

City Fans United / Chester FC – Board appointments – AGM 2017

Candidate Manifesto – Mike Day

The order of the candidates has been selected at random by the independent scrutineer



Nominated by Barrie Hipkiss and Ian Swettenham

ABOUT YOU – please provide whatever details you are happy to share in respect of your personal/family circumstances.

Born in Chester, I have lived in the Ellesmere Port area all my life. Married for 25 years with two grown-up children. We are all season ticket holders and attend matches as a three-generation family group.

Self-employed for over 35 years, my working background is in commercial photography, archival photography (local history), IT, graphic and website design, a major part of my current daily routine includes website design and management on a freelance basis.

YOUR AFFILIATION TO Chester Football Club – to include years supported, first game, favourite memory.

I have followed Chester since 1975 and have been a season-ticket holder since the last season at Sealand Road in 1989-90 including the exile years at Macclesfield. The first game I can remember clearly attending was against Aston Villa in the League Cup Semi final in 1975. I have many fond memories of these Chester City days; cup runs etc. However, I have probably enjoyed more the excitement of being involved, as a fan, at the start of the new era in 2010; the meeting at the Guild Hall and some unforgettable games: the pre-season friendly at Colwyn Bay, the 3-2 win at FC United and the amazing followings at Garforth and Barnsley; travelling to some quirky and obscure grounds, meeting some amazing football people along the journey and following the club through the three incredible championship seasons.

HOW CAN YOU ADD VALUE TO THE CFU BOARD – describe your skills, expertise, drive and enthusiasm.

I am an existing board member having been elected by the membership at the 2014 AGM. Prior to joining the board as a co-optee in January 2014, I played a full part in the 2013 CFU Structure Working Group, helping to research and analyse the various organisational possibilities working closely with Supporters Direct. As a result I have a good understanding of the current organisational model and relationship between Operational and CFU boards.

As a member of both the Community Trust and CFU boards, I have continued to play a key liaison role between the two boards. The Trust has thrived during this time and the relationship between Trust and Club has never been stronger.

Fellow director Brian Burns and I have worked together as directors for Youth, overseeing the continued development of the Chester FC Youth section. We quickly moved to re-establish board involvement with the Youth academy which had sadly lapsed. We recognised the talents of Calum McIntyre and installed him as head of Youth section (initially volunteer role) when the opportunity arose. We investigated and negotiated various options for establishing a Scholarship Academy that would suit both the needs and ethos of the club,

and this season sees the launch of the Chester FC Youth Team Scholarship programme. The continued success and reputation of the Chester FC Youth section is something we should all be immensely proud of and is a testament to the hard work put in by volunteers since the re-birth of our club, it's been a huge honour to have been able to contribute to that.

With a broad knowledge of IT gathered over 20+ years I provide support to the club, CEO and CFU board, being the main contact between the football club and its IT provider Obsidian. I have also worked on, and developed, websites for club and community trust, and helped with the recent transition to the new official club website developed by MBNA volunteers.

On match days I have a variety of regular tasks principally including IT support for the media group; working with NATV and BT Sport, formatting and uploading the match footage, post-match to meet tight deadlines.

I am also proud to have been able to use my photographic skills over recent seasons, providing well-received studio portrait shots of squad players, staff, youth and women's teams.

TIME – how much time can you devote to your portfolio, can you attend board meetings; will you be available to host visiting directors prior to home games and be available to attend away games on a rotational basis.

I will continue to spend as much time as possible on my portfolio within the constraints of my own business and continue to attend all board meetings and carry out match day director duties.

Being self-employed, I am generally available at most times during the day, should any issues arise and can usually attend any necessary daytime appointments given adequate notice

I am a strong supporter of the fan owned club model; we are always striving to achieve more supporter involvement, making people feel like they belong and are contributing to the cause at a level with which they feel comfortable. I believe that as a fan-owned club, Chester FC has the opportunity to be innovative and do things differently from other clubs, whilst doing all that is required to achieve our aim of achieving promotion to the Football League

At this stage in the clubs development I think that a certain amount of continuity is essential. I would relish the opportunity to offer my skills and enthusiasm, along with my board experience to carry on my work for Chester FC.

