

CF10 RUGBY TRUST BOARD MEETING

Seventy-first meeting of The Board of Directors

Tuesday 19th September 2023 commencing at 7pm

Via Zoom

PRESENT

Board Directors: Lynn Glaister (Chair), Sally Carter (Minutes), Steve Coombs, Simon Baker, Simon Jones

Apologies: Andrew Collins, Derek Redwood, David Allen, Claire O'Shea

ITEM

1. Welcome from Chair and apologies

Lynn welcomed everyone to the meeting and set out the key themes.

Apologies were noted.

2. Minutes of last Board Meeting

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

3. Actions and matters arising

4B: Mailout to members asking people to put their name forward for the Board.

All other matters arising are covered on the agenda.

4. External Communications

a. Meeting with Cardiff Rugby – 22nd August 4pm Cardiff Arms Park

Lynn and Derek attended the meeting. The meeting took place before the announcement of the new investors so much of what was covered needs to be considered in this light.

- Raised issue of Macron creating a womens fit jersey. Macron do not feel there will be enough demand to make a profit. Richard Holland agreed to offer a womens fit leisure shirt, but this is something that will need to be raised again when Rhys Blumberg returns.
- Richard confirmed that they are committed to supporting Cardiff RFC, but the Rags will face the same financial constraints as Cardiff Rugby.

- The situation with CAP development remains much the same as it was back in the Spring, with Cardiff Rugby continuing to wait for further information from CAC PropCo. The creation of PropCo seems to have added another layer of complexity to the negotiations.

b. JSG meeting with the WRU (22nd August?)

The minutes will come out shortly with the full detail of the meeting. The WRU will publish their notes on the same day the JSG publishes the minutes. This seems to be an attempt to seize the agenda rather than leaving the JSG as the main conduit for releasing the news to the press.

Lynn outlined the key points and reflections from the meeting.

- The group met with the new independent chair, Richard Collier-Keywood, and there were also people present from all 5 organisations.
- The WRU are keen to give a sense that we are all in this together and now refer to “the 5 Pro teams” when talking of Wales and the regions.
- Malcolm Wall was also present, and he talked about an outline strategy built upon 3 pillars which will be “populated with specific actions”. As yet, there is no detail and no real strategy.
- There was talk of greater coordination between the WRU and the pro teams to improve fitness, but it was noted that the facilities given to Wales are far greater than anything the Regions are able to afford.
- The JSG raised the point that the WRU’s narrative of ‘all in it together’ does not fit with the huge amount of money currently being spent on Wales’ training camps and the lack of respect shown with scheduling of additional international games to clash with key regional derbies. The WRU stated that the scheduling of the Barbarians match was an error and steps will be taken to avoid clashes like this in future. The WRU did look to move the derby clash, but the URC couldn’t because of commitments to their broadcasters.
- The issue of player safety was again raised. Smaller squads and losing players to additional international duties does put increasing pressure on player safety.
- Judgement day apparently clashes with Taylor Swift concert preparation. This is a huge error which the WRU are currently working to resolve.
- Cathy Green (Ospreys) spoke eloquently about how tired the supporters are, with many Ospreys fans feeling like they have been written off.
- Malcolm Wall claimed that season ticket sales are on a par with last season, but this figure is a little confused due to the delay in the start of the season.
- JSG asked why the WRU’s social media team doesn’t promote the regions. They agreed that this is something they need to look at.
- A question was raised about the alignment of Women’s rugby to the Regions. The WRU stated that women’s rugby will be built up through development centres such as Cardiff Met, and then they will be realigned with regions.
- There is still no date for the publication of the misogyny report.
- The new chair has agreed to meet once a quarter going forward.

5. Working Groups

a. Heritage

- The Heritage Group was successful in crowd-funding the purchase of an early Cardiff Rugby menu at auction.
- The creation of the CIC continues to be delayed as we try to get legal agreement on the articles. The quoted legal fees for doing this work were not affordable so we have gone back to the key people involved for guidance on next steps.
- We have a meeting of the Heritage group scheduled for the 12th October so hopefully we can move forward on some of these key issues.

b. Communications

- Things are going well with comms, although there will inevitably be a focus on the world cup in the coming weeks. Cardiff RFC fixtures should be a priority to promote.

Actions: Steve will look at creating a CF10 account on Threads as a placeholder in case Twitter goes down the charging route.

6. Finance

Our current total is £1117.58

7. Any other business

Simon B – fed back about updates required on the website, and adding dates of next few Board meetings so people can come along. He also noted that we need to upload all minutes since February.

Actions: Sally and Lynn to send through final versions of the minutes to Simon.

8. Date and time of next meeting

Next scheduled meeting Tuesday 17th October