

## CF10 RUGBY TRUST

### FIFTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### HELD VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE ON

#### TUESDAY 24 APRIL 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: Sion Williams, Viv Jones

Cardiff Rugby Supporter Advisor: David Allen

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

ITEM		ACTION
1	<p>Chair's introductory remarks and apologies for absence.</p> <p>Apologies were noted.</p> <p>Martin Hughes has stepped down from active involvement for the time being. We would like to record our thanks for all his contributions and would welcome an occasional guest blog.</p> <p>Everyone agreed that the AGM went well.</p> <p>The focus of this meeting was on the recent poor performances at Cardiff Rugby and the way we respond going forward.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of the Board meeting held on Thursday 10 March 2022</p> <p>AGREED</p>	
3	<p>Matters Arising and Actions</p> <p>All matters arising were on the agenda.</p>	
4	<p>Cardiff Rugby</p> <p>StC wrote a critical blog for CF10 following the poor performance against Scarlets. This blog has raised a number of issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The blog was well received by supporters, and we saw an increase in our membership, but it was not well received by Cardiff Rugby and Richard Holland. This highlights the difficult balance between</li></ul>	

representing the supporters whilst retaining a good working relationship with Cardiff Rugby.

- Do we need a formal process of agreement from the Board before the publication of this kind of critical piece? This blog was sent to the Comms group and agreed by LG and AB prior to publication but should it have gone out to the whole Board? Whilst everyone was in agreement that we were right to publish the blog, it was agreed that wider distribution would be good in future but with a clear cut-off date for response, allowing a quick turnaround to events.
- It was agreed that we should give Cardiff Rugby a heads up when we are about to publish a critical piece like this – not to allow them to edit what we say but to give them early warning.
- We agreed to pause our criticism and await the promised publication of a CEO newsletter, but this hasn't appeared yet. We don't need a line-by-line rebuttal of our blog, but we do need to have a clear idea of what the Club's future plans are and some proper communication from the Club. Lynn is happy to pursue this with RH.

Additional discussion points:

- Growing disconnect between club, players and fan base over the last few months. It feels like the club is treading water and there is a perception that they aren't bothered. This needs to be addressed promptly.
- The team played better in European games where there seems to be something at stake. Is part of the issue a problem with the URC league itself which doesn't inspire?
- What is the Cardiff Rugby Board's view of progress – what are the Club's objectives over the next few years, particularly the impact of not making it to the Champions cup next season?
- We need to separate out the problems caused by the WRU from the problems within Cardiff Rugby itself. Cardiff must take responsibility for the issues that are within their own control.
- It's been a terrible season full of difficulties, but we need to have a properly focused plan to improve things in the next season – a strategy with concrete objectives.
- Succession planning will come from our link with the Rags which will hopefully start to bear fruit next season. Gruff Rees had suggested a meeting to discuss the Academy. StC to chase this up.
- JSG – still failing to get a meeting with Steve Phillips (trying since last October). Thinking of going public with this but it may be wise to hold back a few weeks and make it part of a coordinated response from a number of different quarters.
- Richard Holland only responds with CEO newsletter following a crisis rather than a regular update. There has been talk of having a public meeting to discuss the issues but there would seem to be little point or appetite for such a meeting unless there is a plan to be announced with proper tangible objectives.
- The Club are constantly lurching from one crisis to another. There are commitments to improve comms but it never lasts. This also needs to be addressed going forward.
- Fans are not just fodder. We must not be taken for granted and we do

	<p>have expectations for how Cardiff rugby should play and behave. That was articulated in Steve's blog. If that isn't forthcoming, why should we commit to the club? The 'Cardiff Blues way' is lots of buzz words and nothing substantive. Our job as the Trust is to articulate the expectations of the supporters and be the critical friend. Otherwise, people will not renew season tickets or go to the games.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We do need to keep up our criticism and our pressure on the Club so that Dickie doesn't think we have now been appeased and he can move on.</li> <li>- We do need to get the other supporter organisations involved as well so we have a coordinated response. We have a role to play in this.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ticket prices</b> The intention is to raise Season ticket prices and on the day ticket prices. No detail has yet emerged, and they may need to reconsider after recent events. We need to be prepared to respond to that because it doesn't look good in the current financial crisis.</p> <p><b>Supporter Buses</b> There has been a lack of organised supporter buses to away games, in particular the recent Scarlets game. The Supporters club haven't been running transport recently due to financial losses. It has been agreed that in the future the Supporters club will do the admin and Cardiff Rugby will book the coaches.</p> <p><b>Conclusion - LG drew together all the thoughts expressed</b></p> <p>The Group is broadly supportive of the approach taken by CF10 to this point and LG is happy to continue to fight our corner if we are in support. She will go back to Richard Holland to ask about the promised newsletter and to ask for a public statement from the Club within an agreed time limit. The key issues from this meeting need to be raised with Richard Holland at our next meeting which is set for 17<sup>th</sup> May.</p>	
5	<p><b>Communication</b></p> <p>We have lost Martin from the Twitter group. Paul McDonald was approached and has agreed to join. LG will follow this up.</p> <p>Additional people need to be recruited for Twitter, and it would be good to get someone from a younger age group. Group to consider people who might be willing to join and follow up with people who responded to the recent Blog.</p>	<p>LG</p> <p>All</p>
6	<p><b>Working Groups</b></p> <p>7.1 CRFC Heritage Committee – SaC The Groups focus for the next few meetings will be to explore the process of creating a Trust to take over formal ownership of the heritage collections. AC gave a tour of the Trophy Room after the Scarlets game which was very well received. James Stafford's family were also given a tour and very much enjoyed</p>	

	<p>it.</p> <p>7.2 Community Development – StC Nadine Griffiths has come back with some suggested dates. David is chasing up with the Blues Brothers. When a date has been agreed it will be circulated and all are welcome to attend. It would be good to have a variety of viewpoints and ideas that can form the basis of joint initiatives with the Community Foundation.</p>	DA
8	<p>Finance Report It was reported that funds stood at £1,405.19 (Bank £1,352.37 and Paypal £52.82).</p> <p>DR has approached the bank about changing the mandates and an electronic version will be sent to AB. DR has also officially reported the change of Secretary.</p>	
9	<p>Governance Action Plan April 2022 Not updated for this meeting but will be for next meeting.</p>	
10	<p>Other Identified Business</p> <p>10.1 Welsh Premiership Richard Holland has stated that the current information being circulated about the future structure of the Premiership are only rumours and all the clubs had turned down the proposal It was agreed that CF10 would not respond with an opinion piece until something more concrete has been announced</p> <p>10.2 Sporting Heritage subscription It was agreed that we should renew our annual subscription at a cost of £90.</p> <p>10.3 Next meetings There may be some problems with attendance at both the next meeting and the June meeting. LG will send around an email to ascertain people’s availability and ensure we will be quorate.</p>	SB  LG
11	<p>Date and time of next meeting Thursday 24 May 2022 commencing at 7pm</p>	