

**Candidate Questions**

Question	Candidate Answer
<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>I think there are three parts to your question, the makeup of the Trust Board, the success and growth of Women’s football and tackling discrimination. All three quite close to my heart, so apologies in advance for the long reply!</p> <p>The Trust Board has always been male dominated and while I was pleased to see ten candidates put themselves forward in this election, I was disappointed to see no female representation amongst them. Clearly, we have work to do in order to encourage a more diverse range of the Trust membership to engage with the Trust Board. What I can say is that everyone is genuinely encouraged to get involved and if there are barriers or perceived barriers to participation then please communicate those to the Trust. I am sure everything possible will be done to remove them and to create confidence in participation. The Trust has several working groups and they provide an ideal platform for those who would like to experience the workings of the Trust, perhaps before entering an election.</p> <p>I have had the pleasure of being involved with Exeter City’s Women’s team for several years now, I sit on the Women’s Technical Board and have presented papers on the development of the team to both the Trust and Club Boards which, with the support of colleagues on both boards, have led to substantial increases in support for the team, both financially and through shared resource. I have also facilitated the last two matches played at St James Park, working with the teams at the Community Trust and the club to set record attendances. The 2,600 earlier this season was the highest attendance for a Women’s match in the country that weekend. There is a fantastic appetite to grow the Women’s football within the Trust, Club and at ECCT and it is at games like these that they come together and show what is possible. Personally, I attend most of their games, attended 5 Women’s EURO matches with my daughter and helped set up the Exeter City Women’s Team supporters Club.</p> <p>Discrimination of any kind is not welcome at SJP or anywhere for that matter. Currently, we are holding weekly meetings on the subject of Supporter Behaviour and its effect on</p>

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	<p>Supporter Experience. Both Trust and Club are represented at these meetings and hopefully you will have seen/will see some of the messaging to come from them. The recent club statement, big screen messaging and video content, leaflets and the highlighting of the Text reporting number amongst the initiatives brought forward. Our stewarding and safety teams are also represented, and we are all engaged in working to eradicate all forms of anti-social behaviour. It is important that supporters play their part and report anti-social behaviour via the text service or to a steward. I think we have the policies required, it's about communication, reporting and enforcement.</p> <p>I have been involved with the running of the Junior Grecians for several years, in fact it was my first involvement with the Club as a volunteer, and we are seeing an a very welcome increase in female membership, there has been a growth in the number of mothers bringing children and families attending matches, I am very aware of the affects of anti-social behaviour and discrimination on the supporter experience at SJP and committed to eradicating it.</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>First and foremost, such an offer would be put before the membership and so my opinion is no greater than any other members. I'm a great believer in the Trust model, it's what attracted me to Exeter City, and also in examining the detail of any proposal. My opinion would be based on those two things. For example, what is the financial position of the club at the time, is it a last resort, is there a golden share for the Trust, if so, what does that include, what is the value of the offer, most importantly, what is best for the clubs long term survival.</p>
<p>“Given the Trust’s stated aim <b>“to make the match-day experience at Exeter City FC a premier experience, unrivalled by our competitors”</b> 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"> <li>• improve ventilation / reduce overcrowding in the Famous Exeter City Real Ale and Cider Emporium Bar / provide a sales point direct</li> </ul>	<p>The simple answer is yes, although as with any project of this kind it has to be costed, deliverable and appropriate. There are plans for improvements to the Fan Zone and to the Park Building being drawn up. The first stage of that was to negotiate a new lease that allows for any improvements to take place, that has now been signed. The Fan Zone and Park Building are both part of that lease. There needs to be both a long term development plan and a shorter term, more affordable, plan. The short-term plan has to fit within the full plan so that money is not wasted. Some of what you mention is being looked at in terms of the short term.</p>

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<p>into the Fanzone;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide cover to and somewhere to put drinks on in the Fan Zone;</li> <li>• provide better facilities for those providing entertainment in the Fan Zone ?</li> </ul> <p>If not, why not ?”</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How many Trust meetings have you attended in the last 12 months?</li> <li>• Do you have any family or financial ties to Exeter City AFC or any other potential conflicts of interest?</li> </ul>	<p>To the best of my knowledge, I have attended all Trust Board and Club Board meetings in the last 12 months. I chair Supporter Experience Subcommittee meetings, Grecian Groups meetings, attend Club Safeguarding meetings, Ownership &amp; Membership Trust group meetings, Women’s Technical Board meetings, Junior Grecians meetings etc.</p> <p>No, my involvement is purely voluntary.</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>This is essentially an operational issue and therefore a question for the club rather than the Trust. In my Supporter Experience role however, I can say that as far as I’m aware, this is the first time this has been raised. I have been over to the Stagecoach stand (Fleetwood match) to check on this and agree with your comments. I will raise the problem with the appropriate person.</p>
<p>In the last year what 3 key things have you done actively support the Trust?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Given my time, enthusiasm and engaged at meetings.</li> <li>• Facilitated Trust/Club/ECCT cooperative events such as the Women’s Game and Family Fun Day.</li> <li>• Represented the Trust as a Trust appointed Director on the Club Board, a huge honour.</li> </ul>