

Candidate's Statement: Hello, I am a season member (North Terrace) and hope to be elected to the Board of the Trust.

As a qualified lawyer and small business owner, I am well placed to add legal expertise and commercial guidance to the Board. My legal experience includes commercial law, litigation and employment law. I advise businesses on their legal, compliance and ethical duties, as well as implementing risk management strategies.

These are all critical obligations of a Board of Directors, and it is therefore imperative that the members of the Board are guided appropriately, and trained where necessary.

Areas that I can help with include data protection (ensuring our members' information is processed lawfully); diversity (the Trust must be run in accordance with equality legislation); strategy; and contractual risk.

Having started a small business from scratch, I can also add an element of 'hustle' that every start up organisation needs. It means starting small but thinking big. Being able to develop long standing and effective relationships with key people and influencers, inside and outside the organisation. And listening to what customers (members) truly want out of their affiliation with the organisation.

I strongly believe in the ethos behind the Supporters Direct model of organising supporters in such a way that means clubs remain accountable to the loyal fans. The managers of sports clubs have several commercial and organisational stakeholders to satisfy, and it is important that the supporter's voice is not lost in all the noise. A Supporters Trust provides that safeguard. As the modern game continues to evolve, fan representation becomes ever more important.

I have only been involved in the Trust for a relatively short time. I did not know any of the Working Party beforehand, but was welcomed from Day One. Several things have struck me about the people that have set up your Supporters Trust.

Firstly, they are incredibly passionate about Cardiff rugby, safeguarding the clubs' collective history and making sure that supporters have a say in the future direction of rugby in the city. A huge amount of effort and personal time has been sacrificed to get to this position.

Secondly, the working party contains some very skilled professional people. From leadership, to marketing, governance and finance. There is a very strong skillset throughout.

Thirdly, the working party at every turn has sought to do things for the right reasons i.e. for the benefit of the Trust members. There are no personal agendas on show at working party meetings – nobody is in this for personal gain, just a shared vision and love of Cardiff rugby.

Fourthly, they are impressively welcoming and inclusive, and always thinking about new ways to engage the members and reach out to more.

It would be a great honour for me to be elected to the Board to help continue this work.

Instructions on reverse