City Fans United / Chester FC – Board appointments – AGM 2017

Candidate Manifesto – Sam Swash

The order of the candidates has been selected at random by the independent scrutineer



Nominated by Josh Swash and Charlotte Walton

ABOUT YOU – please provide whatever details you are happy to share in respect of your personal/family circumstances.

Intentionally left blank by the candidate.

YOUR AFFILIATION TO Chester Football Club – to include years supported, first game, favourite memory.

Like getting addicted to anything, I never set out to get hooked on Chester FC. I was first dragged down here by a Chester supporting school friend when I was 16 years old and have never looked back. Some of you might remember a younger me attempting to sell raffle tickets for the club outside the stadium many years ago – before I ended up being threatened with a stadium ban for sneaking homemade “Vaughan Out” flags into the ground back in the dark days of 2008.

HOW CAN YOU ADD VALUE TO THE CFU BOARD – describe your skills, expertise, drive and enthusiasm.

My background is in business. I have spent two years working in Process Improvement at URENCO UK, the world’s second largest supplier of enriched uranium to the nuclear power industry. My job was to improve process efficiency, manage projects and make effective cost-savings across the business. Before that, I set up my own wholesale clothing business whilst I was studying for a Politics degree at university, which I successfully managed for two and a half years. Last year, I received my Master’s degree in Business Consultancy, specialising in Operational Excellence. So, whilst I might be quite young, I think I have some of the business experience which is a pre-requisite for being able to serve effectively on the board of directors of what is not just a football club, but a successful community business turning over more than £1 million a year.

Currently, I provide freelance process improvement support to individuals in the nuclear industry whilst I am studying for my PhD. I guest lecture at university in Politics and International Relations and provide support to undergraduate students with their final-year dissertations. My role also provides me with the opportunity to work alongside charities in supporting school leavers from low-income families with their applications for university.

I also have experience of working within government – I spent time working in the Department of Culture, Media and Sport in 2012, during which time I helped with governmental preparations for the London 2012 Olympics, as well as working alongside the Football Supporters Federation in presenting reports to ministers and MP’s on the implementation of safe standing in English football stadiums. As such, I have developed a network of connected individuals and organisations within sporting circles who can be used and lobbied to aid the club’s long term development.

I am a pragmatist and I’m not afraid to admit it – I will never agree to anything that jeopardises the long-term future of our football club in return for short-term injections of success. The club has to exercise strict financial responsibility whilst growing sustainably so that we can realise our ambition of returning to the Football

League. Nor do I see my position on the board as an opportunity to represent my own views – it is the duty of board members to represent the views of the membership, not to further their own personal agendas, even if that requires making tough decisions. I will never forget that and will always be a voice for the majority in all boardroom decision making processes.

I am someone who loves attention to detail. Whilst I might not be the best speaker or orator, if you give me a pile of books, a report, or put me in front of a computer – I'll get you the answers that you need. Why is that important to Chester FC? Because this football club and its fans are full of great ideas (3G pitches, community share schemes, extending the Blues Bar, social media marketing campaigns etc.) but the limitations of our model means that sometimes these ideas don't always come to fruition. Having spent five years at university, with another four to follow, I have the research and analytical skills required to ensure the club is able to make evidenced and informed decisions regarding the implementation of the great ideas our fans, volunteers and staff have. I was co-opted onto the board of directors in June to start work on this and would love the opportunity to continue.

This football club is unique, it is special – sometimes we can forget that. We need to preserve this club for the generations of our young supporters to come. Managers, players, directors – they come and they go – but the fans, the members and the volunteers remain – they are the beating heart of this football club. They need a diverse board of directors of young and old, of men and women who have the combined skills, experience and ambition to guide our club to a prosperous future. I hope you will consider me as a part of that puzzle and decide to vote for me so that I can continue the work I have started.

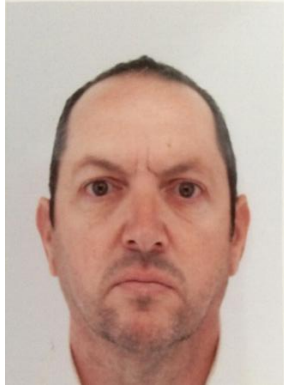
TIME – how much time can you devote to your portfolio, can you attend board meetings; will you be available to host visiting directors prior to home games and be available to attend away games on a rotational basis.

