

# Bath City Supporters' Society 2021 AGM

## Candidate Statements

### *Candidates for election to the Club Board*

Shane Morgan



*Proposer: Martin Powell  
Seconder: Graham Weeks*

I have been a Director of Bath City FC since 2011. I have been the Supporters' Society representative on the board since that time. I have served on the Supporters' Society Committee since 2009. I have served on the Supporters' Club Committee since 2005. I have been the Club's Safety Officer since 2012. Since the change in ownership I have been Director of Operations and the Licensee for the Club's bars. Since the outbreak of COVID I have also been the Club's COVID-19 Officer.

I work at the club 7 days a week to make sure the club is operational and deal with those businesses using the premises, outside contractors, suppliers, service users and staff. It is vital that someone is at the club offering knowledge, experience and expertise in how this site operates. As the COVID officer I have spent a lot of time dealing with the DCMS, the League, the Council and the playing staff. During COVID I was often the only person left at the club to man the fort.

I am first and foremost a Bath City fan and have been on the terraces since 1989. I think that it is fundamentally important that a Director attends games to represent the Club, support the players and be available to the fans.

I have always conferred with the Society Committee and wider membership on all major matters and they have in turn trusted my judgement on the day to day decision making. I don't represent my own agendas, I always act in what is in the best interest of the club and its fans.

I am always available to members should they wish to raise any concerns or questions. Like you I invested in Community Shares with the aim of the club becoming community owned and run.

I hope I am given the opportunity and privilege to continue representing the Society on the Club Board. There is a lot of important work to be done around the ground going forward and a lot of work is needed to provide everyone with a safe environment this coming season. I would hope you will show confidence in me to complete the work that I have committed to for the benefit of the club that I love.

**Nick Blofeld**



*Proposer: Pete McCormack  
Secunder: Jon Bickley*

I am keen to continue as Chair of BCFC to keep the commercial momentum going and resolve the re-development of Twerton Park. We have made good progress in many areas but also had the major setback of not achieving planning permission for the re-development last year.

The Board has operated well as a team, has improved the Club's trading performance (with considerable help from Bob Chester and many others) and I hope you have noticed improved communications and more openness with supporters over the past few years.

We clearly need to consistently perform on the pitch, and Jerry and Jim have done very well for us, and the ambition to get promoted is high on our priorities, but we won't try and "buy" promotion.

We still need to improve the engagement with the "family" of Bath City organisations, but the Foundation has made huge progress under Helen Donovan's leadership, and we hope to they will be based at Twerton Park soon. The Club's community role is very important and shouldn't be just words. We need to make a difference and the 3G pitch remains a key part of doing so, not only allowing charitable organisations to use the facility, but also generating revenue from other users to keep the Club afloat.

The re-development is the big project to get the Club truly "fit for purpose," with quality facilities for matchdays and hosting events the rest of the week to generate income to improve our finances. We have built stronger local and wider community

links and connections, in Twerton, Bath and beyond, with Carole Banwell playing a key and very proactive role here.

Everyone in the Club can play their part, both “talking up” the club and its contribution to Bath and getting involved in volunteering to help on projects. It was gratifying and humbling to see the response from supporters and season ticket holders to help both financially and physically with the recent ground improvement works.

I feel real pride in seeing that commitment in the tough times so many have been through in the last year or so. I’m still keen to help by being part of the Board and leading the Club forward. I think we are still heading the way we wanted and wrote down in our “vision statement.” Ultimately I remain committed to helping create a financially secure, successful, community owned football club.

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### ***Candidates for election to the Society Committee***

<b>Stuart Page</b>
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Dear Members,

As a self-made business owner and previously a former Senior Diplomat and now a Business Executive (recognised top ten influential CEO 2021). I have worked at the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Department of Defence, Foreign Affairs and served in the Military and the UN as a Board member, with 25 years of experience in business, Sport, diplomacy, policy, major events, international operations, international crisis, disaster response, security, intelligence, military, law enforcement, counterterrorism and cyber.

I currently run several international companies and serve on international Boards in a range of sectors while supporting several philanthropic foundations.

I am putting forward again my experience in sports and business for another term to be able to support our committee and board to grow the club and with my expertise guide the financial planning for a new stadium.

Having spent many years in Sports, Government, and Business, I bring to the Committee extensive business networks, experience, and corporate exposure along with new ideas that will propel the club to be able to reach new heights that will provide more opportunities for growth.

I am a passionate sports fan, and a Board member of the Cheka Sana Foundation Tanzania, which helps street kids through its sports Academy and has a refugee centre for vulnerable girls. The Cheka Sana Foundation Under 15 boy team was the World Champions at FIFA World Cup in 2014 and runners up with the girls' team in 2018 in Russia.

I am also a Board Member on the "MAiS" program the world's first master's degree in Sports Ethics and Integrity that we provide Scholarship's worth around 7 million EUROS. The program launches careers in sports administration and governance alongside the IOC. This course is a product of an international collaboration of the 6 universities from the UK and Europe: [www.maisi-project.eu](http://www.maisi-project.eu)

I have been a long outstanding supporter of 65 Degrees North that seeks to help in the rehabilitation of wounded, injured, or sick (WIS) current or ex-servicemen and women by offering the opportunity to participate in challenging sport adventure.

It is a passion for me that Bath FC survives for our children's children, and we support our team and academy to be recognized as a leading community football club in the UK. Our collective aim is to see growth for the fans, community, and the city that is beyond the field to share for generations.

