

# **Bath City Supporters' Society: 2020 AGM Elections**

## **CANDIDATE STATEMENTS**

Candidate for Supporters Liaison Officer (unopposed)

### **Tom Mears**



I have been a long time supporter of non-league and grassroots football, I have taken a keen interest of Bath City over those years. I also feel I have a set of skills that would help me communicate well with supporters and from supporters to the board. I am passionate about improving fans experience and growing the interest in Bath City Football Club.

In my years as a football fan I feel that supporter communication is the best way that fans can feel connected with a club and also the quickest way they can lose touch. In the current climate I feel communication needs to be at the forefront. My job in sales is all about communication and I have first hand experience in seeing the benefit of this being done well. I would want that to be at the forefront of my application.

Candidate for Club Board Director (unopposed)

### **Matthew Robert Falk**



I am applying for this role because I passionately believe I can make a positive difference to the club in its future direction bringing a wealth of management experience gained in marketing and commercial roles across three industry-leading businesses. My experience of managing complex projects, chasing, setting and achieving targets, as well as building strong trusted relationships would allow

me to continue developing the commercial side of the club. I have led the brand management of one of the biggest dairy brands in the UK, worked for a global leading FMCG business in sales and marketing, as well as currently lead the category strategy for an industry expert. I have strong experience in both business to business, and business to consumer marketing which I believe will benefit the club in achieving its vision. I have lived locally for the past 15 years, supported Bath City for the duration, and have good connections in the food industry that I hope could lead to future partnerships. In addition I have served at Southport football club in a commercial role previously which gives me good insight into how things run behind the scenes and what needs to be achieved. My one love outside of my family is

football and I am involved with grass roots football refereeing local games, as well as being a long term suffering Blackburn Rovers fan. My ambition would be to represent the committee to the best of my ability, delivering clear communications and direction on the plans being put in place, continue the great progress that has been made, and ensure everything is done in the best interests of the club. I am a very down to earth, easy going, honest and passionate individual which I believe would fit well with the values of the club.

## Candidates for Society Committee

### Jon Blain



I was co-opted on the Society Committee last year to help with member engagement, during this time I have helped to organise the additional Society posters around the ground, helped with the Society owned social media channels etc., There are other plans in the pipeline and I would like the opportunity to see these through to fruition, particularly as the club (and the world) is entering a very unusual time.

As a member of the committee I am especially interested in the financial side of the clubs performance, and am currently trying to share this with all Society members in a way that allows for a greater clarity to the members, but in a easily understandable format that doesn't release any information that is critical for the Football Club to keep confidential.

Going forward I believe that the financial stability of the football club will be of even greater importance in the future and as 54% owners of the Football Club we have a responsibility to ensure that the club is still around and playing football for the next 150 years, we cannot keep relying on fundraisers/crowdfunding every 25 years, therefore we need to ensure that the Society Committee holds the Football Club board accountable for the decisions that are taken on the memberships behalf.

### Peter McCormack



I started watching Bath City as a lad in 1968 and 52 years later I am still here! I was born in Bath but left in 1974 and have been an exile ever since but still have family there so come home regularly. I was heavily involved in the 2003 share but back and was so happy to see the Society take ownership in more recent times. Supporter/community ownership is to be cherished and promoted. I am proud to follow Bath City FC. If elected I see my role as ensuring the society's members have a real say in Club direction, values and ambition. The Society Committee must hold the Board to account. I will also be very active in supporting fundraising activities.

Our community role is vital in an increasingly fractured world our anti racist/sexist community involvement ethos must be maintained and promoted actively. I believe we must be ambitious and achieve EFL status but only by financial stability. A successful redevelopment is a key foundation but 3 year business plans that adhere to a 'break even' approach to budgets is paramount.

## **Shane Morgan**



I have been a Director of the Football Club since 2011. I am the Director of Operations, COVID-19 Officer, Safety Officer and Licensee at the club. I have been the Supporters' Society representative on the board since 2011. I have served on the Supporters' Society Committee since 2009. I have served on the Supporters'

Club Committee since 2005.

My main role on the Society committee has been to be their representative on the Board of Directors of Bath City FC. I have always reported to the Board issues raised by the Society committee and membership. I have in turn reported back to the Society on Board activities. I report to the committee on the operational working group. I also represent the Society on the redevelopment working group. I continue to confer with the Society Committee and membership on all major club matters, which is only natural as the Society are the defacto owners of the club. I look forward to future when the Club is a full CBS and hope to be around to play a part in bringing that about.

I sincerely hope that I am re-elected onto the Society's Committee. It is a massive honour and privilege to represent you. I am always available to members should you wish to raise any concerns or questions.

## **Sally Harris**



In standing for the Society Committee, I commit to working always in the best interests of the Club we all love and to build on the work that has already been done to enhance supporters' involvement in securing Bath City FC's future.

