorship which was important to our success?

A. There will be a hit but most of this network are Cardiff supporters who are unlikely to change their allegiance. The Club are looking at some significant sponsorship deals. Rhys will not be replaced – we already have good people in the senior management team and we will invest in them and improve the resources they have available to them.

Q. Have we progressed with sorting out the lease?

A. We still haven't sorted out the lease but should be doing so shortly. Maintenance of the ground remains a huge challenge that will need addressing asap.

Q. Has anything been cancelled or fallen through due to the delay in getting the finances in place?

A. Nothing has had to be cancelled.

Q. Has there been any discussion of future comms?

A. The Comms plan has missed key targets – the plan itself is fine but it hasn't been adhered to. David and Dickie will review and feedback to the next Board. It is unlikely that the plan will change much – they just need to stick to what was agreed! This will be helped by Mike getting more support. Reports from the Community Foundation continue to be impressive, and they are doing a terrific job. David is aiming to try and attend some of their sessions with children with disabilities.

Q. Was the current make-up of the Board discussed?

A. This wasn't discussed at all. This will probably be left to the Strategy Day.

Meeting with Richard

It was agreed that when CF10 meet with Richard we need to push him on governance and comms, and more details on future planning.

Derek asked if we could create a draft agenda and key points to ensure the meeting with Dickie covered all the key issues. It was agreed that draft minutes of this meeting would be sent out to act as a prompt for the discussions at the meeting.

Supporter Advisor.

The current post runs out at the end of the year.

Sarah has a background in HR and has put together some good questions for the election process which have been sent to Dickie. We need to talk about this more fully when Lynn returns. The CF10 Board are keen for David to stand again but we need to find a way to involve the other supporter groups. We do not need a large and complex election process, but we do need to put a process in place that allows the other supporter groups to put forward a nomination. If they provide a candidate there will be an election.

5 JSG and WRU

Hugh and David will attend the next meeting.

Action: David will confirm that a pre-meet has been arranged or try to arrange one.

6 Working Groups

6.1 Heritage

The management of the Museum was discussed at the Cardiff Board meeting, and we hope to be able to report more positive news shortly.

6.2 Communications

Comms continues to go well. It was good to have early confirmation from Dickie that Cory Hill was not coming back to Cardiff. We are always happy to say things the club aren't able to say in public, as long as we are in agreement.

Andrew offered to help with the newsletter and Sarah has also offered her services for future newsletters. We probably need to produce a newsletter before Lynn returns from Australia.

Action: David will send the agreed Board summary to help with the Newsletter.

7 Finance

The finances remain unchanged.

The funds held are £1,162 in total.

The Bank balance is £1041, and the Pay Pal account is £121.

8 Other Identified Business

No further business

9 Date and time of future meetings:

Proposed 16 July 2024 – Derek has agreed to chair the meeting in Lynn's absence.