**Christopher Flanagan**



I have a profound belief in the ability of football to improve and enrich communities. As a resident of BA2, I want to help Bath City unlock all of its undoubted potential. Bath is a world-class city and it deserves a football club that reflects that fact. I see the Supporters' Society, in its ownership and oversight capacity, and as a direct link back to the people the club serves, as being a critical part of facilitating that. I want to help the Society to empower the Club board to make sure that Bath City is fighting fit for the challenges and opportunities presented by modern football.

By way of profession, I am an in-house lawyer specialising in commercial and regulatory law, currently working for a high street bank. Away from my day job, I have a particular interest in sports law. I am the Managing Editor of the International Sports Law Journal, and over the course of the last decade I have published various works in academic journals and textbooks relating to football law issues, as well as speaking at football law conferences, acting as guest lecturer, and (as a personal highlight) appearing on BBC Radio Four's Law In Action discussing Financial Fair Play.

I was co-opted to the Society Committee last year and have enjoyed working collaboratively with my fellow Society Committee members and the Bath City FC board. I like to think I am able to bring particular expertise to the Society (and the Club more generally) in matters relating to law, governance, and finance—but I am happy to help out where I am able. It is no secret that football at all levels has faced serious sustainability issues as a result of the pandemic, so I think these skills will be particularly important in the coming months and years.

I previously spent four years as a volunteer trustee-director of the Wellspring Healthy Living Centre in Barton Hill (Bristol), so I have board-level experience of providing strategy and oversight for community-focussed organisations.

Recent events in football have shown the importance of supporters as stakeholders—now more than ever—and I believe the Bath City Supporters' Society is a wonderful vehicle for democratic fan influence, and a wonderful example to the rest of football. If elected, I look forward to continuing to drive best practice in supporter engagement and oversight.

### **Ken Loach**



I have been standing on the terraces at Twerton Park for 47 years, and the decisions the club faces now are as critical as any we have known in all that time.

The move to becoming a community-owned club was a positive development, but we are only halfway there. The need to pay off our debts is urgent and is matched by the long term imperative to have a football club that is financially sustainable for many years to come. Short term solutions have always failed, and will do so again.

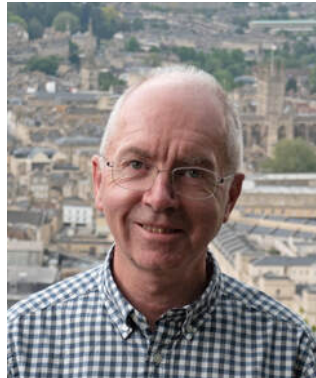
The redevelopment of Twerton Park is essential for those reasons. We should also do our very best to reflect the needs of the local community. These too are urgent.

If Bath City is to have a secure future, it will in part be due to the strong bonds we build with our neighbours, the youngsters who come to play on the planned all-weather pitch, and those who use the facilities we hope to build.

The danger is that this remains a distant dream and the pressure of the debt overwhelms our good intentions. That is an outcome I think we have to resist, and that is why I would like to remain a member of the Society committee. I would hope to contribute what I can to ensuring that the club not only survives but progresses, with its ambitions intact.

There is no reason why this city should not have a football club to match its neighbours, our long term rivals Yeovil and Cheltenham Town. The new Board has made real progress and its members have worked hard on our behalf. But the next decision is critical and as part of the Society committee I would hope that we can make the wisest choice possible in the present difficult circumstances.

### **Paul Brotherton**



I've been a Bath City season ticket holder since 2016 and a Supporters Society Committee member since March 2018 – initially co-opted and then elected in 2019. During that time I've been Compliance Officer, Election Observer, Membership Secretary and joint Vice Chair. I've also tried to strengthen the foundations of the Supporters Society by working with other members to improve the Society's governance and develop a memorandum of understanding between the Society and the Club. The MoU sets out a new improved working relationship between the Society Committee and the Club Board and is due to be signed shortly.

Although much of this work is behind the scenes and rather administrative, a key theme is to try and put into practice what it means to be a progressive community run club. This includes making membership easy and inexpensive, ensuring that everyone can stand for election and having clear arrangements for the Society to have a voice.

The Club is at difficult time and will need to make the most of the enthusiasm, ideas and skills of its supporters and volunteers. I believe that a well organised Supporters Society can attract more members and promote a feeling of openness and involvement in keeping with the idea of being community run. Nowhere will this be more important than in developing new stadium plans after the failed and

unviable Greenacre planning application last year. It's vital to ensure that all options are carefully assessed and that Society members are consulted on plans well before another planning application is submitted.

As a former public health consultant and member of an NHS Trust Board I'm well aware of hard realities and the need to make difficult decisions. However I feel that organisations work best when they respect and listen to people and involve all stakeholders - the Supporters Society has a key role in promoting these values in our Club.

## **William Heath**



The Supporters Society wants Bath City FC to be in the right league long term, and that's what we need to work towards. I was first contacted in 2014 by Bath City supporters keen to follow the community-ownership example of The Bell Inn (Co-op) which I helped to deliver. I was invited to watch a game and join the Supporters Society. This led, with a lot of teamwork, to the Big Bath City Bid and the path to Bath City FC becoming a fan-controlled club.

In the years since I've maintained my membership of the Society, continued to attend games and to champion the cause of community ownership and ambition for Bath City. But the journey to community control is only half complete.

My main social-enterprise focus is Fairfield House where I chair the not-for-profit trying to secure control from the Council of HIM Haile Selassie I's legacy to Bath for greater community benefit. I helped Carole Banwell arrange the anti-racism event at Twerton Park in 2019.

I'd like to help Bath City and Twerton get a redevelopment we can all be proud of for years to come. That means secure the future and support the ambition of the club, and also deliver community benefit for Twerton in a financial rational way. We have to provide a solid basis for the club to progress to the levels of success that supporters aspire to.

This will be challenging, but that's surely the right ambition for a community controlled club.