Intentionally left blank by the candidate.

City Fans United / Chester FC – Board appointments – AGM 2017

Candidate Manifesto – David Harrington-Wright

The order of the candidates has been selected at random by the independent scrutineer



Nominated by Edward Hewitt-Symonds and Mark Hallows

ABOUT YOU – please provide whatever details you are happy to share in respect of your personal/family circumstances.

Married to Fiona for 21 years, no children, but two mad Scottish terrier dogs! I have many varied interests, all forms of sport (as a spectator!) but especially Football and Formula 1. Away from sport, I spend a fair bit of time on my passion of photography, and can often be seen around Chester and North Wales with my trusty Nikon! Travel is also fairly high on my list, much prefer city breaks to sitting on a beach, Barcelona, Oslo and Rome are favourites, but pretty well anywhere with interesting sites!

YOUR AFFILIATION TO Chester Football Club – to include years supported, first game, favourite memory.

I first went to a game at the old ground in about 1975, followed the team from then really. Had some great memories, especially seeing Ian Rush play. Some great memories of matches against Wrexham of course!

I have fond memories also of attending matches with my Best Man, someone just a month younger than me, who we went right through school together, went to the matches with his Dad, and even to this day will mention the atmosphere at the old ground – my aim is to get him and his brother back as season ticket holders!

HOW CAN YOU ADD VALUE TO THE CFU BOARD – describe your skills, expertise, drive and enthusiasm.

As I have been in business in Chester and North Wales for over 30 years, I have a lot of good business contacts. As well as being heavily involved in a networking group (BNI), I am a strategic partner with the West Cheshire and North Wales Chamber of Commerce. This gives me great access to influential business people across the whole area, and can help the club with not just sponsorship opportunities but by working closely with Mark Maguire we may be able to use a lot of expertise at either no cost or a much-reduced basis, all saving money that can then be used elsewhere in the club.

Already I have had many approaches from clients and contacts wanting more information on how they can help Chester FC, and indeed I hope over the coming months some of these will lead to great benefit for the club, and supporters. I have already had a few conversations with fans like myself who have stood by the club through the tougher times, and desperately want to see fortunes on and off the pitch improve! They do go hand in hand, and even little changes and small increases in budgets here and there can make a big difference over the course of a season, and even further ahead.

I have also previously been a fundraiser with the Wales Air Ambulance, giving talks to various groups on the

work of that charity, and have been actively involved with SHARE, the Homeless and Refugee charity based in Chester and Mold. All this gives a wide range of contact to all manner of people, from literally all walks of life, and can make you appreciate just how lucky we are to have the time, the health, and the money to be able to attend the Swansway Stadium! I hope in time that the fundraising knowledge I have built up will also be of benefit to the club in some capacity.

TIME – how much time can you devote to your portfolio, can you attend board meetings; will you be available to host visiting directors prior to home games and be available to attend away games on a rotational basis.

I can attend almost every home game, and some of the away matches. I am happy to devote whatever hours are needed to carry out the duties, and have already attended not just the regular CFU Board meetings, but the fundraising committee and the Governance board. I am happy to give at least 10 hours a month, more if necessary, and being based a stone's throw from the Stadium certainly helps from a time point of view!

There is relatively little restriction on my working day, I can pretty well move my diary to suit – albeit somethings crop up at the last minute, its pretty rare.

City Fans United / Chester FC – Board appointments – AGM 2017

Candidate Manifesto - Neil Bellis

The order of the candidates has been selected at random by the independent scrutineer



Nominated by Richard Bellis and Martin Williams

ABOUT YOU – please provide whatever details you are happy to share in respect of your personal/family circumstances.

My name is Neil Bellis and I'm 26. I was born in Chester and grew up in Hawarden/Colwyn Bay. I got married last year to Sophie and I have two brothers who are regulars at the club – Gareth and Richard.

I have a degree in Biomedical Sciences and a Postgraduate Diploma in Newspaper Journalism, both from Cardiff University. I previously worked at the Chester Standard Newspaper for four years as a journalist, but I've recently joined the Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service as a Communications Officer.

