Doug Gillard

Manifesto

I have been a trustee for six years and I am looking to be elected for a third term. I have been involved with the Trust for nearly eight years; I started by joining the Ownership Working Group in 2016 and I was elected to the Trust Board in 2017.

I am Exeter City through and through, I was born in Exmouth and now live in Newton Abbot. I have been going to home and away games since the early 1980’s and seen the highs and lows for over Forty Years.

I have been organizing our presence at the Exeter Respect Festival since I was initially elected. We have improved year on year and this year (in collaboration with ECCT) was our best yet.

I have also played my part in expanding the South West Supporters Trusts Group. About four years ago it started out with an initial meeting between The Trust, Argyle Fans Trust and Torquay United Supporters Trust. The Group has more than doubled and has representatives from five different leagues.

If I am elected, my main focus will be around the Trust’s Community responsibilities. The Trust is listed as a Community Benefit Society, I am keen to forge new friendships with the local and wider community while maintaining and strengthening our current links around the city and within the football community. I would like to help develop and nurture our relationship with our charity partners, Exeter Community Initiatives and increase the membership of the South West Supporters Trusts Group. I would also like to get charities and group initiatives round the table to explore whether there is scope to collaborate and share knowledge. The consensus within the Community Working Group is to help smaller charities who don't have the exposure, facilities or technical knowledge to get their message out to the community. The current cost of living crisis affects so many people, we have the tools at our disposal to help.

I am very aware that these aspirations must go hand in hand with the Trust Board’s responsibilities to our members as majority shareholders of Exeter City Football Club. While promotion to League One brought new hope and a feel-good factor, it also brought new challenges. Good choices have put both the Trust and the Club in good stead for the future, I want to be part of the mechanism that continues to lead by that example.