



My name is Richard Barnsdall, and I am seeking your support in election to the trust board.

Despite being born and raised in Southampton with no prior connection to Newcastle I am a lifelong fan. My support started in 1996 at the age of 7 when Alan Shearer joined and quickly grew from there. From my 1st game in January 1997 at The Dell to flying over from Canada twice in the space of 5 weeks for my 124th (2nd leg of the semi-final) and 125th (final at Wembley) games, I have followed Newcastle all over England (while living in Southampton) before moving to Canada in 2014. Anyone that knows me can confirm Newcastle United is my passion, I even decorated my whole house in black and white. I have been a member of the club since a child and am an ex-season ticket holder. After moving to Canada my passion for Newcastle did not end, we are lucky enough to get all league games and most cup games on TV and I never miss one and can regularly be heard by my neighbour yelling at the TV thinking I am still in the Gallowgate end! This summer you will find me driving through the USA to watch our 3 games here.

I have been a member of the trust for the past few years and have watched the great work they do, and the number of members continue to grow. With the current position of the club and the connection with the fans I feel the trust can only continue to strengthen the relationship between the club and the fans by representing them both domestically and internationally.

Here in Canada, I am part of a supporter's group in the area near to where I live, it is great to be able to get together with other fans to watch games and share our stories, when kick off times and work commitments allow. There are many supporters' groups in Canada and across America and I am sure the same can be said for many countries around the world. We have seen the number of supporters overseas rising over the last couple years, some lifelong fans who have moved and are happy to find these groups, others who are new fans who we welcome to support this great club. I believe it would be great to have international fans on the board of the trust to feel like we have a voice, communication to the club and be represented by a great organisation.

I feel my position of having been a fan in England and now living overseas would be valuable to the trust and I would be honoured to be a part of the board and therefore ask for you to consider voting for me in the upcoming trust election.