YOUR AFFILIATION TO Chester Football Club – to include years supported, first game, favourite memory.

I have been a supporter of the club since 2004, my first game was the match against Scarborough (glory hunter I know!). I have been a regular at both home and away games throughout the years. In 2011 my brother (Richard) and I founded The Blue & White, a fanzine about, as our tagline says, 'Chester FC, football, and other stuff' which was also intended to raise funds for the club. So far we have donated over £3,000 back to the club in various ways. In 2014 I was elected onto the CFU board and given the communications portfolio. I also served for a time as vice-chairman in 2015.

My favourite memory is still the first home game after we reformed and beat Trafford 6-0! It was a fantastic night and truly demonstrated the power of fan ownership.

HOW CAN YOU ADD VALUE TO THE CFU BOARD – describe your skills, expertise, drive and enthusiasm.

I have served on the board for the past three years, which has given me a solid grounding of the challenges and opportunities which face the club, and I believe that experience, and continuity, is vital to the club moving forward.

Since I have been on the board I have introduced a number of initiatives to improve communications between the CFU, the club, and its fans. I launched the streaming service for Exiles which is the only service of its type in the country, oversaw a restructuring of the media team, the launch of a dedicated owners section on the CFU website and I was one of the leaders of a large team which helped plan, designed deliver the new club website after our contract with Football League interactive expired. I have also been the contact for the club for Supporters Direct and our local MPs and have taken part in lobbying Parliament to change tax laws for supporter owned clubs.

If reelected I will continue to improve club communications starting with updating the rest of our websites so they are fit for purpose. I am currently working as part of a team on the CFU site and have plans for more sites after that, such as a commercial site. I also plan to take another look at the streaming service to make sure we are using the most effective system, as the service was initially launched just before the advent of Periscope and Facebook Live. The media team is also planning to launch more services for fans in the future, taking into account new services and technologies available.

I have really enjoyed my time on the board of City Fans United so far and I feel I have the drive and enthusiasm to continue to make a success of the role.

TIME – how much time can you devote to your portfolio, can you attend board meetings; will you be available to host visiting directors prior to home games and be available to attend away games on a rotational basis.

I have rarely missed board or CFU meetings over the past three years. I do work full time, but I have been able to carry out my duties effectively throughout that time and will continue to do so.

City Fans United / Chester FC – Board appointments – AGM 2017

Candidate Manifesto – Calvin Hughes

The order of the candidates has been selected at random by the independent scrutineer



Nominated by Mark Howell and Richard Prince

ABOUT YOU – please provide whatever details you are happy to share in respect of your personal/family circumstances

Worked in the Petrochemical Industry for many years, then diverted into the Construction and Utilities Industry in Project Team Management, working on large Project schemes such as Welsh Water Amp Pipeline refurbishment covering North and Mid Wales; then large Construction Projects such as Liverpool 1 Paradise Street Project in Liverpool (£900m) / Unity Development Project Residential and Retail (LFC have their main office in the retail block of the building) Liverpool (£65m) / Princess Dock Residential Development Project (£60m) / New Stand Development Aintree Racecourse / and was involved in the pre-planning Project work on the proposed new LFC Stadium at Stanley Park Liverpool. Was part of a Project Management Team that ensured all finished Projects were on time and within budget. Then I moved onto the Manchester Metrolink Tram Project.

Unfortunately due to a old reoccurring Back complaint I had to take a complete change of lifestyle to keep mobile; and after studying and planning for 6 months I started a Dog Walking Business in 2010; this obviously involves you being completely trustworthy when entering Clients houses to access dogs for walking etc; this involves Clients in the Chester and Wirral areas.

(Played football myself many years ago in my teens and early twenties in local Saturday and Sunday adult Leagues finished playing in the West Cheshire league.

Then went on to play Squash for a number of years including taking SRA Coaching badge in the early Eighties).

YOUR AFFILIATION TO Chester Football Club – to include years supported, first game, favourite memory.

