

Candidate's Statement: Sally Carter

I was elected on to the Board of CF10 in 2017 and have watched the Trust grow both in terms of membership and influence.

I have been closely involved in our membership drive and can often be found lugging a large banner around and chatting to people in the Arms Park before matches. Encouraging people to join CF10 and discussing concerns with existing members is a fantastic way to get to know the key issues for Cardiff supporters and use that to direct the work of CF10. I have been proud to see the rise in our membership as we get ever closer to our goal of 1000.

A key aim of the CF10 Rugby Trust is 'protecting our past'. We think it is essential to acknowledge that there is only one unbroken rugby history in Cardiff, and it dates back to 1876. The Cardiff 'brand' is a huge selling point for rugby fans worldwide and we would be foolish to abandon it. CF10 have taken the first critical steps to safeguarding our physical heritage and ensuring the collections are properly cared for and fully documented. As part of this work, I oversaw the project to revamp the Trophy Room. Working with fellow CF10 members, conservation students from Cardiff University and volunteers from the CAC Heritage Group, we cleaned out the cases and replaced harmful materials. We took our most fragile objects into secure storage, packed away in purpose-built storage boxes with acid free tissue, and we refurbished the Trophy Room with shirts and objects donated by former players. The entire collection has been catalogued and made available online through the impressive work Simon Baker has done on the Museum website. I have also been able to work with colleagues at the National Museum Wales to begin the process of digitising the important collection of photographs that are on the walls of the Clubhouse.

We have worked hard to promote the work we are doing, giving talks at Cardiff Blues Summerfest, opening the Trophy Room to visitors, giving talks to local history and sporting memorabilia groups. We gave a presentation at a meeting organised by the WRU to promote the protection of rugby collections held throughout Wales, and we also gave a presentation of our work at the recent Sporting Heritage Conference held in Cardiff in 2019. The latter was an important breakthrough in getting our collections recognised at a national level. Heritage is now a part of the Cardiff Blues website and there are links to the Cardiff Rugby Museum from both the Cardiff Blues and Cardiff RFC websites. Our eventual aim is the development of a proper museum space within any redevelopment of Cardiff Arms Park and I think the work we have undertaken to raise the profile of the collections has gone a long way to bring both Cardiff Athletic Club and Cardiff Blues on board with this idea.

I have really enjoyed the last three years on the Board of CF10 and am constantly impressed by the skill and hard work of my fellow members. I would very much like the opportunity to continue to contribute to the work of the group.