



2013 AGM

Birmingham City Supporters' Trust
'Blues Trust'

Supporting Candidate Statement

Lee Bradshaw

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SUPPORTING CANDIDATE STATEMENT – LEE BRADSHAW

Having been involved with Blues Trust since its very inception and over the last twelve months as a co-opted Board member, it is clear that there are a number of fundamental issues that the organisation must overcome moving forwards.

Although there have been a lot of changes since registering our rules with Supporters' Direct back in February 2012, the Trust's principle aim has remained the same. The combined efforts of everybody associated with the Trust have no doubt been influenced by a feeling of solidarity; that working together can bring about change for the greater good of Birmingham City, the team that we have spent our lives supporting and following.

Comparing our situation with other Club's around the country, many existing Supporters' Trusts were set up in the midst of a crisis, in an attempt to mitigate the effects of poor corporate and financial governance at Board level. However, while the situation at Blues was far from ideal, at the time of the Trust's first meeting back in October 2011 BCFC were in a relatively stable condition. Establishing a Supporters' Trust was the first step in bringing about the changes that many fans desired; to have a say in the running of their Club.

As someone who was keen to get involved from the very outset, I remember turning up at the first meeting with approximately 11 others. At the time, I was a 19-year-old student with no specific skills or experience to offer. However, given the opportunity, I was confident I could make a difference. Nearly two years on, I have experienced first-hand some of the difficulties the Trust has faced, including the recognised need to be more pro-active in terms of how we operate, as well as the need for greater openness and transparency.

As a season ticket holder at the Blues for approximately 13 years, I am now standing for election to the Blues Trust Board. I believe that with the right guidance and personnel, we have both the ability and opportunity to make a real difference at our club. Sometimes, it isn't necessarily following in the footsteps of others however easy that may be, but rather ensuring that we set a precedent: a precedent that others look to as a model for how Supporters' Trusts can and should operate. Having found our feet as an organisation, now is the perfect time for us to do just that.



BLUES TRUST