Supported the Club since early Seventies, going to Sealand Road with my Father, seeing the great run in the League Cup; seeing the ground packed to nearly 20,000 fans. Over the years there watching some great Chester players such as Graham Turner, Cliff Sear, John James, Trevor Storton, Ian Rush, Stewart Rimmer to name just a few. Attended many fixtures at the old Sealand Road ground over the years but favourite memory has to be the League Cup fixture against Aston Villa great atmosphere and great occasion for the Club.

The home games at Macclesfield were not good travelling etc, but due to the circumstances were a necessity.

When the old ground was demolished and the Club moved to Bumpers Lane, I was fortunate to help behind the scenes so to speak, and for a number of seasons was a turnstyle operative in the East Stand, then in 2010 the opportunity came up to be the Football Secretary for Chester FC.

HOW CAN YOU ADD VALUE TO THE CFU BOARD – describe your skills, expertise, drive and enthusiasm.

Able to offer extensive knowledge and expertise in Business Administration involving planning and Time Management. Being able to meet deadlines and work under pressure.

Also from 2010 to 2015 was volunteer Football Secretary for Chester FC, and also season 2014 – 2015 volunteer Head of the Youth Academy.

Able to offer the Board extensive football knowledge and expertise covering all aspects of administration within the game, and dealing with various personnel from Managers to Club Chairman and various bodies and organisations within the game such as the FA local and National level and Fifa etc.

If I am successful to be elected to the Board of CFU / Chester FC, I will be offering to use my previous time at the Club to enhance, grow and progress the football side, to hopefully include in the near future obtaining our own training facilities which would enable us to create a further revenue stream for the Club going forward.

Having been involved behind the scenes at the Club 2010 / 2015, have seen some great times and some not so good; but the Club with the CFU model is in good hands and I will be giving it 101% as I did during those five years, but this time I will be overseeing and helping to implement decisions to take the Club further towards its goal of reaching the Football League as Chester FC, owned by supporters/members of the CFU.

TIME – how much time can you devote to your portfolio, can you attend board meetings; will you be available to host visiting directors prior to home games and be available to attend away games on a rotational basis.

Being self employed would be able to time manage my work load, for CFU/CFC related work as required and be available for Board meetings etc, and if required away fixtures.

City Fans United / Chester FC – Board appointments – AGM 2017

Candidate Manifesto – David Williams

The order of the candidates has been selected at random by the independent scrutineer



Nominated by Bob Marsden and Rachel Nickless

ABOUT YOU - please provide whatever details you are happy to share in respect of your personal/family circumstances.

I am Dave Williams, a season ticket holder in the East Stand.

Despite being disabled from birth, I earned an HNC (Distinction) in Computer Science back in the 1980s before having a 28 year career in the IT industry. Initially, I was part of Manweb's computer department then, following a takeover by Scottish Power, my team was outsourced with IBM the most recent winners of the contract.

I started off as a Computer Programmer but progressed to become a Capacity Planner providing monthly reports to the board of Scottish Power advising how their mainframe could be managed in the most cost-effective fashion. This involved data analysis and forecasting.

Away from football, my interests include sports journalism – I cover car racing at Oulton Park and Anglesey Circuits for various publications and websites. I am also experienced in web development having built, and currently maintain, a couple of motorsport related websites. I am familiar with the Wordpress product that was used to construct www.ChesterFC.com.

Over the past 12 months I have served on the National Formula Ford 1600 Forum as the Media Rep. This has provided me with experience of serving on a committee.

YOUR AFFILIATION TO Chester Football Club – to include years supported, first game, favourite memory.

A life-long Cestrian, I've always followed the City's football team. The fan ownership model really captured my imagination as it allows any supporter to step forwards and make a difference – both to the club and to the community. I have been a regular at the Swansway Chester Stadium from shortly after the reformation.

There is a role for everyone to play at Chester FC and I make my contribution as a member of the Match-Day Programme proof-reading team.

I've also been part of the Inclusive Blues since they were established.

While I enjoyed the 3 consecutive promotions and then the highs and lows of becoming established in the National League, for me the most important part about being associated with Chester Football Club is the community aspect. This is the thing that really differentiates us from other clubs.

Since I became involved with Chester FC I have made many friends. Disabled and non-disabled; old and young;

male and female. Regardless of their religious beliefs, ethnic background or sexual orientation they are all my friends. For me, this is what being part of an inclusive football club is all about.

