

*Blues Trust Annual General Meeting, 9th November 2016.*

Three candidates have been nominated for election or re-election to the board: they are Phil Beardmore, Peter Bull and Cliff Horrocks. Here are their statements.

Statements in support of nominations:

*Phil Beardmore - nominated by Richard Stanley and Peter Bull*

I have experience of being a board member of other membership-based organisations including Balsall Heath Housing Cooperative (board member since 1997, and Treasurer); Community Energy Birmingham (founder Director); Citysave Credit Union (a highly-regulated organisation with a balance sheet of over £7 million). I believe that this qualifies me to be a responsible director of Blues Trust and to make sound decisions in the best interests of the Trust.

I have been a member of the Blues Trust since shortly after its formation in 2012. I am a regular attendee at AGMs and in the last year, I have been attending board meetings as an observer.

In my day job I am an independent Sustainability and Environmental Consultant, specialising in energy efficiency and renewable energy.

I have been a Birmingham City Supporter since an early age, attending my first game in 1974-75. I am a season ticket holder.

Phil Beardmore

*Peter Bull - nominated by Phil Beardmore and Richard Stanley*

I have been a dedicated supporter of Birmingham City FC for over 60 years having first visited St Andrews in the early 1950's. I joined Blues Trust just under 4 years ago and have been on its board for the past 2 years. My term is shortly coming to an end and I am now seeking re-election for a further term.

I've very much enjoyed my last 2 years on the board. I am actively involved and have attended all the Board's meetings since being appointed. Currently I am its Treasurer and am also developing the Trust's website and membership system.

One of my reasons for joining Blues Trust was that I was then very concerned about the club's survival, following its acquisition by the Hong Kong parent company and because of subsequent events. I support the Trust's overall aim which is to help safeguard the club's future by securing supporter representation and influence in the way the club is run.

I strongly believe that a football club belongs as much to its supporters as it does to its owners and that supporters should have the right to have a voice in the running of their club. I believe that fans should have a financial interest too. Ideally, I would like the fans to collectively own a block of shares in BCFC so that we can be represented on the club Board and have a say in how the club is run. This might be achieved by acquiring a block shareholding in the club, if shares become available, via a holding of community shares in Blues Trust which is a registered society under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014.

Over the past couple of years, there has been no crisis on or off the field and sadly, the Trust's membership has declined over that time. Currently, we have 157 voting members and we need additional members if we are to have more influence in what we are trying to achieve.

For the future, one of my aims is that we should try harder to achieve an increase in the Trust's membership much beyond its present modest level and perhaps to several thousand. We very much need new board members and new blood in the Trust if we are to take it forward to achieve the goals described.

Peter Bull

*Cliff Horrocks - nominated by Peter Bull and Richard Stanley*

I wish to help ensure our club moves forward and goes from strength to strength. I think supporters should have an influence in how the club is run, in bad times to challenge and in good times to support and help with innovation. I think properly constituted and level headed supporters groups like Blues Trust can help owners and managers keep in touch with fans feelings and be influential in the direction they take the club.

I consider fans owning shares in a club is healthy for the club and protects traditions and survival over the long term. I am very hopeful that the new owners will have the clubs interest at heart and will take the club forward, however I also see a possibility of a sell on in a few years time. If this becomes reality then I would want the Blues Trust to be in a position to be able to organise a serious and realistic offer for fans to own a significant part of our club.

I am a life long Bluenose having held a season ticket for the last 10 years and through the 70's and early 80's.

My paid employment is a Director of a housing association and I have held a number of voluntary director positions including community interest companies. This experience will help me ensure good governance of Blues Trust and I have skills in business planning, making change happen and new business start up.

Cliff Horrocks