

Andy Baker Candidate's Statement: (should be at least 400 words long and no longer than 1000 words)

I am applying for the role of Secretary to the CF10 board as I wish to contribute to the continuing success and growth of CF10 as the pre-eminent voice representing all supporters of Cardiff rugby.

I wish to ensure that CF10 continues to be an independent critical friend of the powers that be at Cardiff Rugby and to democratically represent the views of the often unheard supporter. I strongly believe in the trust's published mission statement and would seek to ensure that those guiding principles are adhered to in the potentially difficult times that lie ahead.

Prior to retiring I enjoyed a successful career as a configuration manager and software engineer ensuring the stability of multi-million pound software projects for a diverse range of multinational companies such as T-Mobile, Oracle, Deutsche Telekom and Saga. I believe these professional skills could be utilised in the secretary role as they demand a similar attention to detail and adherence to rules, regulation and process.

Since retirement I've kept my hand in the IT environment by helping a number of organisations, both commercial and in the voluntary sector, with web development projects.

I was one of the small group at the initial meeting that kick started the concept of a supporters' trust and was subsequently a member of the working party that formally established CF10. I then became one of the original board members, taking the role of membership secretary, which included being involved in the establishment of a matchday presence at The Arms Park, until stepping back for personal reasons. I've been more involved with the trust over the last year or so attending board meetings in an observer capacity.

Technically I built the CF10 website along with the associated commercials enabling online signup and was instrumental in the establishment of the Cardiff Rugby Museum website. I still host and maintain the underpinning technical architecture for both websites along with the associated servers.

Outside of rugby I'm a supporter of community initiatives and freely give my time and technical experience where I can. I volunteer at The Dean Heritage Centre and Wye Valley Music (where I'm engaged with the outreach programme running Music Memory Cafes for dementia sufferers and their carers and pushing music into schools where it's often sadly lacking). I also work with The Forest of Dean Climate Action Partnership and am a supporter of the local Green Party where I was a member of the campaign team for the 2019 General Election.

More personally I was born and raised in Cardiff and my earliest memories of going to The Arms Park are watching Gareth Davies score a ridiculous amount of points in a match on a cold crisp Wednesday evening. Having moved away for employment reasons I became re-engaged with Cardiff rugby around the turn of the century and I've been a season ticket holder pretty much ever since, attending most home games and many away ones, supporting both Cardiff RFC and Cardiff Blues/Rugby. From Aberavon to Zebra via Twickenham 2009, Marseille 2010, Bilbao 2018, and far too many places in-between. Outside of rugby my interests lie in music, walking and wildlife/nature.

One of my visions for the trust is to further develop our outreach programmes. Rugby has a proven transformational ability to reach out across community, culture and class. I believe CF10 shouldn't simply be a representative subset of the already committed, but should reach out to the wider community to the benefit of those communities, the trust and ultimately Cardiff rugby.

The outgoing secretary is going to be a hard act to follow, but if I have the honour of being elected I believe I can combine my passion for rugby, and Cardiff rugby specifically, with my professional skills to ensure that the trust continues to sail in the right direction.