An example of the superb camaraderie is the amazing amount of concern expressed by fellow supporters over the issues relating to the facilities available to those who use wheelchairs.

HOW CAN YOU ADD VALUE TO THE CFU BOARD – describe your skills, expertise, drive and enthusiasm.

Primarily, I would like to bring my experience of managing disability related projects to the board.

Due to Cerebral Palsy, throughout my life I have had to acquire various aids and services, arranging grant funding when required. These include my bespoke toe-operated keyboards, a powered wheelchair and drive from wheelchair van plus many modifications to my home to meet my needs.

Having acquired the necessary equipment to enable me to live as full and independent a life as possible, it has provided me with skills and knowledge most people don't require but which are very relevant to improving the facilities for people who use wheelchairs – in particular, enabling them to access the upper floor of the hospitality/office block in the East Stand and providing a raised, sheltered viewing platform.

While it is difficult for people who don't know me well to understand my speech, the internet has opened up many possibilities. I am able to undertake research and then, via email, liaise with service providers and arrange grant funding. I like to think I am the kind of person who makes things happen!

I have also recently delivered motivational presentations – at a school and to a local charity. These covered how the challenges relating to my disability were overcome. I plan to do more of these.

By doing the presentations on behalf of Chester FC and including an explanation of what a great club this is, I can spread the word across the community. I hope via this activity to engage with people from as diverse a range of backgrounds as possible.

If I were to undertake this task, I would also be looking out for what the club can do for others. Hopefully, at the end of the day, it will improve our standing around the city and help expand the fan-base.

Aside from these areas, I can bring to the board my “mainstream” experience from the IT and journalistic spheres as outlined in the “About You” section.

For the club as a whole, I want to see it continue to develop in a sustainable fashion and for Chester FC to be in the Football League where it belongs.

TIME - how much time can you devote to your portfolio, can you attend board meetings; will you be available to host visiting directors prior to home games and be available to attend away games on a rotational basis.

As my job in IT recently moved abroad I am no longer in salaried employment therefore I have a great deal of time to dedicate to the CFU Board.

Because board meetings are usually held upstairs in the East Stand, prior to submitting my application I sought and received confirmation that I would be able to dial-in and attend them remotely if necessary. Attendance would be my Number 1 priority.

With regards to hosting our opponent's directors at home games, until there is wheelchair access to the upper floor of the East Stand that will not be feasible however I would endeavour to be present at as many matches as possible and provide director representation at ground floor level.

Where away fixtures have wheelchair access to boardrooms, I would be happy to attend and take along my unique toe operated keyboard to enable me to communicate. What a great advert for Chester FC that would be to have someone with my level of disability taking on such an active role.

City Fans United / Chester FC – Board appointments – AGM 2017

Candidate Manifesto – Andrew Morris

The order of the candidates has been selected at random by the independent scrutineer



Nominated by Rosalind Lynes and Mark Salmon

ABOUT YOU – please provide whatever details you are happy to share in respect of your personal/family circumstances.

Born and raised in Chester I currently work as Regional HR Manager for a local Health and Social Care charity where I manage the HR and Resourcing function within the Cheshire and Wirral region, prior to this role I worked for many years within the NHS and Local Authority.

I hold a degree in Human Resources alongside Chartered Membership to the CIPD (Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development).

I am a keen runner and have taken part in several Marathons and other races both for enjoyment and to raise money for local charities.

YOUR AFFILIATION TO Chester Football Club – to include years supported, first game, favourite memory.

Although my first footballing memory was at Sealand Road and latterly at Moss Rose my true affiliation with Chester began in 1992 with the return to the City from Exile and getting a season ticket for my 9th Birthday and Chester FC has remained in the family ever since attending games with Family and Friends standing on the Harry Mac.

25 years since my first season ticket my excitement and enthusiasm for the club hasn't changed and since the rebirth of the club I feel we have progressed to become unrecognisable from the club we had unfortunately become prior to its closure.

That said I feel that we are only part way through the journey I am truly of the belief that the supporter ownership model can be successful and a strong community ethos is essential for this to happen but for this to be successful we need to be open and transparent with a strong business professional approach.

