

F10 ARMS PARK RUGBY TRUST

ELECTION NOMINATION FORM

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

I've watched rugby at Cardiff since I was a schoolboy-my first match was that against the Barbarians in 1971 and I've barely missed a home game since. I became a Rugby Section Member of the Athletic Club at the age of 18, having been proposed by the then captain, Gary Davies, and seconded by the secretary, Alun Priday. I'm now a 40-year member of CAC, Cardiff Blues Season Ticket Member and shareholder. I've chaired the CF10 working party since its inception late in 2015 and have been proud to see it grow from a vague idea to a fully-formed trust in a relatively short space of time.

The primary aim of any trust is to increase the role of supporters in the governance of the team that they support. This is a challenge that should not be underestimated here at the Arms Park. Cardiff Blues don't have a great track record of involving supporters in decision making (even those that they're formally obliged to consult with, such as shareholders) and have a history of making bad decisions (as per the Cardiff City Stadium). We're now once again at a position when major decisions are about to be made and it's crucial that supporters are at the heart of these decisions.

The situation is not helped by the fact that Cardiff is full of factions that essentially want the same thing but seem unable to recognise this basic fact. I believe that CF10 can act as a vehicle for unity-Cardiff rugby needs us all to pull in the same direction if it's to reclaim its position in rugby's aristocracy.

I'm fully committed to the regional role that Cardiff Blues now play in the modern landscape of Welsh rugby, but I'm also a traditionalist and believe that heritage is massive in any sport. Our failure to capitalise on our unique rugby history is a major marketing failure and one that has resulted in a significant identity crisis and accompanying disaffection. This heritage is carried solely by the RFC at present, and it's crucial that a successful premiership side features strongly in any physical and organisational remodelling at the Arms Park.

If elected, my aim would be for the trust to continue to build on our relationship with the Blues board and the RFC, continue grow the membership into the 'critical friend' that it clearly needs, and to try and ensure that CF10 appeals to all those who care about what happens at our great club (if our chairman can use the term, then so can I!) The trust must earn respect however, and cannot simply demand it; we all have a role to play in ensuring that it becomes recognised as an essential feature of Cardiff rugby. We are, undoubtedly, stronger together.