

CF10 RUGBY TRUST BOARD MEETING

Seventieth meeting of The Board of Directors

Tuesday 15th August 2023 commencing at 7pm

Via Zoom

PRESENT

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

Observers: David Allen

Apologies: Claire O'Shea, Simon Jones

ITEM

1. Welcome from Chair and apologies

Lynn confirmed that Andy Baker has stepped down from his role as secretary, although he has kindly offered to continue to provide technical support. We would like to thank him for the enormous amount of work that he has done for CF10 since its formation and wish him well.

Apologies were noted.

2. Minutes of last Board Meeting

David noted a correction under 4a – David worked with Mike Brown and Rhys Blumberg to draw up a new communication matrix.

The minutes were accepted as a true record and will be published on the website.

3. Actions and matters arising

4C: Lynn drafted a letter which was reviewed by the Group and sent to the WRU. All other matters arising are covered on the agenda.

4. Board membership

a. Secretary

With Andy stepping down we need to look for a replacement as Secretary. Sally has offered to continue to provide secretarial and admin support until the AGM in March when we need to have someone formally in post.

David suggested that the different elements of the role could be divided up making it easier for people to take on parts of the job rather than one person taking on everything.

b. Board member – election or co-option until AGM

The Group discussed Board membership and suggested people we could approach.

It was agreed that we should also do a mail out to CF10 members asking for people to put their names forward. We need to do a membership drive so that people can be formally elected at the AGM in March. Starting the process at this point would allow potential members to attend meetings beforehand to get a feel for the roles and responsibilities.

5. External Communications

a. Questions for meeting with Cardiff Rugby – 22nd August 4pm Cardiff Arms Park

Derek has offered to accompany Lynn to the meeting.

What are the key questions that we want answered now that the situation with the coach has been resolved?

- What is the Club's strategy over the next three years?
- Clarification of Gethin's coaching role.
- Note concerns over the future of the RFC.
- Updates on the CAP development situation.
- Ask Richard if it is possible for him to share the comms strategy so that the Board can be held accountable for what it has signed up to.

David confirmed that the Club have made strong protestations in private about the WRU fixture against the Barbarians, and the hosting of English Premiership rugby, both on days when there are important derby matches.

b. Questions for meeting with WRU – to be confirmed but provisionally set for 24th August, Principality Stadium

The new WRU chair has requested a meeting in person, which is a promising sign. This was originally scheduled for the 24th but the WRU are now requesting 6th September which is not convenient for all members. A date that suits everybody is the preferred option but both Andrew C. and Sal might be able to act as back-up if all else fails.

There are a number of key issues to raise:

- The need to work in partnership to avoid future clashes such as the Barbarians match and Bristol vs Glos.
- There must be a proper agreement between all parties not something imposed by the conditions of the signed contract.

- What kind of governing body actively works against its members? What are the thoughts that lead to these decisions?
- There seems to be no long-term thinking. Everything is knee-jerk reactions to quickly make money with no thought for the future. Do they have a concrete long-term plan for the game in Wales (and not just a vague list of aims and platitudes)?
- How are we expected to generate revenue when we are constantly being cut-off at the knees? How will we ever be able to win anything at club level? The only way the WRU has of generating revenue seems to be yet another international, which constantly strips players from the regional game. Clubs are capable of generating huge revenues, as has been seen in both Ireland and France. Why don't we look at income generation through clubs?
- Squad sizes – what happens if there are injuries when squad size is too small to provide adequate back-up and replacements?
- What are the WRU doing to cut their own costs? Millions are being spent on coaches and on the training camps and preparation for the World Cup. A new post has been created for Nigel Walker. None of this seems to reflect an equal degree of sacrifice.

a. Activity with Joint Supporters Group

The JSG members were upset that we sent a solo letter of complaint to the WRU, but it was difficult to agree joint wording and delaying further would have lessened the impact.

6. Working Groups

a. Heritage

- The Heritage Group is currently crowd-funding the purchase of an artefact at auction.
- The creation of the CIC has been delayed as we try to get legal agreement on the articles.
- The Group have generated a lot of good ideas about how a steering group can support the Board of the CIC to further develop the heritage at the Club.

b. Communications

It was agreed that it feels important to stay positive on Twitter at the moment. Arguably this could be the club's most important season and we need to reflect this.

Mike Brown is working with Matt Sherratt to see how heritage can be used to represent modern values – Frank Hancock representing innovation, Dr Jack bravery etc. It is good that we can still look to our heritage to invoke pride in the jersey. Could we suggest that the players view the 140th video – something suggested by Richard Holland previously? Steve will mention this to Mike. We need to develop the idea of a living collection – those players we are introducing to the heritage now will be our future; they will be the history and the history-makers.

7. Finance

We have paid the zoom bill and gained one new member. Our new total is £1117.58

8. Any other business

No further business identified.

9. Date and time of next meeting

Next scheduled meeting 19th September (Derek and David have sent their apologies)