

BLUES TRUST AGM 2021 Board Nomination Statements

1. ADAB, Karim

I have enjoyed working with my colleagues on the board over the last five years and am enthused by the way the board has developed of late, with new members and new skills. I hope to be able to continue to support them in any way I can.

- Nominated by Cliff Horrocks, seconded by Richard Docker

2. COTTRELL, Neil

I have been a Blues supporter since 1967 and a season ticket holder for over 25 years. I joined the Blues Trust at its inception in 2012 and have been a Board member for the last two years.

During my time on the Blues Trust Board, I have been responsible for the project portfolio of the Trust. I have been heavily involved in shaping and developing two of the larger projects that the Trust has recently mounted – developing a plan to help rescue the Football Club should it fall into administration and pulling together the Trust's input into the Fan-Led Review. I have also provided an overview of the rest of the portfolio of projects helping to keep track of progress. More generally I have contributed to the successful running of the Trust – producing several articles on the Trust website, talking to several other Trusts on their experiences and have been a regular contributor to Board meetings helping to shape the strategy of the Trust and help drive forward the progress the Trust has made over the last two years.

Outside of my work for the Trust, I am Chair of a small not-for-profit company and am a pension Trustee for one of the UK's larger pension schemes. I have a breadth of experience in governance, regulation, financial analysis, strategy formulation, negotiations, research and project management which I think have been applicable and useful in the Trust's work.

I believe that the Club are at a fairly pivotal point at present. Despite the progress that Lee Bowyer has made in developing the men's team the club face numerous challenges. These include opaque ownership, a business model that still seems to rely on external funding, a women's team that is suffering from low investment, separate club and ground ownership, a stadium that is still under repair and in need of refurbishment and a level of customer service to fans that is variable to say the least. I believe the Trust has a role to play in continuing to try and influence the club on these issues and make sure the fans 'voice is heard, whilst at the same time planning for all possible eventualities.

The fan-led review which reports shortly may give some opportunities for fans to influence clubs and the game in general more, as well as potentially starting to address some of the financial inequalities in the game.

I believe it is important that supporters continue to try and influence clubs and the game in general to ensure greater sustainability and greater consideration of the fans' interests. This will often be a long-term process and I consider that Football Club Trusts are well placed to try and bring such change about. In my professional life I have often been involved in bringing about change over the longer term through planning and influencing and believe my skills can be useful in this regard here.

If elected I will continue work to further the influence of Blues Trust on the club and more generally in the game through the Football Supporters Association. I would also use my knowledge, expertise and energy to ensure the Trust continues to thrive and grow and is well prepared for all future possibilities. I am happy to help out on the Board and in Board activities in whatever way I can.

- Nominated by Linda Magner, seconded by Peter Bull

3. DOCKER, Richard

I have been a supporter of the Blues since the late 1960's and a season ticket holder at St Andrew's for much of my adult life, despite having lived in Derby for the past 36 years.

I am now retired with an employment background in local government (housing), management, governance and administration.

I became a member of the Blues Trust and, more recently, a member of the Board because I shared its concerns about the steady decline of our football club and I wanted to add my support to the drive to increase the engagement of fans with those that own and run it. Although the fortunes of the first team appear to have begun to improve since Lee Bowyer was appointed in March, the administration of the club still leaves a great deal to be desired and I am deeply frustrated at the apparent disregard the club has for its supporters. The Trust is ideally placed to represent the views of Blues fans and to seek to hold the club to account.

I am also anxious that genuine supporters across the game as a whole are being marginalised as international finance and corporate interests increasingly attach themselves to football in the UK. And I have become ever more concerned at the way professional football has developed in recent years. I am not at all convinced that the current model is sustainable, despite the staggering sums of money presently involved at the top of the tree.

These remain my reasons for wishing to stay involved with the Blues Trust and continuing my membership of the Board.

- Nominated by Peter Bull, seconded by Mark Holland

4. KYTE, Bruce

My becoming a blues supporter started like so many with my father taking me to a match way back in the early 1960's. I have been a season ticket holder for 25 years, and prior to that I would usually be found in the Kop. Like the words from 'Keep Right On', reference joys and sorrows, plenty of the latter, the joys watching Trevor Francis beat Bolton on his own, play off final in 2002 and Wembley 2011.

I am still working, over the years I have travelled many different career paths, initially serving an apprenticeship as a mechanic/electrician. I now work freelance through my own company which supports companies either implementing a new instance of an application or the uplift to the latest version.

I originally joined the Blues Trust because I was becoming concerned about the ownership and worrying financial state of the club, coupled with the lack of interaction between the club and its fan base. It is a real concern to me that, with the amount of debt that burdens the club, I do not want to see the Blues experience the same recent fate of clubs like Bolton, Bury and Wigan.

On my own, I cannot make an impact on the concerns listed above, but through the Blues Trust working with likeminded fellow fans is the only way that the club/fan engagement can be improved.

For a long time now, I have held the view that unless your club is Premier League, the rest are of no consequence, and this is reflected in our local media, newspaper and TV, though the Trust and its affiliations campaign for a more balanced reporting.

- Nominated by Richard Stanley, seconded by Cliff Horrocks

5. MAGNER, Linda

I have been acting as Membership lead since I was approached after last year's AGM by Blues Trust. I have fully enjoyed the role as Membership lead and would like to stand for the same role. I have Birmingham City in my heart and feel the need to make an improved change. The Blues Trust fulfils my desire to do this.

- Nominated by Richard Docker, seconded by Neil Cottrell

6. STANLEY, Richard

I am a longstanding Blues Supporter having seen my first match in 1962. I believe supporters should have a stronger voice both in the running of their club and in the stewardship of football in general. I believe the Blues Trust offers a properly regulated organisation which is in a good position to do this.

If I am elected I will work to increase the membership and influence of the Blues Trust especially insofar as this allows it to both support and constructively criticise all matters relating to Blues and especially the stewardship of the club.

In addition, through the Trust membership of the Football Supporters Association, I will continue to raise concerns over the governance of the sport where appropriate and support efforts to make changes where this will increase fairer competition and give greater protection to supporters.

- Nominated by Neil Cottrell, seconded by Karim Adab