

# CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

## 2023 AGM

### Bath City Supporters Society

**SUPPORTER LIAISON OFFICER (3-year term) – elected by members of both the Supporters Society and the Supporters Club**



#### **James Carlin**

I've been watching City since 1999 and served 18 months on the Committee during the community ownership bid in 2016. I now head up the Foundation, working in our community to promote football and the club. I think I would be a good fit for this role as I understand some of the improvements that could be made to enhance the supporter experience at Twerton Park and work towards better integration between the fans and the club. I think there's simple things we can do to enhance the atmosphere at home and would be a strong advocate on the board for supporter generated ideas like a simple roof on the Bath end, better signage around the ground for new visitors, creative merchandising opportunities and more.

### **COMMERCIAL DIRECTOR (3-year term)**

No nominations received. The Society Committee, working with the Club Board, will now begin the process of co-opting a Commercial Director.

### **SOCIETY COMMITTEE (2-year term)**



#### **Heather Thomas**

May I introduce myself I am Heather Thomas and for the last few years I have been attending matches home and away. I have been on the Supporters' Committee for 3 years and introduced the Christmas Draw again a couple of years ago. In 2007 my husband Robin was diagnosed with Huntington's Disease and is now in a nursing home full time so my involvement with the club has been good for my wellbeing. My Big Brother Chris Cox and his wife Sue have been supporters for years and it is good to share time with them at games. I started working life at the Bath Chronicle in the Tele Sales Department. I was Student Crime Reduction Co-ordinator for Avon & Somerset Police working with Universities and Colleges across Bath & Bristol and ending up as Communications Manager at UWE chairing the Student Crime Reduction Forum consisting of Universities, Councils, local businesses, student unions and the police. I love a SPREADSHEET (which is very sad) and also am used to managing budgets of up to £1.3 million whilst national chair of the Huntington's Disease Association. If I am elected, I will do my best to promote Bath City Football Club and work to ensure this great institution continues for many, many years to come.



### **Sally Harris**

I'd like to be considered for election to the Supporters Society Committee so that I can support the ongoing community ownership journey of Bath City FC. I previously sat on the committee from 2020-22, and prior to that I served as the Club's Community Director from 2016-19. I'm currently working part-time after having a baby, so I have a little spare time to offer to the Supporters Society and would love to be involved more closely with Bath City again.

My background is in the charity sector and I'm particularly keen to support with pushing forward the Community and Culture elements of the Club's strategy. I'd like to identify opportunities for members and supporters to become more pro-actively and meaningfully involved in keeping the Club alive, thriving, and relevant to the local area. I believe our future success depends on bringing the wider community along with us and into our ranks; not least to garner support for any future planning applications to redevelop Twerton Park.

I first became involved with Bath City FC when the community ownership campaign got underway, and am driven by my commitment to this model and its principles of democracy, inclusion and empowerment. The idea that we own this football club, and that anyone can join the Society and be part of building its future, remains really exciting and motivating to me. I hope to help with forging an ever-stronger relationship between the Society, its membership, and the Club Board. Seeing the power that football has to bring people together is what made me a supporter, and I hope to help channel that power to safeguard the Club's future.



## **Stuart Page**

As a self-made international business owner working with blue chip companies with a proven track record in business and previously a former Senior Diplomat and now a Business Executive, I have worked at the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Department of Defence, and 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, work extensively in private equity and investment and serve on international Boards in various sectors while supporting several philanthropic foundations.

I am again putting forward my sports and business experience for another term 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 extensive business networks, experience, and corporate exposure to the Committee and new ideas that will propel the club to reach new heights and provide more growth opportunities. 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 Champion at FIFA World Cup in 2014 and runners up with the girls' team in 2018 in Russia. I am also the Chairman of the Board of the "MAiS" program, the world's first master's / PhD degree in Sports Ethics and Integrity; we provide a Scholarship worth around 10 million EUROS.

The program launches careers in sports administration and governance alongside the IOC. This course is a product of an international collaboration of 8 universities from the UK and Europe: [www.maisi-project.eu](http://www.maisi-project.eu) and FIFA, UEFA and IOC. I have been a long outstanding supporter of 65 Degrees North, which seeks to help rehabilitate wounded, injured, or sick (WIS) current or ex-servicemen and women by offering them the opportunity to participate in challenging sport adventure. It is my passion that Bath City FC survives for our children's children, and we support our team and academy to be recognised as a leading community football club in the UK. Our collective aim is to see growth for the fans, community, and city beyond the field to share for generations.



**Christopher Flanagan**

I have been involved with the Society Committee in various forms for three years—first as a co-opted member, then as an elected member. I served a year as chair and have been vice-chair since. I hope that you will support my continuation on the Committee. I am a lawyer working in-house in the live entertainment and sport industry. My day-to-day work involves all aspects of the production and promotion of major live events, ticketing, data services, and venue operation. I also have particular expertise in the regulation of football, and have published work in textbooks and academic journals on that topic, as well as speaking at sports law conferences and appearing as guest lecturer to football industry professionals. I am an editor (previously Managing Editor) of the International Sports Law Journal. My career highlight has been appearing as an invited guest on BBC Radio Four's Law In Action discussing Financial Fair Play. I previously spent four years as a volunteer trustee-director of the Wellspring Healthy Living Centre in Barton Hill (Bristol), so I have prior board-level experience of providing strategy and oversight for community-focussed organisations.

I have a profound believe 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. 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 re-elected, I look forward to continuing to drive best practice in supporter engagement and oversight.



**Dave Phillips**

Hi, I'm Dave. I live on the gantry at Twerton Park and have done for most of the past 20 years. I'm usually pointing a camera at matches and creating the Club's video content alongside other bits and pieces of media. I love being a small part of this fantastic Football Club of ours. I've been a Society member and small shareholder for around 15 years and am a firm believer in Supporter/Community Ownership in football. The fact that we as supporters largely own and run our Club is a large part of why I spend so much of my time volunteering for it, I'm not sure I'd have anywhere near the same enthusiasm were our Club privately owned by an individual or similar I'm standing for election to the Society Committee because I would like to apply my skill set to continue the good work of the outgoing Supporter Engagement and Communication Officer, Jon Blain. To enhance the communication of the Society's work and aims to its members, the wider Bath City fan base and the City of Bath community, and promoting the Society to continue to increase membership, ultimately helping to secure our future as a thriving and enduring community Football Club. Thank you for your consideration. UTC