



Statement in support of nomination

I am now in my fourth decade of being a Newcastle United fan and, like most of us, I have seen all the highs and lows along the way. I held a season ticket for a large portion of my life and have taken in 145 away trips over the years (not that I'm counting...!). From defeat at Scunthorpe in the Championship to the upcoming Champions League tour, it's been a hell of a ride.

I am applying to be on the board with only one agenda: I want Newcastle United to be the best it can be, both off and on the pitch. Not just for me, not just for my children and future generations, but for all of us who love and treasure the club. The club is the heartbeat of the community and that should never be forgotten.

I am not associated with any group, whether that be a fan group, a fanzine, a podcast or elsewhere. I simply want the club to thrive, and I believe a well-run Supporters Trust is integral to that. I believe a Supporters Trust should be representative of the whole supporter base, whether you're match going or not, local or not, even whether you've ever visited the city or not. A fan is a fan, and the Trust needs to be inclusive for all with a regular visible presence both in the city and further afield.

There are several key issues that I'd like the Trust to be involved in moving forward, and while it's heartening to know the Club and the Trust are now engaging on these matters after years of neglect under the previous ownership, I believe the Trust can play a valuable role in integrating the fanbase into these. Areas such as ticketing, improving the matchday experience, food and beverage options in the ground, community engagement, developing the membership/Junior Magpies schemes and much more are the type of discussions around which I believe the Trust should engage with the club.

In addition to working with the club, I also believe that that Trust has an important role in holding the club to account. As things stand this is faded into the background a bit with the excellent decision making so far whilst the new owners have been custodians of the club. However, it's important to remember that as quickly as things have improved, they can also worsen. We have seen dark days under previous ownership where decisions have been made that weren't in the best interest of the club, the fans or the city. Whilst I have the utmost confidence in the current owners, we must ensure that a proper framework is in place to reduce the risk of poor decision making in the future.

In a professional capacity, I am a Chartered Accountant, meaning I can provide support, governance and assurance in ensuring that finances are open and transparent. I am Vice Chair of Governors for a School and I am also a Finance Trustee for a Charity, meaning I have substantial experience of being part of a Board that has to make key decisions.

If successful I would represent the fans with honesty, integrity, loyalty and clarity. I will be committed to the role and will do my utmost to make myself available to assist the Trust and the fanbase wherever possible.

Nick Kane