My time as Community Director on the BCFC Board opened my eyes to the immense time and effort that goes into running all elements of the Club, and how much could be achieved if more supporters were actively involved.

While it's been fantastic over the last few years to see more people volunteering their skills and opinions at all levels, I hope to identify further opportunities for

supporters to share in the day-to-day challenges of running a community club. My belief is that there are still people out there who stand on the terraces week in week out and who have known and loved the Club their whole life, but who somehow don't recognise how valuable their contributions would be to shaping the future of Bath City.

We need people to believe that their voice matters, and find ways to both support the Board in their work and to ask constructive questions of them to ensure proposals and decisions are understood by the wider supporter base, and can be challenged when appropriate.

My intention, if elected to the Society Committee, is to focus primarily on supporting the Board's commitment to the local community, as this is my area of particular interest and experience. I would like to be an effective mouthpiece for supporters in putting forward ideas for community initiatives and to empower supporters to take ownership of such initiatives where possible. Bath City FC has a huge amount to offer the people of Twerton and Bath, and the club's future depends on reaching out and forging relationships to demonstrate the value we can bring to the wider community.

My professional work is in the field of refugee resettlement - I am employed by local charity Julian House, whose clients have benefited hugely from the support of Bath City FC. I have had the privilege to witness many socially excluded clients walking away from a day at Twerton Park feeling not only exhilarated by the football, but welcomed and accepted by a community that values their presence. I relish being part of that community and want to ensure its goodwill and good ideas are fully put to use.

## **Marc Thomas**



I am a teacher and have been following Bath City since moving here over a decade ago. I organised several initiatives such as the "Romans" t-shirts which raised money for the Supporters' Club and the first Foodbank fundraising day at Twerton Park as well as having involvement in the student liaison and 1000BC groups. I was involved in the Big Bath City Bid before moving onto the Supporters' Society Committee as a co-opted member - a position I was proud to be subsequently elected to in 2016. I am particularly passionate about the club being owned by and run for the supporters and wider community and strengthening democracy throughout the club. To this end, in 2017, I successfully had a motion adopted that Supporters' Society members would be able to vote on any changes to future heritage aspects of Bath City Football Club - the playing name, badge, nickname, kit colours and design of black and white vertical stripes. One of my focuses, as a Supporters' Society Committee member, is ensuring that the members have as much involvement in the decisions of the committee - and, indeed, the club board -

as possible in keeping with the principles of a community-owned club.

On the field, I would love to see more local young footballers come through the Academy and Under 21 set-up through to playing in the first team so that we don't lose talent to other clubs and engendering long-term continuity between the teams. To this end, I am currently part of the Football Working Group and am aiming to ensure that it grows into a major and unique form of football club management. My time on the committee so far has been an exciting, positive and progressive period to be involved with Bath City; working with motivated, enthusiastic, experienced people who are passionate about the future of the team, the club and the community involvement.

The next few years promises to be even more so and I would love to continue representing the supporters' voice. I love football, I love Bath City, I love Twerton Park. I love being able to walk to the, see familiar faces every other Saturday and watch Bath City with friends. I would like to help more people in Bath have the chance to have the same experience.

## **Mark Taylor**



I feel I now have enough spare time to take on this role. I am a very keen football fan and have had an association with Bath City for over 25 years.

I have been a school governor for my son's primary school in the past and enjoyed the role I played. It would be a privilege to play any part in Bath City achieving their vision for the club, no matter how small this may be.

I would appreciate supporting the work of others, in helping the club consolidate and continue to move forward. Local football clubs bring people together and are very much part of their communities. However, the challenges facing Bath City, and many others have never been greater, especially with the added complication of COVID 19. This has also motivated me to become more directly involved.

It is very easy to complain about boards and committees, and I realise this is often a thankless task. However, I am a resilient person, and feel I am able to work with people, not against them when moving forwards.

I have always been a fervent supporter of Bath City, both on and off the pitch, and would relish the opportunity to make a more formal contribution to the club. Thank you for taking the time to read my statement.

## James Pullan



Bath City FC started in 1889 but never in its history has it faced such demanding challenges or exciting opportunities. The Bath FC Supporters Society represents the interests of the players, the fans, the management, the volunteers and the community in helping Bath City FC survive and thrive in these turbulent times.

The club relies on the commitment of dedicated, hardworking and passionate individuals. I will help Bath City FC SUPPORTERS SOCIETY work in unison with the Bath City FC Board and in consultation with the major stakeholders of the club to develop a “Strategic Three Year Plan”. This plan will listen carefully to the BCFC community and ensure its fans remain at the heart of the clubs objectives.

Although the club faces many challenges I am confident that with the support of its members it will emerge stronger and better placed to play exciting and successful football.