

BLUES TRUST AGM 2023 Board Nomination Statements

1. ADAB Karim

I have been privileged to work with the Trust for 6 years now and would be delighted to be considered for re-election. The Trust's work in supporting the club through the difficult last few years has been pivotal, and now has an opportunity to work more closely with the club hierarchy for the benefit of its members and the wider supporter base. We have worked hard to develop our own expertise and organisational knowledge, which will be essential to working with the club to ensure that fans are represented, and their views heard. I would be pleased to continue to assist the Board with their work in the years to come, so seek your approval for re-election.

- Nominated by Peter Bull, seconded by Neil Cottrell

2. COTTRELL Neil

I have been a Trust Board member for the last four years. During that time, I have held positions as Projects Officer, PR Officer and Vice-Chair. I have been heavily involved in a number of Trust activities, including developing our thinking on the Fan Led Review, shaping our response to the ownership issues, writing many articles for our website, and raising our profile in the media as well as contributing to general governance of the Trust. The Club is now in a much healthier situation than it has been for many a year, but the Trust still has a vital role to play. I would be pleased to help shape the Trust's contribution in this new world - especially with regard to the club's structured engagement with fans and implementation of the key features of the Fan Led Review and therefore am seeking your approval for re-election.

- Nominated by Richard Docker, 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 38 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 then, in 2019, a member of the Board because I shared its concerns about the steady decline of our football club at that time and I wanted to add my support to the drive to increase the

engagement of fans with those that owned and ran it. Although the fortunes of the club have undoubtedly improved since the injection of new investment by Tom Wagner and his colleagues, I am still keen to ensure that the club develops robust and meaningful fan engagement strategies because that remains as important as it ever was. In my view, a football club run properly involves its supporters and listens to what is of interest and concern to them. A club is, after all, an association of interested parties. 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. I don't want that to happen at the club I love and support. 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 Steve Cross, seconded by Tom Rainsford

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 over 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'm retired now, during my working life over the years I have travelled many different career paths, initially serving an apprenticeship as a mechanic/electrician. For the last 17 years I worked as was freelance consultant through my own company which supported 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 concerned about the ownership and worrying financial state of the club, coupled with the lack of interaction between the club and its fan base. Since the new owners arrived it has been a refreshing experience at the club with better communication and improvements on and of the pitch.

Although there are new owners at the club, I still believe the Trust has a role to play working with the club advising them of concerns of the fans. Also help

the club implement the recommendations of the white paper based on the Fan Led Review.

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.

I'm a director and Club Officer for Flipping Out Gymnastics, a club based in Erdington providing the opportunity for local kids to aspire to become gymnasts.

- Nominated by Linda Magner, seconded by Peter Bull

5. MAGNER Linda

I am a long time Blues supporter. I have a season ticket and go to most of the away games too. Birmingham City is in my blood, and I want to ensure the club continues to exist for generations to come.

I feel that Blues Trust is needed in good times as well as in our bad times. If I can contribute for us supporters to have a voice then I will.

With our new owners settling in, I am sure many changes will be made for the good of the club. It's important for me that supporters, being the root and heart of the club, have an influential voice in the running of the club and should be heard.

- Nominated by Richard Docker, seconded by Neil Cottrell.

6. STANLEY Richard

My name is Richard Stanley and I've been a Blues fan for as long as I can remember. My father took me to my first game in 1961 and I got my first season ticket in 1972. My great grandfather used to go to matches when they were still called Small Heath Alliance, so Blues are truly in my blood.

I am now retired but by profession I was an accountant and financial controller. I have worked in several different organisations including one of the big 4 accounting firms, private practice, nationalised industry and European and American multinationals. I believe I can bring the experience accumulated over the years to the benefit of the Blues Trust.

Despite being a Blues fan for such a long time, like many fans my involvement with the club largely consisted of attending matches and occasional club-run events. However, the record home defeat against Bournemouth on 25th October 2014 allied to the uncertainty about the future

of the club was a watershed moment. I wanted to give more active support to those trying to improve the situation. I was invited to join the Board of the Trust in March of 2015 and have been a Board member continuously since that time.

It has not been an easy journey either for the club or the Trust over that period. The struggles of the club are well-documented, those of the Trust less so. However, from almost going out of existence in 2015/16, I believe the Trust has subsequently become a respected and credible organisation both in the media, in the Football Supporters Association arena and, more recently, with the club. It bears repeating that the Blues Trust was one of the few Trusts selected to have a direct meeting with Tracey Crouch as part of the Fan Led Review. I am pleased to have played my part in making this happen.

I strongly believe that a football club belongs as much to its supporters as it does to its owners. Players, managers and financial owners are transient – fans are forever. Even though football has now become dominated by money and business interests, all supporters should still have the right to have a voice in the running of their club. Having said that I am encouraged by the recent takeover and the willingness of the new owners to engage with the supporters. Through the Trust, I will continue to work to try and bring this about. I will also seek to build the relationships with both the Club, other fan groups and the community, and work with them to seek solutions to issues which are important to supporters. I will continue to support the implementation of the Fan Led Review, the basic principles of which I have believed in for some time before they became formalised in the FLR document. Finally, I will continue to help the Trust to develop both in membership and its relevance to all supporters.

- Nominated by Neil Cottrell, seconded by Peter Bull