



ELECTION STATEMENTS 2019

The following candidate statements (200 words maximum) were submitted by candidates for the 2019 FST Board election. They are presented in alphabetical order.

Ian Clarke

I rejoined the FST board last year having been an early board member in its days as Back to the Cottage. I've been a Hammersmith End season ticket holder for over 35 years and have missed very few away games during that time so feel I have a good understanding of what's important for Fulham supporters.

In the last year I have taken ownership of the rebuild of the Trust website as well as analysis of the Fan Survey results and production of consultation material on ticket pricing.

I have also attended the majority of Structured Dialogue meetings between the Club and the Trust in which I feel we have made good progress in representing supporters' views and effecting change. I am strongly of the view that frequent and open conversation with the Club is the best way to improve the experience for all supporters.

I have always been a staunch defender of Craven Cottage as the only home for our club and this will never change. Thankfully we have an exciting new Riverside Stand to look forward to but in a world of big TV deals and sponsorships we need to make sure the supporters voices are always heard.

Jerry Cope

I have been a Fulham season ticket holder and fanatic for about 50 years, including away season tickets when they existed, although home responsibilities limit my away travel now to about 1/3 rd of games. I joined the Trust at the beginning, and am a huge admirer of the model that it has worked hard to establish with the Club and its brilliant fight to stay at the Cottage.

I still work, nearly full-time, but with a bit more control on my diary as I have moved into senior roles. As well as a willingness to roll my sleeves up and help out wherever I can, eg as an existing Board Member I assist on membership records, the main additional skill that I could bring is in finance and organisation, which, without being a qualified accountant, I have to practice daily in my work life. I am also an experienced general manager in a variety of industries.

In summary I hugely admire the work that the Trust is doing, and would love to continue to do my bit.



Sue Couch

Having served as membership secretary since joining the FST Board a year ago, I would be honoured to be offered the opportunity to build on the relationships and progress we have made together. I am a representative of the FST at the Independent Advisory Group for policing at football in London, and am keen to continue in that role.

My passion for Fulham remains unabated since 1987 when I served as press officer for the Supporters' Club, later being deeply involved in the Fulham 2000 and Back to the Cottage campaigns.

Our purpose then was to keep Fulham FC at Craven Cottage. That achieved, as football evolves in ever more corporate ways, fans still need a voice guaranteed to be heard by the Club. I feel the Trust should represent the generations who supported Fulham through thick and thin, and who still spend their wages and time demonstrating this commitment, as well as newer fans. Our reputation as a safe and welcoming family club is greatly important to me.

I am conscious that we need a better gender balance on the Board and hope we can attract more women and girls as members and represent them well.

Dan Crawford

I was a passionate supporter of the Back to the Cottage campaign to secure Fulham's return to Craven Cottage, which was eventually successful in 2003. This sparked my appetite to join the growing supporters' movement and I became a member of the Fulham Supporters' Trust and became actively involved in both Supporters Direct and the Football Supporters' Federation. During my time on the Trust board, I have helped to establish regular meetings between Fulham and the Trust and worked hard to establish the Memorandum of Understanding that formalised our relationship.

I have also worked for Supporters Direct on football policy and represented football fans on their England and Wales Council. My background is in research, communications and politics and I feel that I bring a variety of skills to support the work of the Trust Board. I would like to stand for re-election to the Board in order to strengthen the relationship between the Club and Fulham fans and ensure supporters' views are taken into account when decisions are made concerning the matchday experience, Craven Cottage, the new Riverside Stand and other footballing matters.



Hayley Davinson

As a lifelong Fulham fan, raised on Lysia Street, I care about our club, ground and fans more than is probably good for me. For that reason I'd like to be selected to represent our fans as part of the Fulham Supporters Trust.

From a Fulham-supporting family, I saw my first game aged seven in 1994 (a rare home win v Plymouth - dreadful season otherwise). Barring university years, I've been a season ticket holder ever since.

I've assisted campaigns to keep Fulham at the Cottage in various ways, from carol singing for Fulham 2000 to tacking a 'Fulham people say yes to a new stadium' poster in my locker in year 8 – my classmates and teachers were well aware of the campaign!

I would be proud to join the FST board and a team that exists to keep Craven Cottage as our rightful home.

It's also important to me to keep Fulham a truly community club, something I think the Trust already does very well, and I would love to be able to grow over the coming seasons.

Outside of Fulham, my background is in marketing, communications and events and I'd happily add those skills to the FST.

Chris Gilbertson

As an existing board member of the FST, I have spearheaded the Trust's work on the Riverside Stand redevelopment, including leading discussions with the club over the temporary relocation of Riverside Stand Season Ticket Holders. As a now former Riverside Season Ticket Holder I believe it is of paramount importance that the Trust continue to engage in discussions with the club throughout the redevelopment. I would like to continue my role on the Trust Board so that I may continue to represent fans in respect of this important ongoing project, both in the interim period and as we look forward to our future with the new stand.

