

STEVE COOMBS PERSONAL STATEMENT - BOARD MEMBER 2021

I was co-opted onto the CF10 board last summer. Being a board member through the past 8 months has been an education and also a privilege. It has been a turbulent period for Cardiff Rugby but the latest developments are hugely positive. The potential has always been there for this club to not only be great in the history books, but great on the field. We may finally be getting back to where we should be.

I'm a third generation Cardiff rugby fan, was being taken to games before I was old enough to understand what was going on and had my first junior season ticket in 1989. I'm sad that my late father didn't live long enough to see this week's news regarding the rebranding. I know he would have been delighted. But I inherited that appreciation for the club's history and ethos and I'm excited that the club have finally done the right thing.

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 and the club values this.

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.

In terms of education, I've a degree in English from the University of London and a Masters in Film from Aberystwyth. I've been a teacher and a professional scriptwriter and have worked in several countries. I currently live in Gloucestershire where I try not to be too envious of the thriving professional rugby culture enjoyed by fans of Bath and Gloucester.

I've contributed several history related blogs to the CF10 site. I enjoy writing those and hope they increase appreciation of the club's history and what Cardiff Rugby represents. In future we hope to collaborate more with Cardiff Rugby on raising awareness of the club's heritage.

I can see an exciting future for both Cardiff Rugby and the Trust and hope to be able to make a contribution.