

FST Board Election, June 2020 – Candidate Statements

This document contains the proposer, seconder and statement (maximum 200 words) of each candidate standing in the FST Board Election of June 2020. The candidates are listed according to a random draw carried out by the Independent Scrutineer.

Derek Brewer

Co-opted board member standing for election

Proposer: Gerry Pimm

Secunder: David Warner

I have been a Fulham fan since 1967 and a season ticket holder for most of that time. Visiting Craven Cottage has been a big part of my life and it is extraordinary, on reflection, that the Club still plays there given numerous threats to its existence. The Fulham Park Rangers saga all those years ago demonstrates why the existence of the Trust is so important.

I would like to think I can offer something having had a career in Banking before running two International Cricket venues (Trent Bridge and Lord's) for over 13 years. During my time working in professional Sport a key part of my role has focused on enhancing customer experience, so pivotal at any sporting venue.

From 1994 I spent around ten years reporting covering matches for the Fulham Chronicle and gained a great insight into the Club, initially during some very tough times.

Whilst the current owners are showing huge financial commitment which is extremely welcome, the enormous challenges posed to all businesses by COVID-19 heighten the need for a strong Supporters Trust working closely with the Club. It would be a privilege to play a small part in that work.

[196 words]

Gerry Pimm

Elected board member standing for re-election

Proposer: Steve O'Connor

Secunder: David O'Farrell

SINCE I joined the Board in 2017 we have evolved considerably. Our governance, communications and knowledge pool has improved extensively. Our members numbers have increased and we have held the Club to account effectively. Arguably we now walk into an era where we should be consulted more than ever before. The fall out of Covid means we will need to work with the club on a new changing football world. There will potentially be a new way of watching and socialising at football - any changes must benefit the supporters Ticket prices and

availability will need to recognise the changing environment. With the new stand, the return of those displaced from its predecessor will be a burning issue as will prices and availability of seats. Staying at the Cottage should always be paramount in our objectives as should recognising our history and heritage. I will continue to beat that drum. As Secretary for the last 2 years I feel a commitment to keep representing our fans and offering my experience and knowledge. Football without fans is nothing and now more than ever Clubs' need to listen to our voices. We must be at the forefront of the evolution at Fulham.

[200 words]

Simon Duke

Member standing for election

Proposer: Chris Gilbertson

Secunder: Archie Rhind-Tutt

I had my first season ticket at Fulham in 1962 at the age of 4 and have been attending regularly ever since. Fulham is in my family DNA and for many years I have had a season ticket in the Riverside Stand. I understand the ethos and family values of the club and can still claim to have seen more bad times than good. I was one of the 2,176 lowest attendance in 1995 and was there again in 1996 when we were 91st in the league. These low points are balanced out by the highs of attending both our Wembley appearances and the Europa League final.

For many years I was a friend and colleague of Dennis Turner, who many members will know. I had the pleasure of helping him with some of the work he did, particularly in support of former players.

Having recently retired after 42+ years from a senior position with HSBC, I now have time to dedicate to other interests, Fulham being one. I can bring to the FST professional and personal experience as a long standing supporter. I believe my skills, enthusiasm and understanding of club values would help take the Trust forward.

[199 words]

Peter Grinham

Member standing for election

Proposer: Tony Fisher

Secunder: David Lloyd

I was born and bred in Fulham, where I lived there for 23 years.

A regular Supporter since 1959/1960. -25 years + as STH;

Former City based Liability Insurance Underwriter and contract wordings specialist, sitting on market committees.

My Beliefs

1. An independent FST;
2. Our historical past must be properly represented at the club;
3. Maintaining a dialogue with the club;
4. Promote the academy and their outstanding work;
5. To work with a 'Bring me solutions, not problems' approach.

My Previous FST /BTTC history

- Active campaigner for BTTC & FST;
- FST treasurer;
- Regularly met with club on issues of concern;
- Jointly wrote original Election Procedures;
- Bought Johnny Haynes England kit on behalf of FST;
- Attended club / residents meetings re ground development as a historical reference point to separate fact from fiction;

Other matters

- Instigated and completed the Johnny Haynes FST Academy Player of the Year award with FST financial backing;
- Wrote the player eligibility criteria and procedures for aforementioned award.
- Regularly attend academy games; an excellent relationship with academy staff, some players & their families.
- Served on History Group regarding Riverside Stand historic representation display.

[188 words]

Farrell Monk

Elected board member standing for re-election

Proposer: Sammy James

Secunder: George Singer

Season ticket holder since 2006. Regular away fan.

I am truly embedded within the culture; I understand what all fans go through, fully knowing what it means to support our historic club.

My dedication for Fulham extends to beyond watching. In 2016, myself and a couple of other fans set up Fulhamish, a twice-weekly podcast and website that follows the fortunes of our football club.

I have a strong desire for social justice, equality and inclusivity which matches closely to the FST, being accepted onto the board in 2019. I have tried to help wherever I can, specially leading on the Annual Fans Survey. 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.

Professionally I work for charities that make a real difference, currently the Head of Finance for Causeway Education an organisation that aims to break down social and economic barriers to education for disadvantaged students. Furthermore, I am a director at the National Children's Football Alliance, an organisation that improves the lives of children through football.

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

[199 words]

Owen Smith

Elected board member standing for re-election

Proposer: Gerry Pimm

Secunder: Michael Gregg

Following Fulham is my passion, and I love to follow the club as much as I can home & away. I'm happiest when Fulham win, and my friends would say that I'm not my best when we lose, but coming to games, and spending time with friends, is something I wouldn't change for the world.

I can leverage skills from my work in business and the Boardroom to help the Trust improve and safeguard three critical areas that are fundamental to Fulham being Fulham: -

1. Our home must always be at Craven Cottage;
2. Fulham fans having fair access to tickets; and
3. Protecting the sense of community and association we as fans have with Fulham FC.

We are more than just customers, and it is right that the Trust acts as an independent and sometimes critical watchdog of Fulham, it's management and ownership, which are transient, unlike the fan base.

I am running for re-election to Board of the Trust, having first joined the Board and serving as Treasurer since 2018. In that time, bringing the Trust financial organisation and reporting in-line with its obligations has been one of my core priorities, something I'm pleased that has improved.

[200 words]

Les O’Gorman

Member standing for election

Proposer: Jo Grimwood

Secunder: Maureen Grimwood

Why Fulham?

My Grandad became a Fulham supporter when he came to this country from Ireland, this was passed onto my dad then onto me then onto my daughters.

What I love about Fulham is the slightly quirky nature of the club, the left field way it goes about its business and no-one else has a ground like Craven Cottage. My first match was Fulham vs Man Utd, 23 March 1960, Fulham 0 Man Utd 5, so I'm not a glory hunter.

My best ever Fulham moment

Championship Playoff Final

Worst ever Fulham moment

The time around Marler Estates, Fulham Park Rangers etc.

So why vote for me?

I've been a Fulham supporter with many years and have experience as a CWU union rep with Royal Mail I've been involved in many negotiations dealing with a high level of management.

My longevity as a supporter means I've seen the great highs and the massive lows, having travelled to some far off and not very glamorous places, also since early retirement I have time on my hands and would be very happy to fill some of it doing something worthwhile with my skills for the Trust

[195 words]

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