



After much thought and consideration, I've decided to run for the NUST board. As you may already be aware I've gone through this process on two previous occasions and come pretty close to being elected and had thought I wouldn't run again for a long time.

A bit about me, I'm a 36 year old Dad of 2 who currently shares a Season Ticket with my Dad and Brother, but had a season ticket for 15 years between 2000-2015 seeing the highs and lows that the likes of the Robson and Ashley eras served up! My first match at St James' was a 6-1 thrashing of Wimbledon where Sir Les scored a Hat-trick and Vinnie Jones ended up in goal. From that moment I was truly hooked, and when the following summer Shearer dominated Euro '96 and went on to sign for us it's a love affair that was never going to end.

The last time I ran for the board, we were a club with a divided fanbase, little ambition and a longing for change. Since then, NUFC has shown it's intent to compete and after an incredible season will compete in the Group Stages of the Champions League for the first time in 20 years.

This version of Newcastle United is one that we all love, and that we all strive to enjoy the high points of – but it's equally as important that we don't lose sight of trying to do all we can to improve everything about the way the club is run. I'm a huge supporter of the new owners and what they've managed to achieve in such a short period of time but it's essential that as a Trust we hold this club to the highest standard of what it can achieve in all areas. Just because we're much improved on the pitch and a much better version of the 14 years that preceded it, doesn't mean we're now perfect and can be complacent about the way the club is ran.

I've been incredibly encouraged by everything I've seen so far from our new owners. There have been great signings, strong appointments and incredible ambition shown – but not everything has been perfect. Ticket availability has been an issue for many and surely is the 'big-ticket' item facing NUST and NUFC fans moving forwards. What is the policy on Season Ticket Availability? What's happening with Away Ticket availability? Is there scope to make some adjustments to the way Away Tickets are allocated? I love the loyalty point scheme but in reality could some tweaks be made to improve this system? Maybe a small percentage of away tickets could be balloted?

There is also the challenge of credibility and trust of NUST moving forwards. In my opinion, NUST has been incredibly well run since the relaunch by Alex Hurst in 2018, but this isn't a universal opinion across the fanbase, and I'd hope that the launch of the likes of NUSC is something that 'keeps the Trust honest' rather than being a divisive factor across the fanbase. The 6 new positions now available within the board should allow NUST to listen to feedback and move forward to represent NUFC fans with less cynicism from those who have been

concerned about what NUST stands for. For me, it's an democratic organisation who stand up for NUFC supporters.

What do you get if you elect me? You get someone who will work as hard as they need to in order to represent the views of our members towards the club. NUST is as close as you'll get to a Union to represent NUFC fans and if I'm elected it's my duty to ensure you're able to be represented as accurately as possible.

A vote for me is a vote for someone who passionately believes in this organisation and NUFC as a whole.