HOW CAN YOU ADD VALUE TO THE CFU BOARD – describe your skills, expertise, drive and enthusiasm.

I am a firm believer that for this club to be successful we need to be community focussed and successfully ran as a business which will allow the club to be sustainable and self-sufficient to achieve the primary sporting goal of playing at the highest possible level.

Since being Co-Opted on to the Board in May 2017 I have been involved in reviewing and developing a number of internal processes and policies linked to Human Resources, covering areas such as Recruitment, Appraisals and a Code of conduct which are in the process of being implemented. These are common place in many businesses to support employees in fulfilling their job role to the maximum.

To support the Club in achieving its potential it will require an actively engaged supporter base. However this

requires a culture of transparency, engagement and trust from all parties. These are principles which can easily be lost within the pace of running an organisation however are vital for the success of a supporter ran club.

I have over 12 years' experience working within Human Resources and having held roles across the Public Private and Charity Sector I have learnt the importance of, and skill set to, effectively manage teams and services to meet the goals and objectives set of them through effective goal setting and performance management alongside developing a culture of ownership and accountability.

Over the last 4 years I have actively been involved within the Governance group supporting the governance agenda for the club through processes of Audits and risk assessments supporting a culture of accountability for all.

These skills alongside managing a HR function and being part of a range of senior management teams have provided me with a skill set which I believe can support the board bring about the highest level of success and achievement for Chester FC.

TIME – how much time can you devote to your portfolio, can you attend board meetings; will you be available to host visiting directors prior to home games and be available to attend away games on a rotational basis.

Although working predominately Monday to Friday 9-5 I am available to attend any meetings with notice during this time or in the evening and weekends.

I would be available to attend home games and a reasonable number of away games as required.

City Fans United / Chester FC – Board appointments – AGM 2017

Candidate Manifesto – Mark Jones

The order of the candidates has been selected at random by the independent scrutineer



Nominated by Alison Dean and George Jones

ABOUT YOU – please provide whatever details you are happy to share in respect of your personal/family circumstances

Mark Jones – Age 47; married with three teenage boys. A born and bred Cestrian, I moved away from the area in 1991, but returned in 2003. I am now living in Northwich. My eldest son is also a keen Chester supporter and we are regular home and away supporters.

YOUR AFFILIATION TO Chester Football Club – to include years supported, first game, favourite memory.

I have supported Chester since the mid-70's when my father and grandfather first took me to Sealand Road. Throughout my school days I followed the Blues and on moving away from the area I became a member of the 'Exiles'. Since returning to Chester in 2003, I have supported us through 'thick and thin' and have been a season ticket holder, together with my eldest son for many years. Early memories include players such as Trevor Storton, and Milton Graham, and mostly the sights and smells of the Sealand Road end. In later times... that day at Garforth, Matty McGinn's left foot and the away win at Wrexham in our first season back in the Conference stick in the memory.

Some great times, great memories....and a massive part of my life.

HOW CAN YOU ADD VALUE TO THE CFU BOARD – describe your skills, expertise, drive and enthusiasm.

I have been serving on the CFU Governance Board over the past couple of years and can bring extensive business management experience to the Board having held senior/director level positions in blue-chip organisations for many years. My main area of expertise is around HR and training; although I have also worked in positions involving safety, quality, IT and property management.

The main attribute I bring though, is a bond and passion for the football club. I have a genuine desire to help Chester FC grow sustainably; to serve our City, our Community and our Club in equal measure to achieve long term success both on and off the pitch. I am excited by the progress that has been made since reformation. I believe that we have to be ambitious and now want to play my part in helping the club achieve the next level – building a structure and a platform that will eventually see us back in the football league.

TIME – how much time can you devote to your portfolio, can you attend board meetings; will you be available to host visiting directors prior to home games and be available to attend away games on a rotational basis.

I am in full time employment which involves regular travel, but I am in the Chester area most evenings and I can give a regular commitment to attending board meetings and sub-committee meetings in the evenings. I am a regular at home games and therefore able to host visiting Directors. I also travel to a number of away games, and so would happily represent the club at these fixtures.

City Fans United / Chester FC – Board appointments – AGM 2017

Candidate Manifesto – David O’Toole

The order of the candidates has been selected at random by the independent scrutineer



Nominated by Jonathan Freeman and Deborah Steele

ABOUT YOU – please provide whatever details you are happy to share in respect of your personal/family circumstances.

