

Candidate Questions

| Question | Candidate Answer |
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| <p>“This is set to be a largely all-male board for the first time in a long time. With the fantastic growth of the City Women’s team, how are you going to continue and expand on our commitment to Women’s football and ensure Exeter City will still be leaders off the pitch when tackling sexism and other forms of discrimination at St James Park and on social media? And with reports of discrimination at the Bristol Rovers home game, what further policies would you put in place to ensure girls feel safe and welcome at SJP?”</p> | <p>Football is for everyone.</p> <p>In my role at Exeter City Community Trust, I am thrilled to be able to play a part in developing the women and girls football pathway here in Exeter.</p> <p>This includes Tots, Wildcats, Squad Girls, the Girls’ Development Centre, our partnership with the Exeter City Sports Academy at the College, the ECFC Women Development Squad and, of course, Exeter City Women’s Football Club whose positive development continues season on season in line with the growth that we see nationally in the women’s game.</p> <p>As part of our continuing commitment to this pathway, we have secured funding from the FA to launch Emerging Talent centres for girls in both Exeter and Devon, which will increase the opportunity for young girls to develop their game across the county.</p> <p>As my colleague David Gribble states so well; “If you can see it, you can be it.”</p> <p>As a trustee of the Supporters’ Trust, this ethos will stay with me in all that I do on your behalf, and with our broader aims of making St James Park a welcoming and safe space for</p> |

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| | <p>all, we must continue to support our colleagues in promoting positive messages via campaigns such as Her Game Too, and to provide engagement opportunities as often as we can to show girls' that not only are they welcome at St James Park but that they play as an important part of the tapestry of English football as anyone.</p> |
| <p>"Whilst accepting that such an event would almost certainly mean a vote of the membership, if, at some point, a certified viable and substantial offer came forward to invest in the club, from an individual, or a group, what would be your personal position, should the said investor wish to gain majority control of the club as a prerequisite of such investment."</p> | <p>As a trustee, our primary role is to ensure that the city of Exeter and its people have a sustainable and successful football club to be proud of, not only now but also for many, many, years to come.</p> <p>This includes the team, the facilities, and the wider partnerships and infrastructure that makes us more than a football club to so many people.</p> <p>Naturally, I am a huge fan of supporter ownership and the pride and integrity that it carries in this crazy business that we call football, so any consideration to depart from our ownership model would be of the utmost seriousness.</p> <p>I hope that one day supporter ownership becomes the norm in English football, rather than an outlier, but we must be reasoned enough to consider opportunities that may offer long-term success built upon the values of our club and stable foundations.</p> |

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| | <p>In my time as a trustee, there has been no individual or organisation coming over the hill to present the question but, should that situation arise, I would want to consider it with due diligence - and with both head and heart - and offer that question (with sound supporting information) to all of my fellow owners as members of the Supporters' Trust.</p> |
| <p>“Given the Trust’s stated aim “to make the match-day experience at Exeter City FC a premier experience, unrivalled by our competitors” and recent improvements to the fan experience in both the Adam Stansfield Stand undercroft and Selco Stand Hospitality area would you support the need for improving the fan experience in both the Park Building and external Fan Zone eg</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve ventilation / reduce overcrowding in the Famous Exeter City Real Ale and Cider Emporium Bar / provide a sales point direct into the Fanzone; • provide cover to and somewhere to put drinks on in the Fan Zone; • provide better facilities for those providing entertainment in the Fan Zone ? <p>If not, why not ?”</p> | <p>Increased attendances have been welcomed by us all in recent seasons, and with that it is clear that improvements need to be made where possible to meet our aims.</p> <p>All of the suggestions made here look sound to me in principle - in particular the thoughts regarding the fan zone - and so I will forward them on to the Supporter Experience Committee for consideration.</p> <p>Since its inception, the SEC has been led brilliantly by Clive Harrison and has allowed directors, trustees and operational staff to work in tandem to ensure that the views of supporters and staff alike are considered and actioned when finances and logistics make it possible to do so.</p> <p>I know that there are many fine suggestions for improvements to St James Park and I look forward to considering and supporting more of them in the years to come, should I be</p> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many Trust meetings have you attended in the last 12 months? • Do you have any family or financial ties to Exeter City AFC or any other potential conflicts of interest? | <p>elected.</p> <p>I have attended 10 of the past 12 Trust board meetings, with two absences due to working commitments out in the community.</p> <p>For all meetings, I am sure to put aside time to read and annotate all of the items presented in the meeting pack, and on those occasions that I have not been present, I have been sure to take the time to speak with colleagues in advance to share my views and ask, where applicable, that they are represented at the meeting.</p> <p>In terms of conflicts of interest, I am the head of charity development for our club community organisation, Exeter City Community Trust.</p> <p>This is a separate legal body to the Club and Supporters' Trust, but rather than being a conflict of interest I have always seen my role as a trustee a positive one, which is conducive to helping all parties to align our commitment to the wider community that we all serve.</p> |
| <p>"What action do you intend to take to finally sort the Stagecoach bar serving issues? There is always an unacceptable wait to be served, especially at half time. If you leave at the half time whistle you are unlikely to be served before the second half starts. The club is clearly losing revenue as many people simply give up waiting. One solution maybe to start serving before the half time whistle, i.e. anticipate the demand?"</p> | <p>I would hope that the answer to this question is presented before the election period concludes.</p> <p>As a trustee it is important that we represent the views of supporters at all times, so I will see that this matter is sent to the operations</p> |

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| | <p>team at St James Park to act upon.</p> <p>I would hope that we've had enough games under our belt to successfully anticipate demand and, having worked in hospitality and catering for many years, one would expect this anticipation being translated into better preparation for key periods of the matchday experience.</p> |
| <p>In the last year what 3 key things have you done actively support the Trust?</p> | <p>To boil this down to three things is tricky, but I would highlight the following contributions as the ones that I am most proud of:</p> <p>1) Through installing online voting for the Trust as a result of my last election campaign, it was an honour to set up the votes for the Cliff Hill Training Ground and First Team Shirt. The Trust is a truly democratic organisation and these are two examples of giving our owners a voice in key decisions and I hope that we will do more of this in the seasons to come.</p> <p>2) I worked with colleagues to develop and deliver the One of Our Own Cup, which provided a truly memorable money can't buy opportunity for some of our youngest supporters and raised funds for the community.</p> <p>3) Referring back to the first question, all trustees are committed to the football for</p> |

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| | <p>everyone ethos, so I was proud to work with colleagues across the ECFC family to bring the Women's team to St James Park for the games against Plymouth Argyle and Bournemouth. Both occasions are up there as two of my favourite games at the Park, and to see not only the numbers in attendance but also the engagement between players and supporters was a proud moment for all involved.</p> <p>With all of the above, working as a team has been key to each outcome and that is something that is, to me, an essential part of the role of trustee.</p> |