As a local resident to Craven Cottage I also represent fans and residents with regards to local issues. This is an area where the club has often failed in the past and I would like to continue to represent the interests of football fans locally both to the club and within the wider local community.

Alongside these specific areas of importance, as a Chartered Surveyor I am able to bring property and business experience to the Trust.



Tom Greatrex

I was one of the founders of Back to the Cottage, which later became incorporated as the Fulham Supporters' Trust and having returned to the south of England after living in Scotland for several years, have got back involved in the Trust in recent years.

I think the voice of Fulham fans is very important, both in good times and bad. As a fanbase, we have had to communicate, persuade and sometimes campaign for the best interests of our Club, and maintaining Fulham in Fulham, back at Craven Cottage. In recent years, the Trust has been able to develop a strong dialogue with the Club while maintaining our independence. We have had some successes – but there is much more to do to be an effective, broad based and representative Trust working in the interests of our members.

I would particularly like the new Board, of which I hope to be a part, bring some ideas to help us communicate better to the wider fanbase, help the Club take into account supporter concerns and interests when they make decisions affecting our match going experience, and to celebrate our Club's history, heritage and unique character.

Michael Gregg

I wish to stand as a board member of the FST because having been a board member until last summer I feel I can offer experience and ideas to help push the trust forward in a number of areas.

My experience is in membership organisations and having been both a Fulham fan, trust board member and in the late 980's part of the Fulham Supporters Club I'm aware of many of the challengers a fan organisation faces.

My specific issue at this time is customer service and information for fans from not only Fulham but football clubs in general. Fans deserve more openness to information and should be treated in an adult way to understand why Football Clubs implement certain policies and procedures.

If successful as a candidate I will endeavor to represent fans to the best of my ability.



Maureen Grimwood

I am a third generation Fulham supporter. I saw my first match at Craven Cottage in 1957. I was hooked and since then have been a Cottage regular. I was a member of the original Supporters' Club until it folded in 1969 and a member of the reformed Supporters' Club. I joined Fulham 2000. I have been a member of the Fulham Supporters' Trust from when it began.

I served in the Civil Service for 31 years, the final 17 years being as an Investigating Officer In the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. My duties required me to be a self-starter. I was given a file and it was up to me to complete the enquiry, which included interviews with the subject, referees, and, possibly employers and teachers. I also covered vetting reviews.

My concern, as a regular travelling fan on the Motspur Park coach is that the Club's duty of care to fans can go amiss. I have contacted both the Club and the Trust about recent experiences.

Farrell Monk

Season ticket holder since 2006. My dedication for the football club extends to beyond watching. In 2016, myself and a couple of other fans set up Fulhamish, which has grown from a weekly podcast, to a producer of high-quality media outlet.

I am truly embedded within the culture; I understand what all fans go through daily and fully knowing what it means to support our historic club. During the 2018-19 season, I led on a campaign to highlight the damaging effect on rising match ticket prices by the club on loyal Fulham supporters.

I have a strong desire for social justice, equality and inclusivity which I believe closely matches with the ideals of the Fulham Supporters Trust. Professionally I work for charities that make a real difference. I am currently the Head of Finance for a social mobility charity Causeway Education, which helps disadvantaged children into the top universities therefore driving drive social change. I am also a director at the National Children's Football Alliance, an organisation that improves the lives of disadvantaged children through football.

My skills I can bring are, financial, governance, campaigning, network building and business acumen.



Gerry Pimm

I am a current member of the Board and we have made great strides in what we have achieved for our fans. However, I strongly believe there is more we can strive for. We have exceptional access to senior stakeholders of the club and therefore have opportunities to understand more on how they work as a Club, how their policies impact on the fans, consistency of approach and governance. All football fans should have access to how their club works internally as assurance that the guardians are doing the right thing.

On a personal note I have been a supporter of Fulham since the early 80s. I am determined that we must stay at the Cottage at all costs. We must never get complacent about the possibility of being forced out of our beloved home.

We have attracted many new members and we must aim to retain them and encourage more fans to join us. The more numbers we have the more powerful we are. I have been Secretary of the Trust for the last year and am happy to continue in the role and uphold the governance principles we would expect of our club and in professional life.

Owen Smith

I am the current Treasure for the Fulham Supporters Trust and have been in role since last summer. Aside from ensuring the Trust maintains a strong financial footing I am able to leverage skills from my work in business to help the Trust to improve and safeguard three key areas as much as possible through discussion and challenge of our club – matchday experience and the growth of the club on and off the pitch.

I've been supporting Fulham since I was a child and once I'd been to the Cottage a few times I got the bug. Following Fulham has been my passion ever since, even when I had a long commute from Cardiff, for home and away games, but I wouldn't have had it any other way. I now live in Crystal Palace, still have my season ticket in the Hammersmith end.

I am someone who has built a very strong network of friends through social media, forums and match days, all of whom have a diverse and wide-ranging set of views. I am very proud to be a Fulham fan and incredibly excited for the upcoming season.