Hello, my name is David O’Toole. Currently, I work as an Assistant Accountant at a Manufacturer in Wrexham, serve as a Co-opted Director on the CFU Board since April, with the responsibility of the CFU portfolio, and have entered my final year of Accounting Qualifications on a part-time study basis. I serve in the Army Reserve with our local Mercian Regiment (formerly known as The Cheshire’s) and play football for the Chester Supporters FC, in the national supporter’s league, the IFA.

YOUR AFFILIATION TO Chester Football Club – to include years supported, first game, favourite memory.

I attend to my first game in the 2002-2003 season, during our run to the playoffs and I’ve never supported any other team since. I like most, stuck it out through those final years under Vaughan and it proved to be worth the suffering and despair when the newco Chester FC was formed. To be honest, my best moment of supporting Chester wasn’t even on the pitch. Colwyn Bay away, in our first ever game was an atmosphere of sheer pride and passion, the ability to wear a Chester shirt to a game again was all that mattered.

HOW CAN YOU ADD VALUE TO THE CFU BOARD – describe your skills, expertise, drive and enthusiasm.

As stated above, I’m an Assistant Accountant. Laurence Kirby provides exceptional support to the Board and the Club through his role as the Finance Director; due to the level and understanding of the work required to fulfil this role, it is vital that we have a back-up existing within the business. Considering I’m on course to be a qualified Accountant by the time the next AGM arises, and would have had the opportunity to get a full season under my belt, this would provide the club with a serious succession plan to its most important role, if it is required. Until then, a second set of financial skills is still of great of benefit to the club.

In April, I was co-opted the Board to be responsible for the CFU membership portfolio, ahead of the June renewals period. Many will have noted this has now been rebranded to the CFU Ownership, a small change that I made, to recognise that this is a fan owned football club and that most individuals consider themselves to be owners of Chester FC, irrespective of legal terminology. This combined with the outstanding, hard work of our volunteers, has helped to stem the year on year declining numbers of members in our society. I hope that I can be elected so I can continue to carry out this project that I started, which aims to attract new members to the CFU, through the production of an Ownership Pack and other marketing strategies. These I’m currently targeting will be out in time to hit the Christmas market, an income stream we can’t afford to miss, with the Ownership Pack then become a yearly option upon renewal/joining.

Then there’s the actual marketing and selling of the football club; our marketing should be based on the attraction of a fan owned football club, something I believe we haven’t done successfully enough in the last couple of years. I’ve begun by this by inserting a micro-marketing initiative within this round of AGM letters,

this is a very simple measure, yet its effect is that we can reach up to 10,000 people in terms of marketing the club. I've also begun to seek long term partnerships with key events in Chester, for example my discussions with the Chester Marathon have been very promising, which will allow us to market very financially effectively, to large numbers of potential customers within our area. It is on the back of these kind of initiatives that we can slowly raise awareness of Chester FC and our fan ownership, with the outcome being, that over time we increase our attendances.

This AGM will elect directors who will see the club through to its first decade in 2020. It is of my opinion and my proposal that as a community club, by the time we reach that landmark, we should have in place a part-time paid Chester FC Women's team, who have access to the same facilities as their male counterparts. This would be achieved by bringing the Women's team under the control of the CFU, instead of the Comm Trust, and offering a combined Chester FC Season Ticket, where by you can attend both Men's and Women's matches. The community trust has been exceptional in forming the Chester FC Women's team, they've provided a strong basis from which we can push on, but to make that key step from Amateur to Semi-professional would require the CFU's involvement. Whilst the fact the Women's game is the fastest growing form of sport in the world, makes this financially viable, our club should be aiming to achieve a paid Chester FC Women's team in the name of equality within football.

TIME – how much time can you devote to your portfolio, can you attend board meetings; will you be available to host visiting directors prior to home games and be available to attend away games on a rotational basis.

During my co-opted period on the board I have attended all bar one of CFU Board Meetings, all CFU Meetings and two Ops Board Meetings. I have been representative of the Board at matches and I am happy for this to continue, home and away.