

Steve Coombs

Candidate's Statement

I have been on the CF10 board since 2020. In that time I've been involved in helping run the trust's social media, have contributed several blogs for the website and have attended meetings with Richard Holland. Outside CF10 I co wrote the a comic book commemorating the achievements of Bleddyn Williams and have worked with the Cardiff rugby heritage group on several projects.

In that time I feel CF10 have had an overwhelmingly positive impact on the club's relationship with it's supporter base. This was something that had been lacking for some time. This past season, the club, players and supporters have been on the same page more than ever and I feel CF10 has made no small contribution toward this.

Growing up in the 1990s and the changes unleashed when rugby turned professional, I've seen that like it or not, off field politics always have an impact on the field. It's essential that supporters are organised and able to make their voice heard.

Like many other Cardiff fans I grew up in the valleys north of the city. I represented Mid Glamorgan schools and Abercynon Youth. So, I feel I understand both the history of Cardiff rugby club and the rugby culture of the wider region. I believe that embracing the club's heritage and embracing players and supporters from outside the city is not a contradiction. In fact the two things should naturally go together.

The possibilities offered by the new investment from Helford Capital are huge. There are also encouraging signs that the Welsh rugby union's culture is finally beginning to change for the better. But these developments perhaps make it more important than ever that supporters are engaged not only with matters on the field but off it. Private investment is welcome but it would be foolish to not take a close look at the new owners and their motivation. Not with a cynical eye, but with an element of healthy inquisitiveness. More than ever, the trust needs to be a critical friend.

There is also the question of the future of Cardiff Arms Park. Redevelopment has been mooted for quite some time. the possibilities and opportunities are huge. But it is essential that supporters are engaged in this process and able to have a say or at least express an opinion on what the eventual redevelopment will look like.

I'd like the opportunity to continue my involvement with CF10 for another few years as the club enters what I believe will be a very exciting time.