

## CF10 RUGBY TRUST

### Sixty-seventh meeting of The Board of Directors

held via Zoom

on Tuesday 23 May 2023 commencing at 7pm

#### PRESENT

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

Observers: Viv Jones

Apologies: Claire O'Shea, David Allen, Andy Baker

#### ITEM

- 1 Chair's introductory remarks and apologies for absence

Lynn introduced the key themes – reporting back on a wide range of meetings with various groups.

Apologies were noted.

- 2 Minutes of the Board meeting held on Thursday 20 April 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 reported back on issues raised in the meeting with Richard Holland.

- **Lack of comms:** this was reiterated – note that there has already been a recent newsletter from the Chief Exec.
- **Ground redevelopment:** CAC are intending to put in a pre-planning application for a new north stand
- **Women's toilets:** At the Women's game there was a campaign about the lack of women's toilets in the south terraces. On matchdays 78% of the crowd are men but they have 90% of the toilets. (Presumably the % of women increases for the women's games?) This is something that they want to address with the plans for the north stand, and the upper south stand already has access to the toilets of the Principality stadium, but there is no easy solution for the south stand terraces.
- **Share offer:** No detailed information yet on this. Lynn passed on Andrew's ideas for incentives for different levels of share purchases. CF10 are existing shareholders, and we will need to consider our position when the official details of the share offer are

announced.

- **Squad numbers:** Cardiff Rugby have confirmed that we will have a playing squad of 39. We currently have 35 players so we will look to sign another 4 before the start of the season. The season starts in October due to the World Cup so the thought of Cardiff Rugby is that we may have greater opportunities to sign new players at that time.
- **Marketing:** Mick Hogan has been brought in from MMG Sports by Malcolm Wall to help clubs with their marketing. The WRU confirmed that he would have no role in any future restructuring discussions.
- **Sales:** Cardiff Rugby have sold a thousand season tickets in this first sales period and are quite pleased with these numbers.

b. Activity with Joint Supporters Group / WRU meeting

There was a meeting of the JSG to agree on the questions and approach to the meeting with the WRU.

The meeting with the WRU included Ieuan Evans, Nigel Walker and Malcolm Wall. It was a long meeting with a number of difficult questions raised and it was noted that NW was far more cautious in this meeting than previously. The minutes have not yet been published and are awaiting agreement from WRU, but Lynn was able to feedback the key points from the meeting:

- NW gave an update on the status of the deal, which is still awaiting confirmation of the final banking agreement. Advances have been given to the Regions and the WRU are in constant communication with Welsh Govt.
- The WRU say that they are working with the Regions to look at ways of raising additional funds during the length of the 6-year deal.
- A Strategy Day is planned in June between the WRU and the clubs.
- NW confirmed that they will not be reducing the number of Regions.
- When asked about the exodus of players and the decrease in squad numbers, they downplayed the situation and noted that Cardiff are the exception due to problems caused by arrangements made during covid. It was confirmed that they are looking to have 42 player squads at the Regions.
- The JSG raised the issue of player safety with the reduced squad numbers. The WRU said that player safety is of primary importance and mentioned the idea of loans between Regions if unable to make up the numbers. The additional issue of players being away for the World Cup was also raised but they had no answer or contingency for this at this time.
- The JSG mentioned that the WRU need to be seen to be sharing the burden of the cuts but there is no evidence of this at present.
- The WRU tried to claim that there has been no cut in funding and that the emphasis is on better management of existing budgets. Their view is that the reduction is due to the WRU no longer backing the debt rather than an actual cut in funding. This is largely semantics, and we will look to Huw for clarification of the true financial situation.
- The WRU enquiry has so far taken 11 weeks. Richard Holland has been interviewed to give evidence on issues raised by Cardiff.
- The WRU are no longer committed to having a woman in one of the 2 most senior posts, but they are still committed to having 5 women on the Board. JSG raised the issue of the need for greater diversity on the Board. The WRU said that all positions should be filled by the end of the year and the first post to be filled will be the independent chair. They are pleased with the high quality of the applicants.

The next meeting will be on the 9<sup>th</sup> August via Teams – Lynn has opened the invite to anyone interested in attending.

c. Meeting with URC consultant

Lynn met with Luke Broadley, a consultant doing work on behalf of the URC. The aim is to address the lack of enthusiasm for the URC within Wales. He has already met the Unions and Regions and is now keen to meet the supporters' groups.

Lynn detailed the issues that our members have raised over the last few seasons: endless mistakes on their web sites and on social media; poor commentary; poor TV coverage with little post-game analysis for the Welsh teams; an Irish-centric focus; poor KO times; fixtures not announced in time to book flights and accommodation; geographical distance between teams killing off travelling support.

Luke suggested a meeting between JSG and the URC Exec and has added that to his meeting notes for inclusion in his final report.

5 Feedback and Questions from Members

David Allen has a meeting with the Supporter Groups before all officially scheduled Board meetings. CF10 had put out a call to members for any questions and we had a very good response. David compiled these and took them to Board and was then able to report back to members. It was agreed that this was a good approach and broadens the range of questions beyond the usual respondents

6 Working Groups

6.1 Heritage

There has been good progress on the creation of a CIC. A meeting was held on the 10<sup>th</sup> May with David, Simon B, Richard Holland and Keith Morgan. Everyone was keen to make this work and looking for solutions. Cardiff Rugby have officially agreed to the plans and Keith will finalise the agreement with CAC. This will mean a lot of work for the Heritage Group, and it is a little daunting, but it is positive news and will protect the collections going forward, creating an asset lock that prevents the collection being dispersed or sold off.

The next Heritage meeting will take place on the 25<sup>th</sup> May and the logistics of the process and next steps will be discussed.

6.2 Communications

Comms continues to go well, although it is hard to be active on Twitter at the moment when there is so little to report on in view of coach situation. A representative of Cardiff RFC have praised the recent Twitter coverage of the Rags and loved the portrait gallery image!

It was agreed that we need to send out more newsletters and email communications to our members, and look to write more blogs and articles, particularly during the off-season.

7 Finance

There has been very little financial activity since the last meeting, apart from paying our

annual membership to Sporting Heritage.

Our current balance now stands at £1125.60.

We need to find a new independent accountant, although this expense may need to be reviewed when our income this year has been less than £100 and is likely to decrease.

Simon B confirmed that CF10 will incur no costs in the proposed set-up of the CIC.

8 Other Identified Business

- CF10 would like to formally congratulate Cardiff RFC for their fantastic season.
- No date has yet been set for the next meeting with Richard Holland. Lynn will confirm the date and let people know.
- We have previously discussed changing the day of our meeting from Thursday to Tuesday and most people were happy to do this. Lynn will send around an email to confirm opinions

9 Date, time and format of next meeting:

TBC