



# FST Board Election

## November 2020

### Candidate Statements

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

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#### **Les O’Gorman**

##### **Member standing for election**

Proposed by: Jo Grimwood

Seconded by: Maureen Grimwood

A vote for me would be the link between our supporters and the club, someone who's not afraid to challenge them. From my working life, I believe I'm good at communicating with people at all levels. I feel questions to be answered include, the transfer policy, the new Riverside stand and how that's going to be utilised once it's completed, will the ordinary supporter be priced out of retaking their seats in the new structure?

I've been a supporter for 60 years, like many, but this season is huge with our Premier League survival at stake. The secure financial future that would build from that and I think our fans as stakeholders in this venture should be allowed, through the Trust, to have access through the structured dialogue but also to have the awkward questions asked; possibly some the club wouldn't want to discuss. Nevertheless, supporters will want to be answered.

We also need to keep reminding the owners that we are a proud club with a lot of history, and whilst we are grateful for their investment in the club, they are just the current guardians.

Make your vote count and get Les on the board!!!

*[197 words]*

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#### **Gavin Megaw**

##### **Member standing for election**

Proposed by: Derek Brewer

Seconded by: Dan Crawford

Football clubs are nothing without fans. I'd love to help the Fulham Supporters Trust continue to safeguard the best interests of all Fulham supporters. I believe that every Fulham fan should know about the Trust and its important work and am committed to using my professional skill-set to make that happen.

I first stood on the Hammersmith End over 22 years ago and have been an active fan ever since. I now have a season ticket with my son in the Johnny Haynes Stand [JL].

I have extensive experience in football that I hope would help the Trust. I was Director of Marketing and Communications under Lord Brian Mawhinney at the EFL, and a member of the cross-game Football Management Team. I advise the Premier League and Football Association. I advised Shahid Khan and his

team during the final stages and announcement of the purchase of Fulham. I am a regular broadcaster on football finance and governance.

I am passionate about the physical and mental health benefits of sport and reducing societal inequality. I'm honoured to be the Global Chair of parkrun, a charity with the objective of making the world healthier and happier.

[194 words]

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## **Jerry Cope**

### **Elected board member standing for re-election**

Proposed by: Sue Couch

Seconded by: Ian Clarke

Current Membership Secretary seeking re-election to the Board to continue the work we have started.

*What do I stand for?*

To bring the Club and fans closer together.

*What skills do I have?*

My work career has been and is based on working with people, negotiation skills, analysis, finance, and sorting out problems.

*What have I focussed on so far on the Board?*

As Membership Secretary I have, with lots of help from colleagues, made the renewal process more effective and the joining process more friendly. I have also speeded up the information and notes sent to Members following our monthly meeting with the fans. But there is still more to do.

*Why Fulham?*

My Grandfather, who was a hero to me, brought me to my first match nearly 50 years ago. Having been to the Cottage where else could I then go? I now travel home and away (collecting grounds, 97 so far and counting; and collecting programmes, I need more space in the house but meeting some opposition).

[170 words]

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## **Tamara Dragadze**

### **Member standing for election**

Proposed by: Sue Couch

Seconded by: Hayley Davinson

As a member of the FFC Supporters Trust Board I would represent several elements of our fan base:

1. Supporting Fulham FC for decades, I'm part of an army of older supporters, very loyal even if some of them can't afford season tickets anymore, but nevertheless have a right to representation.
2. Increasingly I notice women participating in the club's social media discussions and an extra female on the board is no bad thing.
3. Next year it will be 40 years that I have lived in the vicinity of Craven Cottage. I have been involved in smoothing the relations of fellow residents and Friends of Bishops Park with the club as regards

the building of the extension. The Trust has a role later to advise the club so it can flourish without any local impediments.

4. As a grandmother and mother I am keen to see the club remain a family club which depends in large part on how the Board negotiates the issue of ticket prices. I will support the Board in all it does to secure an understanding by the club of the reality of the fan base and its need to be sustainable through the generations.

*[200 words]*

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## **Dan Crawford**

### **Elected board member standing for re-election**

Proposed by: Hinn Li

Seconded by: Gavin Rome

Having been involved with the Back to the Cottage movement as a teenage volunteer and joined the Fulham Supporters' Trust that formed following the success of that campaign, furthering the influence of the fans at Fulham has always been important to me. Over the years, I have filled several roles on the Trust board and sought to ensure that the voice of supporters is heard by decision makers at the club, something has gradually evolved initial discussions to now regular monthly meetings at Motspur Park to a memorandum of understanding that solidifies the relationship between the Trust and the club.

I am pleased by the growth in the Trust's membership but believe that the voice of the fans remains fundamentally important. Whether it is discussing the redevelopment of the Riverside stand, ticket pricing, governance, or the latest Premier League power grab, supporters should have their opinions heard. It would be an honour to serve as a representative of Fulham fans on the board once again and I humbly ask for your support.

*[172 words]*

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## **Tom Greatrex**

### **Elected board member standing for re-election**

Proposed by: David Lloyd

Seconded by: Ian Clarke

I had no choice in becoming a Fulham fan – first dragged along as a child in the 1980s – and there have been many ups and downs over that four decades (been there – got the yoyo). Through the joy and despair, the constant has been the pivotal place of Craven Cottage in the identity and soul of our Club and the fact that every Board in my lifetime (until the current ownership) has, at some point, sought to move us out of our historic home. Supporters have played their part in preventing that happening – and, on the one occasion we left, getting us back home.

As one of the founders of Back to the Cottage, which became the Fulham Supporters' Trust, I think the role of the Trust in ensuring the views of fans are represented and respected is crucial to the long term future of the Club. While the immediate threat to the Cottage has receded, the importance of an independent organisation speaking truth to power, being both pragmatic and principled, and forging strong relationships, has not. I want to help that continue – and develop – in the three years ahead and ask for your support to do so.

*[198 words]*

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## Hayley Davinson

### Elected board member standing for re-election

Proposed by: Peter Davinson

Seconded by: Chris Bull

Fulham has been a constant for me since visiting the Cottage with my Dad in 1994 (poor timing). I've flyer'd for Back to the Cottage in my first taste of campaign work as a teenager, so it's been great to join the Trust as a board member since March 2019 (co-opted).

In this time, I've understood the board's strengths as a representation of its fans. A mixture of Fulham people with wide-ranging opinions, we work well to raise issues - both between us and with the Club - discussing ways to help move our Club forward. In essence, it's been a pleasure to participate, and to have just a small part in helping Fulham do what is best for their supporters.

I'm now seeking your mandate to represent on issues facing younger fans & female supporters, progressing Trust initiatives to improve diversity & inclusion - for both members and fans attending/viewing on matchdays. It's vital to seek out opportunities to further interact with all members. In challenging times we've seen how online facilities can be utilised more, so I'd be keen to help the Trust seek opinions and create a more dynamic narrative between us and our Club.

[198 words]

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*The views contained in these statements are the individual views of the candidates and not the views of the Fulham Supporters' Trust.*

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