

The very fact that I , as a seventy eight year old, are re-seeking membership of the Board of Society should demonstrate commitment to both the Trust concept and lifelong support for Exeter City,

Why put oneself forward at such an age? The reason is simple .Much has changed in football since The Trust became the major share holder of the club. This has brought increasing demands to bear on both Club Directors and Trustees most of whom are willing volunteers working tirelessly for their club.

The Trust has achieved much since 2003 . One only has to consider the demise of the likes of Scunthorpe, Southend , Oldham Athletic , York City , Chester City and our near neighbours Torquay Utd to really put things in perspective. These clubs demonstrate that success is hard earned and very easily lost . As Winston Churchill put it , ' Success is not final , failure is not fatal : it is the courage to continue that counts'.

Continue how ? The whole ethos behind the Trust ownership of Exeter City, in the years immediately following it's takeover of the club, was based firmly upon self sacrifice and democracy. Apart from the monthly subscription thousands made financial gifts to the club and willingly gave of their time or expertise. Such altruism has brought the club to where it is today.

Policies as to openness and inclusivity can change in practice but principles don't . Regretfully, there is a growing perception of a democratic sea change regarding the policy of 'putting members and supporters first'. Such is the furor , following a recent shameful incident concerning peaceful freedom of expression that some are now questioning the trust slogan , 'We own our football club'. Those concerns need to be addressed, otherwise , what's the point ?

If elected I will endeavour to persuade fellow Trustees to

1. ensure that the formally requested statement as to the legitimacy of peaceful freedom of expression is issued by the club.
2. encourage greater openness and democracy on the part of the club
3. consider setting up a sub committee to look at sourcing private capital in the appointment of future club directors
4. give thought to how to draw closer to and support the academy management team
5. encourage the club to actively seek effective financial structural change of the EFL